



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement, Habitat Protection, and Facilities Projects
Quarterly Project Reporting Form

**Detailed instructions for each section below are given in Section II. Quarterly Project Reports in the Reporting Policy on the website, <https://evostc.state.ak.us/policies-procedures/reporting-procedures/>*

Project Number: 25220502

Project Title: Clean Water Act Assessment of Beaches with Lingering Oil

Principal Investigator(s): Terri Lomax, ADEC Water Quality Program Manager

Reporting Periods and Due Dates: May, June, and July 2025

<i>Reporting Period</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
February, March, April	June 1
May, June, July	September 1
August, September, October	December 1
November, December, January	March 1

Submission Date: 8/29/2025, corrected 9/8/2025, budget corrected 11/28/2025

Project Website: <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/evos-lingering-oil/>

Please check all the boxes that apply to the current reporting period.

☒ **Project progress is on schedule.**

☐ **Project progress is delayed**

☐ **Budget reallocation request for this reporting period.**

☐ **Personnel changes.**

1. Summary of Work Performed:



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DEC and its contractor worked in earnest on tiered approach to evaluate EVOS impacted beaches. A draft listing methodology and technical approach document was finalized this quarter. Outreach material was created for 3 public meetings planned in May.

Objective #1 Identifying waters of concern.

Task A. Identify Waters of Concern.

Status: Ongoing. Through the literature review, DEC recognized that the identification of waters of concern will continue to evolve throughout the life of this grant.

Task B. Develop a set of standards suitable to gauge recovery and compliance with water quality standards.

Status: In-progress. Utilizing information gained from the Literature Review, DEC determined the best course of action is the development of a standalone listing methodology (LM) rather than updating a current petroleum hydrocarbon LM. The contract was initiated on April 25, 2024, it outlined the following tasks:

1. Identify Listing Methodology Options

Completed- DEC reviewed multiple approaches and explored approaches employed nationally and internationally.

2. Develop Draft LM and Technical Approach Document

Completed: The initial draft of the listing methodology and technical approach document was developed and reviewed. Significant comments and direction were provided. Comments by the US Environmental Protection Agency and DEC Spill Prevention and Response Division were solicited. The contractor schedule was modified to allow for a second draft of both documents. DEC and its contractor reviewed comments and will incorporate those into the second draft. The final drafts were created and shared with key stakeholders for review. .

3. Finalize LM and Technical Approach

Completed. Three public meetings to review the draft approach occurred in May 2025. A presentation, fact sheet, frequently asked questions, and a map were created for the meetings. After public comments were reviewed, additional edits and clarifications were made. The draft listing methodology and technical approach document has been finalized.

4. Data Analysis

Pending. DEC finalized the definition of Listing Oil specifically to our project. This definition will allow DEC to differentiate between beaches impacted by recent oil versus lingering oil. A tiered approach to reviewing data was developed, this tiered approach utilizes multiple lines of evidence. The tiers of data are:



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Tier	Data Type
1	Test Pit Data
2	Sediment Chemistry Data
3	Biological Data
4	Modeled Data
5	Overwhelming Evidence

Tier 1 will first be explored and if test pit data doesn't exist or is inadequate Tier 2 would be explored. This prioritizes direct measures (tiers 1 and 2), while including important indirect measures (tiers 3 and 4), and allows for multiple lines of evidence to be used in tier 5. Minimum data requirements for each tier have been drafted and finalized for stakeholder engagement.

Task C. Compile available information regarding impaired waters
Status: No work to report on this Objective/Task.

Task D. Develop GIS map

Status: Ongoing. Through the annotated bibliography contract, DEC began the process of compiling data with geolocations from several documents for use in the planned Clean Water Act assessment of impacted beaches. Initial work showed disagreement between DEC listed impaired beaches, field data, and model predictions of locations with lingering oil. This task has been extended in recognition of evolving list of waters of concern. Draft and final GIS maps will be created during several tasks outlined in the most recent contract.

Objective #2 Updating Clean Water Act status of impaired beaches.

Task A. Develop listing methodology.

Status: Completed. A contract was put in place to assist DEC in the development of a listing methodology and technical approach document on April 25, 2024. The contractor and DEC met several times to discuss technical and federal requirements of impairments listings and potential approaches that could be employed by DEC. The contractor provided three options for DEC consideration. These options considered the 1) best available data, ranked on age of data; 2) weight of evidence; and 3) preferred data. These approaches considered narrative criteria, sediment chemistry data, SCAT data, and model-based data.

DEC evaluated these suggested approaches and identified a preferred approach for the development of the LM. This approach prioritizes multiple lines of evidence (data). In this approach field observations are the highest tier of evidence, followed by sediment chemistry, biological data, modelling outputs, and an overwhelming evidence policy.



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The initial draft of the listing methodology was reviewed. Significant comments and edits were generated. A second draft was completed in February 2025. Additional edits were made in response to public comments, while the documents will not be considered final until after a public comment period for the Integrated Report is completed, data analysis will begin utilizing the methodology and requirements set out in the final draft versions.

Task B. Evaluate Data.

Status: No work to report on this Objective/Task.

Objective 3. Stakeholder Involvement during this reporting period.

Task A. Communication Plan.

Status: Completed. DEC identified communities and opportunities to share resources and learn more about community concerns related to lingering oil.

Task B. Public Engagement.

Status: Ongoing. DEC will continue to investigate options to present to local communities or environmental managers from affected EVOS communities. A factsheet summarizing the project was prepared for the Alaska Forum on the Environment for February 2024.

DEC developed a listserv to reach out to interested members of the public. Project updates and opportunities for engagement will be noticed here in addition to the usual channels for public engagement. The Literature Review was shared with via our list serv.

The previous contractor, Geosyntec, was granted permission to share their work at the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America conference in June 2024. The title of the proposed session is “Lingering Oil and Lasting Impacts: Prince William Sound 35 Years After Exxon Valdez”.

A public meeting in Valdez and Cordova was held in May 2025. DEC also presented at the Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium in Whittier in May 2025. Presentations highlighted the process, tiers, data requirements, and opportunities for public engagement were created. A sign-up sheet for inclusion in the DEC listserv will be available the public meetings. Additionally, the drafts were distributed through the listserv and at targeted audiences. Comments received focused on the need for additional explanations regarding assessment units, suggesting additional sources of data, questions around age of data, and density of data needed.

2. Abstract:



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The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation initiated the Clean Water Act Assessment of Beaches with Lingering Oil grant in February 2023. During this quarter DEC, in conjunction with a contractor, finalized a draft listing methodology and technical approach document. These documents were provided to partners and key stakeholders for review at three public meetings, online, and with interested individuals. DEC developed an integrated approach with multiple tiers of data to account for the variety and lack of complete datasets for any one beach location. Comments were accepted through May 23, 2025. Comments received were generally positive but did result in clarifications and additional explanations in the documents. The next steps are to gather environmental data on select locations and begin the data analysis.

3. Coordination and Collaboration:

DEC Division of Water coordinated with the Division of Spill Prevention and Response to review the initial listing methodology and technical approach document to ensure state regulations regarding oil cleanup standards, contaminated sites, and impaired waters are adhered to. Additional comments from the United States Environmental Protection Agency were solicited to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act.

DEC provided draft documents to other states with the potential for lingering oil, and the communities of Valdez, Cordova, Whittier. Draft documents were posted on our website at <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/evos-lingering-oil/> and distributed to the listserv. Additionally draft documents were shared with the United State Environmental Protection Agency and other state agencies that have expressed interest.

4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:

5. Budget:



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Budget Category:			Proposed FY 22	Proposed FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5- YR TOTAL PROPOSED	QUARTERLY EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel			\$0	\$59,481	\$46,554	\$74,562	\$51,032	\$231,629	\$14,514.91	\$138,262.38
Travel			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,350	\$6,640	\$10,990	\$1,251.04	\$1,251.04
Contractual			\$0	\$38,978	\$79,906	\$80,706	\$0	\$199,590	\$6,745.32	\$138,010.57
Commodities			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$10.99	\$10.99
Equipment			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Indirect Costs	Rate =	0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
SUBTOTAL			\$0	\$98,459	\$126,460	\$161,118	\$57,672	\$443,709	\$22,522.26	\$277,534.98
General Administration (9% of subtotal)			\$0	\$8,861	\$13,665	\$12,217	\$5,191	\$39,934	\$2,027.00	\$19,583.51
PROJECT TOTAL			\$0	\$107,320	\$140,125	\$173,335	\$62,863	\$483,643	\$24,549.26	\$297,118.49
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)				\$6,624	\$6,823	\$7,027	\$7,238	\$27,712	\$850.00	\$1,765.00