



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: Aug, Sept, and Oct 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: 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:



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

DEC and its contractor developed a tiered approach to evaluate EVOS impacted beaches. A semi-draft listing methodology and technical approach document was finalized. The final list of datasets that will be evaluated with the methodology was determined. Initial data analysis has begun.

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.

Completed. DEC identified data minimum requirements and thresholds that will be used to determine compliance with Alaska's water quality standards. The requirements and thresholds selected are outlined in the Lingering Oil (LO) listing methodology with scientific and legal rationales laid out in the technical approach document.

Task C. Compile available information regarding impaired waters

Completed. DEC and its contractor reviewed available data from published papers and agency reports for inclusion and analysis using the LO listing methodology. Selected data has been acquired. We were unable to obtain pit data collected in 2024 due to the government shutdown and staff vacancies.

Task D. Develop GIS map

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 as public outreach material for the 2026 Integrated Report.

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

Task A. Develop listing methodology

Completed-The semi-final Lingering Oil Listing Methodology and technical approach document are completed. Listing methodologies are considered state guidance documents and therefore must be reviewed under the Governors Administrative Order 360 before our LO listing methodology can be considered final. This review determines whether guidance documents need to be adopted into regulations or not. The timeline for when this will occur is unknown. DEC can still utilize the methodology and technical approach when public noticing the data analysis as part of the 2026 Integrated Report. Rather than being a standalone



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

document, the listing methodology will be an appendix to the EVOS impaired beaches part of the Integrated Report. This will allow DEC to continue to meet the timelines and deliverables specified in this grant.

Task B. Evaluate Data

Ongoing. DEC finalized the definition of Listing Oil specifically to our project. This definition allows 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:

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

The tiered approach for data assessment begins with Tier 1. If sufficient data are available to complete an assessment, then no further assessment of that waterbody section occurs. If sufficient data are not available, then proceed to Tier 2. This process repeats through Tier 5. This approach prioritizes empirical data less than 10 years old while allowing other lines of evidence to be considered in Tier 5. For example, if test pit data from 1989 to 1991 for an oiled beach were available as well as sediment chemistry data from 2021, the sediment chemistry data would take precedence because it is more recent (within the last 10 years) and thus more likely to reflect the current conditions of that area.

Data analysis using the tiered approach, as well as data quality and quantity requirements, and the thresholds developed earlier began in earnest in this report period.

Objective 3. Stakeholder Involvement during this reporting period.

Task A. Communication Plan.

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

Task B. Public Engagement.

Pending. No public engagement occurred during this quarter.

2. Abstract:



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

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, acquired data available and began data analysis.

3. Coordination and Collaboration:

DEC reached out to NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service in an attempt to acquire the most recent test pit results with no luck. The government shutdown, staff vacancies and restructuring seem to have resulted in lost data. Current staff were unfamiliar with the project and did not know where to access the data.
 Our EVOS website was updated with the literature review.

4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:

5. Budget:

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	\$ 12,166.66	\$150,429.04
Travel		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,350	\$6,640	\$10,990	\$0.00	\$1,251.04
Contractual		\$0	\$38,978	\$79,906	\$80,706	\$0	\$199,590	\$ 3,743.75	\$141,754.32
Commodities		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500		\$10.99
Equipment		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0.00
Indirect Costs	Rate = 0%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0.00
SUBTOTAL		\$0	\$98,459	\$126,460	\$161,118	\$57,672	\$443,709	\$15,910.41	\$293,445.39
General Administration (9% of subtotal)		\$0	\$8,861	\$13,665	\$12,217	\$5,191	\$39,934	\$ 1,431.94	\$21,015.45
PROJECT TOTAL		\$0	\$107,320	\$140,125	\$173,335	\$62,863	\$483,643	\$17,342.35	\$314,460.84
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)			\$6,624	\$6,823	\$7,027	\$7,238	\$27,712		\$1,765.00