



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

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*\*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:** November and December of 2025, January 2026

<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:** 2/27/2026

**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**

A GIS map depicting the final data analysis was scheduled to be completed in this quarter. A draft map has been created and will be distributed for public comments in the Spring of 2026. Once public comments are addressed the map will be finalized. This change is noted in the chart of scheduled project accomplishments.

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

**Personnel changes.**



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## **1. Summary of Work Performed:**

DEC and its contractor developed a tiered approach to evaluate existing data on EVOS impacted beaches. Initial data analysis was completed. A total of 211 beach segments were assessed, the initial analysis indicates 5 may not be attaining Alaska Water Quality Standards, 142 are attaining standards, and 64 segments did not have enough data to complete an analysis. EVOS draft assessments will be included in Alaska's Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report for public comment in the spring of 2026.

### **Objective #1 Identifying waters of concern.**

#### Task A. Identify Waters of Concern.

Status: Completed. DEC developed a protocol to break the affected Prince William Sound shoreline into smaller segments called assessment units (AU). The assessment units were drawn by segmenting the shoreline using HUC-14 scale watersheds as boundaries. Where oiling was present based on past evidence (current impaired waters, predictive model data, test pit data, or initial oil trajectory), assessment units were further delineated using a headland-to-headland approach and taking into consideration shore types and aspect. A total of 211 AU's were identified.

#### 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) decision process 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 decision process. 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. This task has been extended to incorporate any potential changes that may arise during the public comment period. Draft GIS maps depicting impaired areas have been created for public outreach material for the 2026 Integrated Report.

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

#### Task A. Develop listing methodology



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Completed-The Lingering Oil decision process and technical approach document are completed. DEC previously called the decision process a listing methodology. Listing methodologies are considered state guidance documents and considering Governor Dunleavy’s Administrative Order 360, DEC has reconsidered the nature of this document. This document and the associated technical approach document are targeted at the EVOS impacted beaches and outline the process and methodology used to complete an assessment of those beaches, they do not provide guidance to the public when conducting business with the State of Alaska. DEC will 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 document, the decision process 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:

<b>Tier</b>	<b>Data Type</b>
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 have been completed. Based on the decision process developed, DEC recommends delisting 11 previously listed AUs, leaving five AUs as impaired, and adding no new impaired AUs. The change in impaired areas reflects DEC’s



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more robust decision approach and modified AUs that more accurately reflect geomorphic conditions. Because there are various recovery plans in place, DEC recommends placing EVOS beaches with lingering oil in Category 4b, Impaired with a Recovery Plan for Petroleum hydrocarbons, Oils and Grease.

**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. DEC is planning to conduct a 30-day public comment period on the 2026 Integrated Report in the Spring of 2026. This will include a draft Category 4b Determination Report that outlines the draft assessments, assessment unit crosswalk, and the decision process generated as part of this grant. All material will be available on [DEC's EVOS website](#).

Milestone/Task	FY22				FY23				FY24				FY25				FY26			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<b>Milestone: Status of impaired waters</b>																				
Task: Identify waters of concern					x	x	x	€					x	x	C					
Task: Develop standards to gauge recovery								x	x	x	x	C								
Task: Compile data and information								✖	✖	x	x	x	x	C						
<b>Milestone: Update status</b>																				
Task: Develop listing methodology											x	x	x	C						
Task: Evaluate data against listing methodology														x	x	x	C			
Task: Develop determination reports																	x	x	x	C
<b>Milestone: Stakeholder involvement</b>																				
Task: Develop communication plan					x	x	C													
Task: Public engagement, outreach meeting											C		C				C			
<b>Reporting:</b>																				
Quarterly progress report						x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x



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Milestone/Task	FY22				FY23				FY24				FY25				FY26			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Final report/Project results*																				
<b>Deliverables:</b>																				
Literature Review and Data Summary, draft						X	X	C												
Literature Review and Data Summary, final							X	C												
GIS Map												X	X	X	X€	X	C			
Listing Methodology, draft											X	X	C							
Listing Methodology, final													X	C						
Determination Report, draft																X	X	C		
Determination Report, final																	X	X	C	
Outreach Material					X	X	X				X	X					X	X	C	

**2. Abstract:**

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) initiated the Clean Water Act Assessment of Beaches with Lingering Oil grant in February 2023. A tiered approach to evaluate EVOS impacted beaches was developed. Utilizing data from existing sources a total of 211 beach segments were assessed, the initial analysis indicates 5 may not be attaining Alaska Water Quality Standards, 142 are attaining standards, and 64 segments did not have enough data to complete an analysis. DEC is preparing assessment information for public review as part of its 2026 Integrated Report.

**3. Coordination and Collaboration:**

DEC provided the draft beach assessment, decision process and assessment unit crosswalk to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for preliminary review. EPA provided constructive comments, those comments were taken into consideration when developing the draft material for public outreach.

**4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:**



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**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	\$ 14,907.85	\$ 165,336.89
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	\$ 28,961.25	\$ 170,715.57
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
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$98,459</b>	<b>\$126,460</b>	<b>\$161,118</b>	<b>\$57,672</b>	<b>\$443,709</b>	<b>\$43,869.10</b>	<b>\$337,314.49</b>
General Administration (9% of subtotal)		\$0	\$8,861	\$13,665	\$12,217	\$5,191	\$39,934	\$ 3,948.22	\$ 24,963.67
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$107,320</b>	<b>\$140,125</b>	<b>\$173,335</b>	<b>\$62,863</b>	<b>\$483,643</b>	<b>\$47,817.32</b>	<b>\$362,278.16</b>
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)			\$6,624	\$6,823	\$7,027	\$7,238	\$27,712		\$1,765.00