



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
Long-Term Research and Monitoring, Mariculture, Education and Outreach
Annual Project Reporting Form

**For Instructions for each section below, see Reporting Policy, II (B); the Reporting Policy can be found on the website, <https://evostc.state.ak.us/policies-procedures/reporting-procedures/>*

Project Number: 25220403

Project Title: PWS Natural History Symposium

Principal Investigator(s): Paul Twardock, Symposium Planning Committee Chair

Reporting Period: February 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026

Submission Date (Due March 1 immediately following the reporting period): March 13, 2026

Project Website: princewilliamsound.org

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

Project progress is on schedule.

Project progress is delayed.

Budget reallocation request (include no-cost extension request).

We began receiving funding for this project in the fall of 2022, after our 2022 PWS Natural History Symposium. Unspent FY22 funds were carried over to FY23, from FY23 to FY24, and from FY24 to FY25 with some small additions year to year. We are still spending down this amount, which is now \$2,545.77 This includes (\$1,351.90) for personnel, \$1,600.29 for travel, \$1,500 for contractual, (\$272.92) for commodities, \$1,020.38 for equipment/technology, and \$49.92 for indirect. We will spend these amounts accordingly.

Personnel changes.

1. Summary of Work Performed:

The Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium continues to be a resounding success. The seventh annual Symposium took place in person at the Public Safety Building in Whittier and online via Zoom May 12-13, 2025. Thirty expert speakers presented on a variety of topics,



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including land management, geology, wildlife, volunteer opportunities, and traditional uses of Alaskan plants.

On Monday, approximately 60 people joined us in person. This half day of sessions were designed with the outdoor educator/guide community in mind, and a highlight of that day was the guide panel, where seasoned guides answered their most frequently asked questions. That evening included coffee with the scientists and a social.

On Tuesday, our participants included approximately 130 in person, 90 online, 20 at the Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC) watch party in Cordova, and 20 at the Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC) in Seward. This was the PWSSC’s third watch party, and they plan to host another in 2026. Other watch parties around Prince William Sound and southcentral Alaska are in the works. All sessions are recorded and posted to the PWSSF website and YouTube, where viewers have watched 17,000+ minutes since June.

Planning is well underway for the eighth annual Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium to be held on May 11-12, 2026. This year’s theme is “Sound Reflections.” We will once again offer a half day of sessions on Monday for the educator/guide community, though the general public is welcome to attend, followed by coffee and a social. Tuesday will be a full day of sessions with the latest news and research from around Prince William Sound presented by new and returning speakers in hybrid format.

Project milestone and task progress by fiscal year and quarter, beginning February 1, 2022. Fiscal Year Quarters: 1= Feb. 1-April 30; 2= May 1-July 31; 3= Aug. 1-Oct. 31; 4= Nov. 1-Jan 31. C = completed, X = planned or not completed, D = delayed.

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
Milestone																				
Coordinate speakers for Symposium	C	C		C	C	C		C	C	C		C	C	C	C		C	X	X	
Evaluate past Symposium and respond	C			C	C			C	C			C	C			C	C			X
Milestone																				
Evaluate survey info and respond	C		C	C	C		C	C	C		C	C	C		C	C	C		X	X
Research EVOSTC funded projects and incorporate into speaker invitations	C			C	C				C			C	C			C	C			
Reporting																				
Annual reports						C				C				C				X		
Final report																				X
Deliverables																				
Host Natural History Symposium		C				C				C				C				X		
Post Symposium on PWSSF website		C				C				C				C					X	



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2. Products:

Peer-reviewed publications:

Delta Sound Connections, Spring 2025

Reports:

NA

Popular articles:

“7th Annual Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium,” Turnagain News, May 1, 2025,
<https://www.turnagainnews.org/articles/7th-annual-prince-william-sound-stewardship-foundation-natural-history-symposium>

Conferences and workshops:

Seventh annual Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium (May 2025)

Public presentations:

NA

Data and/or information products developed during the reporting period:

Seventh annual Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium recordings, available on our website at princewilliamsound.org and on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@princewilliamsoundstewards1615>).

Data sets and associated metadata:

NA

Additional Products not listed above:

NA



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3. Coordination and Collaboration:

The Alaska SeaLife Center or Prince William Sound Science Center

Halley Werner, ASLC Animal Care Specialist, and Gabby Brown, ASLC Education Specialist, presented “Anchored in Stewardship: The ASLC’s Marine Mission.” ASLC hosted a watch party in Seward.

We published a piece promoting the Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium in the Spring 2025 *Delta Sound Connections*, a publication of the PWSSC. PWSSC hosted a watch party in Cordova.

EVOSTC Long-Term Research and Monitoring Projects

Maryann Fidel and Terry Lomax from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation presented “Assessment of EVOS Impacted Beaches: Lingering Oil Listing Methodology.”

EVOSTC Mariculture Projects

NA

EVOSTC Education and Outreach Projects

Prince William Sound Regional Citizens’ Advisory Council hosted a tabling session, offering information and conversation with participants. Maia Draper-Reich presented “An Era of Stewardship Following the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.”

Trustee or Management Agencies

We work closely with the U.S. Forest Service Chugach National Forest in planning our annual Symposium. The event is well attended by Forest Service staff, and it is used for summer training. Four Forest Service staff members gave talks at this year’s event: Glacier Ranger District Ranger Chris Stewart offered welcome remarks, Wilderness Manager Tim Lydon spoke about the history of the Chugach National Forest and their programs of work, Begich Boggs Visitor Center interpreter Zoe Woods spoke on the guide panel, and Pete Johnson discussed ecology of PWS.

Native and Local Communities

We are honored to partner with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) and Chugach Alaska Corporation (CAC) for sessions at our annual Symposium.

CRRC Education and Outreach Specialist Robin McKnight offered a land acknowledgment and introduction to the Chugach peoples to begin Tuesday’s program.

Jack Blackwell of CAC presented a land management overview.



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Traditional Plant Educator Kim Aspelund presented “Roots of the Land: Exploring the Medicinal and Nutritional Power of Alaskan Plants.”

4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments:

NA

5. Budget:

	Proposed FY 22	Proposed FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5 Year Total Proposed	Actual Cumulative
Personnel	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	75,000	61,351.90
Travel	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000	2,399.71
Contractual	500	500	500	500	500	2,500	500
Commodities	750	750	750	750	750	3,750	3,272.92
Equipment	5,000	0	0	0	0	5,000	3,979.62
Indirect Costs (2%)	445	345	345	345	345	1,825	1,430.08
Subtotal	22,695	17,595	17,595	17,595	17,595	93,075	72,934.23
General Administration (9%)	2,043	1,584	1,584	1,584	1,584	8,377	
Program Total	24,738	19,179	19,179	19,179	19,179	101,452	
Other Resources (In-kind)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000	15,000