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: 25220400

Project Title: Community Organized Restoration and Learning (CORaL) Network

Principal Investigator(s): Wei Ying Wong, Alaska SeaLife Center

Reporting Period: Feb 1, 2025 — January 31, 2026

Submission Date (due March 1 immediately following the reporting period):
February 28, 2026; March 18, 2026 with complete budget summary. Resubmitted April 24, 2026 in response to EVOSTC comments.

Project Website: AKCORaLNetwork.org

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

☒ **Project progress is on schedule.**
All deliverables are up to date as of 1/31/2026, with funding approved through January 31, 2027.

☐ **Project progress is delayed**

☒ **Budget reallocation request.**
A formal budget reallocation was not required, as the adjustment fell within the 10% threshold. However, Alaska Sea Grant (ASG) reallocated funds originally designated for the development of a citizen science mariculture app. ASG staff were able to develop the app functions using existing University of Alaska Fairbanks subscriptions, requiring no additional project funding. The reallocated funds were instead used to support the creation of the Alaska Knowledge Science and Educator Alliance (AKSEA). AKSEA brings together Knowledge Holders, scientists, and educators to co-create and pilot lesson plans centered on anchoring phenomena. Through this work, AKSEA addresses community needs by integrating locally relevant Exxon Valdez oil spill region science into classrooms and fostering meaningful relationships among scientists, community leaders, Elders, and educators.

☒ **No-cost extension request.**
Justification for this request (why funds were not spent): Funds received almost a full calendar year from award release. Schedule is generally on track based on timing of funds.

Will the requested budget adjustment change the original scope or objectives of the project?
☑No ☐Yes

Amount requested to carry over to the next fiscal year: $ 2,737,522.36

How will the requested carryover be spent in the next fiscal year: As planned in the project outline

☒ **Personnel changes.**

Alaska SeaLife Center

- Appointed Program Manager — Shana Kent
- Hired Evaluation Manager — Peter Dresch
- Hired Marketing Apprentice — Kristen Watson
- Dissolved Community Engagement Director position — formerly held by Aan Ortiz

Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies

- Re-hired Community Coastal Experience (CCE) Program Coordinator — Danny Khor
- Hired CCE Intern Coordinator — Lauren Gemery
- Re-hired CCE Co-Lead & Logistics Specialist — Leslie Jacoby
- Hired seasonal 2025 CCE Co-Lead — Isabel Scott
- Hired seasonal 2026 CCE Co-Lead — Albert Simeonoff

Chugach Regional Resources Commission

- Hired Education and Outreach Specialist — Denise Eleshansky

1. Summary of Work Performed

The Community Organized Restoration and Learning (CORaL) Network drew on learning and experience from previous years to become more unified in 2025, working together to prioritize cultural preservation, science education, and stewardship through continued development of strategic partnerships and expanded community engagement. The collaborative efforts of Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository (AMAR), Alaska Sea Grant (ASG), Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC), Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies (CACS), Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC), and Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC) leveraged the expertise, community connections, and programming unique to each partner to grow our reach and capacity and expand our collective impact across the Exxon Valdez oil spill (EVOS) region. We provided culturally inclusive training; facilitated workshops and programming that brought together Elders and Knowledge Holders, scientists, and educators; prioritized scientific outreach and communication; offered internship opportunities allowing participants to explore marine science, archaeology, and cultural history; and provided resources and educational experiences throughout the EVOS region. Our integrated approach creates outcomes far greater than what any single organization could achieve alone, clearly showing that our impact is stronger together.

Goal 1: Culturally Responsive Science Outreach

The CORaL Network prioritized culturally responsive learning, science outreach, and communication in 2025 by weaving together cultural knowledge, scientific expertise, and community engagement across the EVOS region. We worked to ensure that Western science and Indigenous knowledge informed our public outreach, ensuring accessibility and cultural relevance. Throughout the year, through consistent weekly programming spanning the EVOS region, the Network **established consistent touchpoints between scientists and communities** and provided resources for fostering understanding and creating respect and enthusiasm for Alaska Native traditions among people of all heritages.

- Culture camps offered by AMAR extended opportunities for cultural and archaeological education to rural communities.
- Rural school visits offered by AMAR, ASLC, CRRC, and CACS and distance learning partnerships offered through ASLC extended engagement and learning opportunities to remote communities.
- AMAR's Lecture Series, Alutiiq/Sugpiaq Cultural Orientation, Historic Preservation Media Campaign, and other community presentations supported ongoing learning and awareness.
- Collective Alaska Native Perspectives (CANP) training led by CRRC provided culture-based professional development opportunity for educators, researchers, and community members, fostering a deeper understanding of Alaska Native values, histories, cultural practices, and applied Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) through topics such as cross-cultural communication, collaborative management, and subsistence, while strengthening relationships across participating communities.

These complementary efforts formed an interconnected, community-centered approach to science education across the EVOS region—meeting communities where they are while reinforcing shared values, mutual respect, and consistent, culturally grounded learning throughout the Network.

Similarly, an early collaboration emerged in 2025 as an important example of **the potential for co-programming and educator practice**. Before CORaL funding, AMAR and CACS had partnered to come up with Sugt'stun terminology to describe zooplankton, working directly with Alaska Native Elders and culture bearers. These words were built from word roots relating to the traits of various plankton species, such as their bioluminescence and plant-like features. In the early phase of CORaL funding, ASLC partnered with CACS to feature this language work in a plankton science exhibit at its aquarium, helping make both research and cultural stories visible and accessible to a broad international audience. In 2025, we developed and provided programming that specifically integrated the exhibit and knowledge shared during development. Observations and partner discussions suggest that the collaboration helped clarify how Indigenous languages, Indigenous knowledge systems, and Western science can be responsibly linked through learning experiences, indicating promising capacity for continued development

Network partners **organized or presented at several major science events** throughout the year. These events combined partners' expertise in community engagement, research, culturally inclusive practices, interpretation, education, and environmental programming to highlight the intersection of science, culture, education, and art. For example:

- The Ocean Sciences Festival, hosted by PWSSC with support from Network partners (CRRC, ASG, ASLC), offered an opportunity for regional agencies, organizations, community members, and scientists to celebrate science, art, and culture through collaboration of ocean science, ocean industry, and place-based learning.
- The Kodiak Kelp Festival, hosted by ASG, celebrated local marine ecosystems and highlighted kelp as a vital subsistence resource.
- The Seward Science Symposium united ASLC and CRRC's local relationships with PWSSC's science communication leadership.
- ASG facilitated adjustments to the Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium format to include integration activities between presentations.
- The Community Education Night workshop facilitated by Network partners during the Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS) brought together 74 community members, including experts, teachers, scientists, and families, to bridge the gap between traditional science presentations and hands-on learning. An interactive booth provided an opportunity for partners to engage directly with the science community.
- ASG's Community Coastal Camp (CCC) leader training prepared facilitators to deliver culturally grounded outdoor science experiences.
- PWSCC, CRRC, and CACS collaborated to create seabird outreach products that integrated ecological monitoring with cultural perspectives, while Shorebird Festivals across partner communities coordinated messaging.

The Network's major science communication events demonstrate how collaborative design can amplify connections between scientists and communities.

Finally, in Kodiak, AMAR reopened its gallery to the public in May of 2025 after a two-year renovation/expansion. With several grants, including CORaL, AMAR led an 18-month process to create all-new exhibits that share the heritage and living culture of Kodiak's Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people. This involved working with a group of volunteer community advisors throughout the process. Having community input helped AMAR create exhibits that holistically share Alutiiq history and culture through the lens of cultural values. To go along with the exhibits, AMAR created videos and lesson plans that can be accessed virtually. This process illustrates how a collaborative, community-based approach can lay a foundation for continued learning, engagement, and stewardship across the region.

Goal 2: Youth Pathways to Science Professions

In 2025, the CORaL Network delivered a set of youth pathway programs that collectively support progression from early science exposure to career and internship preparation in marine science and cultural stewardship. By aligning partner-led programs across communities,

Network partners continued to expand access to place-based STEAM learning for youth in small and remote communities, providing community-informed programming that incorporates cultural knowledge where appropriate and respects the expertise of all contributors.

Many of these partner-led programs support **early and elementary** engagement:

- PWSSC continued to lead the Discovery Room at the elementary school in Cordova to provide hands-on science exploration for young learners. Their Science and Snacks after-school program provides elementary-school engagement throughout the year. As part of the Discovery Room program, PWSSC teaches sixth-grade students about the Exxon Valdez oil spill, a unit which concludes with the Remotely Operated Vehicle Challenge, which teaches students about oil spill response and ways scientists are learning more about the ocean.
- Science Fridays in Seldovia, led by CACS, rotated programming among CORaL partners to support an underserved school system while fostering co-learning and curriculum sharing.
- CACS's boat-based ecology programs introduced foundational marine science concepts through immersive, hands-on learning.
- Place-based science instruction led by the Chugach School District in Whittier, Tatitlek, Chenega, and the Voyage School integrated CORaL expertise directly into classrooms.
- In Seward, Sea Week (ASLC) and Seward Science Week (ASLC and CRRC) provided scaffolded learning from elementary through high school.
- In the Kodiak region, AMAR led cultural and archaeological lessons at all five of Kodiak's rural schools once per semester. AMAR also led or arranged for culture bearers to lead cultural activities in classrooms and on field trips in the City of Kodiak by teacher request.

Middle- and high-school engagement expanded through camps, clubs, and applied learning. In 2025:

- The CCC, led by ASG, added five new partners and reached two new communities, delivering camps in Seward, Valdez, Whittier, and Kodiak through a camp-in-a-box model that enabled local, week-long science and place-based experiences.
- The Marine Science Expedition (CACS) increased accessibility for teens.
- PWSSC integrated student learning during the Cordova Science Gathering by connecting students directly with researchers.
- The Seward Science Symposium (CCRC, ASLC) offered a panel discussion featuring science professionals, and Lunch and Learns (CCRC, ASLC) engaged high-school students by providing a platform to hear directly from local researchers.
- ASLC's Marine Science Club paired high-school mentoring with hands-on activities, reinforcing vertical learning and peer leadership.

Together, these programs strengthened science engagement, mentorship, and hands-on learning, fostering a deeper connection between students and their coastal communities.

The Network created **research experiences** through complementary COMPASS (Community Organized Pathways to Student Science) programs:

- In Cordova, PWSSC led environmental monitoring work that put students in the field collecting real data for Gulf of Alaska research.
- In Seward, ASLC and CRRC partnered to deliver a seabird curriculum that blended ASLC's research expertise with CRRC's approach to research, integrating TEK and Western science and culminating in annual SeeBird presentations where students shared year-long scientific investigations.

Through programs spanning across communities, each organization contributes expertise while building relationships among students throughout Alaska.

Internship programs offered by all partner organizations provide emerging professionals with hands-on experience in a variety of fields. Summer camps across all partner communities allowed each organization to contribute specialized programs while benefiting from knowledge sharing. Although not every opportunity exists in every community, the Network actively connects people and organizations with opportunities across the region, ensuring that geographic location doesn't limit youth involvement. These opportunities help to build a diverse and community-based scientific community that Alaska's coastal regions need.

Goal 3: Scientists as Community Partners

The CORaL Network supported and facilitated relationship-building between scientists and communities to create multiple, coordinated pathways for ongoing engagement. Scientists become active partners in communicating and fostering STEAM skills in communities where long-term research & monitoring, mariculture, and restoration projects are integrated with community-identified needs. Rather than researchers appearing only to collect data, the Network helps to position scientists as invested community members who share knowledge, listen to local priorities, and collaborate on identifying research questions that serve community needs.

The **Alaska Knowledge, Science, and Education Alliance (AKSEA)**, led by ASG and executed collaboratively with input from all partners, created structured opportunities for scientists to work alongside local knowledge holders and educators as genuine partners. The AKSEA program launched with an in-person collaborative workshop connecting experts and educators resulting in the formation of three teams. During FY25, teams worked to co-create lessons focused on marine-related anchoring phenomena in the EVOS region, with scientists developing communication skills while educators and Traditional Knowledge Holders shaping how research findings are connected to community contexts and priorities. These lessons will be tested in FY26, and the program will expand to continue connecting experts with educators, ensuring programming is developed holistically from the beginning. In some cases, AKSEA participants collaborated in other Network initiatives. Through AKSEA, scientists, educators, and local knowledge holders are building lasting partnerships that ensure research, education, and

community knowledge inform one another from the start, fostering more inclusive, context-driven science and learning.

PWSSC's **Ocean Sciences Festival and Mariculture Science Night** demonstrated how research and education partnerships serve both scientific advancement and community skill-building:

- Ocean Sciences Festival brought together community and Network partners to provide content and inform the community of ways to get involved through jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities.
- Mariculture Science Night provided a space for the community to learn more about the work being conducted by the Mariculture Research and Restoration Consortium in the Prince William Sound, Kodiak Archipelago, and Kachemak Bay by engaging with the scientists and farmers who make up the Mariculture Research and Restoration Consortium (MarReCon) project.

ASG's coordination of the **Mariculture Conference of Alaska, Kodiak Kelp Festival, and Alaska Seaweed and Shellfish Festival** positioned aquaculture researchers as partners in community economic development conversations where scientists shared technical expertise about sustainable mariculture while listening to community priorities regarding traditional marine resource use, economic opportunities, and cultural considerations.

The **Community Coastal Experience (CCE)** serves as a crucial bridge between youth and adult programs and professional careers. CCE is an annual opportunity for Alaskan adults to explore career and internship pathways in marine and coastal research, environmental monitoring, and Alaska Native culture, history, and arts. Led by CACS, the program took place in Anchorage, Kachemak Bay, and Homer during 2025, with significant portions hosted by PWSSC. Through immersion in new field environments and intentional connection with land, water, and each other, interns broadened their perspectives and discussed the challenges facing their communities and ecosystems.

CRRC's leadership in **CANP training** ensured that scientists participating in Network activities gained skills for respectful engagement with Indigenous communities and knowledge systems. Network-coordinated engagement, facilitated by multiple partners working together, created sustained scientist-community partnerships impossible through any single organization's effort.

Goal 4: Network Capacity Building

The CORaL Network strengthened our capacity to serve all of our communities effectively while building partner capabilities, ensuring that learning, skills, and resources developed in one location benefited the entire Network. The emerging internal network initiative, **WORMS (Witnessing, Observing, Relationship-building, Mentoring and Supporting)** is designed to support structured opportunities for partners to learn directly from one another's expertise. Staff traveled to observe programming at other organizations, provided mentorship, and co-created and gained perspective through shared experiences that led to a clearer understanding

of each partner's roles, capacity, and expertise. These exchanges will strengthen collaborative relationships and are establishing a culture of mutual support and continuous learning that extends beyond formal training sessions.

An **internal communication committee** was formed to facilitate better information sharing and coordinated messaging across the Network. The committee developed a consistent newsletter framework that began monthly distribution in January 2026 and ensures unified branding that honors individual organizational identities while communicating Network coherence. Marketing kits were developed and distributed, providing professional tools—information brochures, video kiosks, signage, and logo merchandise—for every partner location, ensuring small organizations with limited marketing capacity could present a unified Network story at community events. CRRC's leadership in CANP training provided essential capacity building for all partners, covering cross-cultural communication, true Alaska Native histories, collaborative management, subsistence, and applied TEK. AMAR complemented CANP through educational programs.

The **CCE** was collaboratively implemented to support participant career development and Network capacity building. CCE connected Alaskan adults with career and internship pathways. Some participants went on to accept internships with CORaL partners or brought new skills back to their home communities. Internship programs provided emerging professionals with hands-on experience in a variety of fields. Partner collaboration showed how co-creation, relationship building, and shared support can strengthen capacity, while also creating tools and approaches that could be reused across initiatives. When ASG facilitated the AKSEA co-creation processes, those facilitation skills transferred to other examples of collaborative curriculum development. This reciprocal capacity building meant that innovations in one location benefited the entire Network. Coordinated event presence, shared programming, and unified messaging strengthened community connections as the Network became more recognizable across the EVOS region as a coherent collaboration serving community priorities.

Partners introduced one another to community contacts and worked together to respond to community-identified needs. The **Collaborative Learning Series**, led by Heather Sauyaq Jean Gordon of Sauyaq Solutions Consulting, included topics such as cultural bias, inclusive hiring practices, and knowledge translation. This group learning opportunity supported ongoing adaptation through developmental evaluation, while annual meetings and working groups strengthened collaboration skills such as consensus-building, conflict resolution, and shared decision-making.

Goal 5: Leveraged Regional Resources

The CORaL Network is now moving forward by expanding how Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Council of Trustees (EVOSTC) resources serve communities through the strategic use of complementary partner expertise, shared infrastructure and materials, and coordinated programming that extends reach and deepens impact beyond what individual organizations could achieve on their own. AKSEA exemplified resource-leveraging through curriculum co-creation. Similarly, seabird

outreach products created by PWSCC, CRRC, and CACS informed communities across the Network, and the CCC camp-in-a-box model enabled multiple communities to deliver complex programming using shared materials and trained leaders.

Major events demonstrated how pooled resources create regional impact in science communication by sharing costs and reaching audiences from multiple communities in the region:

- At the Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS) partners delivered a coordinated Network presence and programming by collaboratively staffing a booth, hosting a workshop, and networking with scientists. This approach increased visibility while reducing organizational burden.
- Partner programs like Science Fridays and Lunch and Learns demonstrated efficient resource allocation, with partners contributing expertise on a rotating schedule so each organization could invest a modest amount of time while communities received consistent, diverse, high-quality science communication.

Together, these efforts show how coordinated planning and shared delivery can use partner strengths to expand reach and improve learning program quality.

Development of **shared marketing materials** reduced per-organization costs while ensuring professional quality and coherent regional branding. Partners supported one another's programming through shared materials, cross-training, and collaborative troubleshooting. An organic process of mutual support allowed organizations to use skills and resources that would not have been affordable individually:

- Network participation in the Elders and Youth Conference and Tsunami Bowl also used shared resources, including partnering to staff these programs, ensuring cost-effective time and effort while demonstrating commitment to cultural partnership.
- The Collaborative Learning Series, annual meetings, and working groups paid dividends across all initiatives, with increased efficiency as collaborators and partners became more proficient in managing resources, moving fluidly between independent work and shared projects.

Goal 6: Self-Sustaining Network Development

During this funding period, the Network made significant progress toward building infrastructure and relationships. Highlights include deliberate investment in **communication systems, shared decision-making, adaptive learning, and public presence**:

- The launch of the CORaL website was the culmination of a strategic planning process and represented a major sustainability milestone, a new central hub for shared information and resources that can support collaboration beyond the grant period.

- Alaska Mariculture Research and Training Center listserv and social media presence complemented the website, building audiences invested in mariculture related Network activities and outcomes.
- The new internal communication committee helps to guide information sharing, unified messaging, and coordinated outreach across partners.
- The updated newsletter framework supports monthly distribution, providing a consistent and sustainable way to share updates with community members and partner organizations and support ongoing engagement beyond this grant funding.

The Network's investments in **culture-based professional development, Traditional Knowledge integration, and community partnerships** established strong relational foundations that extend collaboration beyond transactional funding relationships. Resource development equipped partners with the skills needed for respectful engagement, including regional language variants, and the importance of participating in cultural events. These efforts are emerging as sustained, authentic partnerships grounded in mutual respect and reciprocal learning.

Partners adopted a **continuous improvement approach informed by the developmental evaluation program**—sharing lessons learned, collectively analyzing challenges, and adjusting strategies in response to community feedback and outcomes. These practices are maturing into core elements of Network culture. Annual meetings have become predictable rhythms for planning, coordination, and evaluation, supporting issue-focused working groups that operate between meetings through shared communication channels and decision-making processes. Together, these structures provide resilient frameworks for sustaining coordination and continuity as staff and partners evolve over time.

Network partners established a **culture of mutual support and learning** that represents a shared interest in the future sustainability of our work. Partners now routinely reach out to one another for advice, share resources without formal agreements, and support one another's success. This culture shift of viewing partners as trusted colleagues bodes well for the Network's sustainability.

Perhaps most important, partners demonstrated **genuine commitment to the Network's continuation**. This past year, partners allocated staff time to Network coordination, contributed resources to partner programs, prioritized Network meetings despite competing demands, and incorporated Network values and approaches into their core organizational operations. This shift in organizational culture signals that partners recognize CORaL's value beyond access to EVOSTC funding—embracing a model in which collaboration strengthens organizational capacity, advances shared values, and delivers cost-effective mission impact. At the end of 2025, accomplishments to date have evolved into integrated collaboration that is resulting in collective impact across the EVOS region that is much greater than what could be achieved by each organization acting individually.

Together, the CORaL partners are combining their distinct strengths to provide communities with community-informed learning, intergenerational knowledge exchange, science

engagement, and collaborative stewardship that support youth pathways to science professions, community-engaged science, and long-term partnership across Alaska's coastal regions.

2. Products

Peer-reviewed publications

- N/A

Publications

- Alutiiq Traditions: An Introduction of the Native Culture of the Kodiak Archipelago, Fifth Edition. By Amy F. Steffian and April G. Laktonen Counceller, with contributions by Alisha Drabek, Dehrich Chya, and Amanda Lancaster. Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository.
- Delta Sound Connections regional newspaper (two-page article on the CORaL Network).

Reports

- "Seaweed Food Safety Guidance." ASG was a reviewer on the recent publication. This was a collaborative effort between food safety experts from across the United States.
- PWSSC Accomplishments, February 2025–January 2026.pdf.

Popular articles

- N/A

Conferences and workshops

- Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS). Network partners attended, hosted an exhibition table, and created and facilitated a Community Education Night workshop that was open to AMSS attendees and the broader community.
- Alaska Knowledge Science and Education Alliance (AKSEA). Collective curriculum development program created, organized and led by CORaL partners.
- Collective Alaska Native Perspective (CANP). Alaska Native relations training created, organized, and led by CRRC.
- FAI Elders and Youth Conference. Intergenerational knowledge sharing; Network partners attended and had an exhibition table.
- Ocean Sciences Festival. Community science celebration created, organized, and led by PWSSC.

- Seward Science Symposium. Local research showcase created, organized, and led by ASLC, CRRC, and OASLC (Ocean Alaska Science and Learning Center) within the National Park Service.
- Mariculture Conference of Alaska. Knowledge sharing; ASG and PWSSC attended and presented.
- CCC Leader Training. Train community educators and members to lead local camps throughout the region; created, organized, and led by ASG.
- Mariculture Science Night. This community mariculture celebration and learning event was created, organized, and led by PWSSC and ASG.

Public presentations

Alaska Marine Science Symposium (AMSS)

- "Make Science Murre Accessible: A Collaborative Approach to Science Communication in Kachemak Bay." Poster co-presented by Cristina Reo (PWSSC) and Caitlin Marsteller (Alaska Pacific University).
- Community Education Night. Created for and led during AMSS. We hosted 74 community members (experts, teachers, students, and families) and bridged the gap between traditional science presentations and integrated hands-on learning.
    - Cristina Reo (PWSSC) — Intro to the CORaL Network.
    - Robb Kaler (USFWS/GWA) — Seabird research updates and seabird foraging.
    - Anthony Fischbach (USGS) — Walrus research updates.
    - Veronica Padula (ACSPI) — Seabird science camp.

Collective Alaska Native Perspectives (CANP)

- Native Village of Eyak Elders: Leona Olsen, Lennette Ronegard, Jack Hopkins, Diane Ujoika, Pete Kompkoff (Chenega).
- Alaska Native Introductions: Brooke Mallory, Michael Ophiem.
- Native Village of Eyak Cultural Orientation: Brooke Mallory, Rita Mirgirlia.
- Subsistence and Alaska Native Ways of Life: Raven Cunningham.
- Alaska's Native Organizations Panel Discussion: Michael Opheim, Orville Lind, Raven Cunningham, Brooke Mallory.
- Co-Stewardship and Collaborative Management: Orville Lind; Michael Opheim, CRRC Tribal Fish Wildlife Liaison.
- Working with Tribes—Effective Tools for Collaboration round table discussion: Pete Kompkoff, Michael Opheim, Orville Lind.
- Applied TEK and Indigenous Led Science: Dr. Henry Huntington.

Prince William Sound Natural History Symposium

- Land Acknowledgement and Introduction to the Chugach Regional Resources Commission, including a feature on the CORaL Network: Robin McKnight (CRRC).

Seward Science Symposium

- Rapid Change in Alaska's Ecosystems: Leveraging Omics for Ecological Surveillance and Preparedness: Dr. Rao Chaganti (PWSSC).
- Community presentation outlining the programs, projects and role of the CORaL Network for community members: Shana Kent (ASLC).
- Harmful Algal Blooms and Shellfish Toxin Testing in the Chugach Region: Allison Carl, Biology Lab Manager, Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute (CRRC).
- Mariculture in the Chugach Region: Michael Mahmood, Production Algologist, Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute (CRRC).

Northwest Aquatic Marine Educator Conference

- Whole Being Teaching with Coastal Connections Camp-in-a-Box: Leigh Lubin (ASG).

National Marine Educator Association Conference

- Whole Being Teaching with Coastal Connections Camp-in-a-Box: Leigh Lubin (ASG).

Data and/or information products developed during the reporting period

- Data visualization app for citizen/community science (ASG). Collects information from kelp and oyster farmers using Survey123 for mariculture needs.
- Seabird science communication project in Kachemak Bay (PWSSC/CRRC/CACS). CORaL Network collaboration with seabird researchers to educate the Kachemak Bay region on trends observed at Gull Island regarding the common murre population and observed bald eagle disruptions in murre breeding success.
    - We commissioned Kim McNett (a local artist from the Kenai Peninsula) to create before and after images representative of changes observed by US Geological Survey scientists on Gull Island before/after the 2014–2016 Pacific Marine Heatwave.
    - We developed a landing page on the CORaL Network Website.
    - We are in the process of working with museums in Homer and Seldovia, along with tour boat companies in Kachemak Bay, to display this project in summer 2026.
- Herring disease outreach video (PWSSC, with CRRC as supporting partners). CORaL Network collaboration with herring researchers to educate southcentral and southeastern Alaska on observed trends in herring population dynamics over time, tying in herring disease research from Gulf Watch Alaska Long-Term Research and Monitoring projects. In progress.

Data sets and associated metadata

Community Pathways to Student Science (COMPASS)

- Cordova environmental data collection. PWSSC works with Cordova High School students to collect environmental data on a monthly basis from two locations in Cordova (Odiak Pond and the Cordova Harbor) to monitor trends over time. In 2025, we:
    - Met monthly with Environmental Science class for data collection (February 2025–April 2025).
    - Worked on a final project with Environmental Science class (April 2025–May 2025).
    - Met monthly with Chemistry class for data collection (November 2025–January 2026).
- Seward Seabird Survey Project. Marine scientist–teacher partnership to engage students in marine ecology research, with a focus on seabirds in the Seward community. Students connect with ASLC researchers and ASLC yearlong seabird surveys.
    - Offered year-round Seward High School programming (e.g., weekly visits with local students making seabird observations).
    - Provided edits to curriculum, including the integration of Traditional Knowledge and structure to incorporate experts determined by community.
    - Partnered with local school, the National Park Service, and CRRC to incorporate Indigenous-led science topics.
    - Participated in World Ocean Day/Seabird festival hosted by ASLC in June 2025.
    - 2025 (Seward HS 10th grade classroom visits)
        - TEK and migratory bird (March 2025).
        - Student presentation (April 2025).
        - Elder in the classroom and observation circle (May 2025).

Additional products not listed above

Marketing and Communication (Branding)

Website

- CORaL Network website creation and launch: https://akcoralnetwork.org/.

Videos

- Educational shorts for marketing kits: available in PDF and Google Slides formats.
- Mariculture-related videos (ASG).

Newsletters

- We are actively working to streamline and expand newsletter distribution through a consistent structure with the goal of better engaging community members, educators, and scientists. The new format launched in January of 2026.

- The PWSSC monthly *Breakwater* newsletter included updates on CORaL Network accomplishments.

Podcasts and Radio Pieces

- *Field Notes* (PWSSC). Short podcasts about a variety of research topics, including the PWSSC kelp hatchery, Climate and Fisheries Adaptation Program (CAFA), barnacle research, and herring recruitment.
- *Kachemak Currents* (CACS). Short radio segments on natural history topics relevant to Kachemak Bay.

Social Media

- Alaska Mariculture Research and Training Center listserv and social media (ASG; Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram).
- Social media posts relevant to CORaL Network work reaching approximately 5,000 followers, with thousands of likes, comments, and shares on our posts overall (PWSSC; Facebook and Instagram).

Marketing Kit Components

- Rack cards highlighting mission, vision, and key programs.
- Promotional materials: banners, table runners, pens, pins, and stickers.
- Educational video kiosk content.
- Branded merchandise for increased visibility.

Internships

- Community Coastal Experience (CACS).
- Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute (CRRC).
- High school internship program (CRRC).
- Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute for Seward High School students (CRRC).
- Seward High School Internship & Mentoring Program (ASLC).
- Parent/Child volunteer interpretation program (ASLC).
- Career development and mentoring internships in interpretation, education, husbandry, operations, and marketing (ASLC).
- Cultural Heritage Internship for high school students and a graduate fellow (AMAR).
- Community Engaged Fellow participation in the CCC program (ASG).
- Seasonal Internships (across ASLC, CRRC, AMAR, and CACS).

3. Coordination and Collaboration

Summary Report on Process and Project Coordination

During 2025, the CORaL Network advanced from coordinated delivery toward a more integrated, pathway-based collaboration that is showing evidence of increasing science literacy, cultural responsiveness in programming, and community accountability across the EVOS-affected region. Project coordination focused on aligning diverse partner activities within a shared pathways strategy, allowing outputs generated by individual organizations to function collectively as reinforcing mechanisms for learning, trust-building, and knowledge use. In doing so, the pathways approach is demonstrating outcomes that align with the primary goals as outlined in the original grant proposal.

Coordinated Use of the Pathways Strategy for Program Outcomes

CORaL organized implementation across six reinforcing pathways: **Website & Digital Presence; Community Sharing; Cultural & Competency Learning; Intern Institute; Community Science & Outreach; and Iterative Adaptation**. Rather than treating events, training, or programs as stand-alone outputs, the pathways strategy intentionally connected repeated engagement, reflection, and co-creation across partners and communities. This design reduces reliance on one-off activities and, in theory, will result in increased durability of outcomes by ensuring that learning and relationships can continue even when individual events or funding cycles shift.

Through this structure, long-term research, mariculture initiatives, education and outreach programs, and workforce-linked learning were consistently translated into accessible, community-relevant experiences. The pathways strategy also created internal coherence across geographically dispersed partners, allowing shared values, language, and expectations to guide implementation while preserving local responsiveness.

Project Coordination and Cross-Partner Collaboration

Coordination during 2025 emphasized regular communication, shared planning, and collective problem-solving. A standing internal communication committee, monthly partner meetings with live documentation, shared calendars, and unified messaging tools increased transparency and accountability across the Network. These structures enabled partners to align schedules, co-host events, and share resources efficiently, reducing duplication while expanding reach.

Multi-partner convenings, including the AMSS, Seward Science Symposium, Ocean Sciences Festival, Mariculture Science Night, Shorebird Festivals, and regional science weeks, served as visible coordination points where research, education, and community priorities converged. These public-facing experiences functioned as Network learning laboratories where partners observed one another’s practices, refined approaches, and strengthened professional trust.

Summary Report on Process Evaluation and Program Outcomes (Grant Goals 1–6)

Integration of Evaluation and Outcomes

In 2025, we conducted an assessment of CORaL's activities and impact. We deliberately structured process evaluation and program outcome synthesis as complementary but distinct functions:

- ASLC's Mission Impact team coordinated **program outcome** synthesis and analysis for **Grant Goals 1–3**. Drawing on partner reports, participation data, and formative feedback, this team analyzed how activities and outputs across pathways translated into documented outcomes related to culturally responsive science outreach, youth pathways to science professions, and scientists functioning as community partners.
- Headwater People served as the independent lead for **process evaluation**, documenting collaboration dynamics, trust-building, Network effectiveness, and conditions for sustainability under **Grant Goals 4–6**. Their work identified measurable growth in partner trust, willingness to surface concerns, shared understanding of community contexts, and appreciation for culturally responsive approaches.

These findings from both evaluation approaches are presented in detail in the *Formative Evaluation Year 4 Report*, the evidentiary appendix for this annual report (attached). In the remainder of this section, we provide a high-level integrated summary of program outcomes (Grant Goals 1–3) and process outcomes (Grant Goals 4–6) and therefore do not provide specific program outcomes or attribute outcomes to any specific partner or project.

Growth, Change, and Emerging Impact

Across the Network, 2025 data suggest a pedagogical movement away from primarily episodic programming toward more-sustainable, relationship-based engagement. In their reports, partners described growing familiarity with co-created approaches, increased instances of Indigenous Knowledge being brought into dialogue with Western science, and closer alignment with community-identified priorities. Scientists participating in CORaL activities were more likely to describe working alongside communities as collaborators and contributors than to describe themselves as topical experts, suggesting that co-created programming is more likely to increase perceived community relevance. Taken together, these shifts reflect (1) evolving practices in how science is encountered by youth and adult learners and (2) that some partners are now emphasizing science as a civic practice connected to stewardship, livelihoods, and cultural continuity—without presuming these outcomes as explicit delivery goals for all program staff.

At the Network level, CORaL is now starting to function as an emerging community of practice, achieving applied and realized value consistent with established learning network frameworks. While opportunities remain to strengthen executive-level championing and long-term governance structures, the coordination mechanisms established in 2025 through the pathways

strategy has led to more consistent facilitation, integrated evaluation reporting, and a strong foundation for continued growth, sustainability, and impact.

Goal 1: Culturally Responsive Science Outreach

Network-wide outcomes for Goal 1 show that CORaL programming successfully increased public use and relevance of EVOS-related science by embedding it within culturally grounded, community-based contexts. Across the region, communities engaged with science as a practical resource connected to stewardship, restoration decisions, cultural continuity, and everyday livelihoods. Co-created outreach integrating Indigenous Knowledge and Western science led to high participation and strong proportional reach, particularly in small and rural communities, where engagement extended beyond awareness to dialogue, trust, and application of knowledge. Evidence from festivals, museums, adult learning forums, and shared communication products demonstrates that EVOS science is increasingly understood, discussed, and used by residents as a shared civic asset rather than as distant or abstract information.

Goal 2: Youth Pathways to Science Professions

Outcomes for Goal 2 indicate that CORaL strengthened community-based youth pathways to science professions by enabling young people to experience science as a lived, place-based activity rooted in their own communities, cultures, and responsibilities. Youth from elementary through high-school levels participated in authentic scientific roles, including data collection, monitoring, engineering design, analysis, and public presentation, often contributing directly to ongoing research and restoration efforts. Programs documented gains in confidence, leadership, teamwork, safety awareness, and sense of belonging, particularly where cultural identity and local knowledge were centered as assets. Collectively, these outcomes demonstrate progress toward diversifying Alaska's future science leadership and reinforcing science as a collective civic responsibility tied to long-term stewardship and restoration in EVOS-impacted communities.

Goal 3: Scientists as Community Partners

Network-wide outcomes for Goal 3 show a measurable shift in how scientists engage with communities, with scientists increasingly functioning as visible, trusted partners rather than episodic experts. Through repeated, relationship-based engagement across education, culture, workforce-linked mariculture, and community learning environments, scientists demonstrated growth in cultural humility, facilitation skills, ethical awareness, and shared accountability. Long-term research and monitoring programs were translated into usable community and educational assets, supporting learning, stewardship, and decision-making. Together, these outcomes indicate that CORaL is successfully embedding science within community life, strengthening trust, and supporting durable, community-responsive STEAM learning across the EVOS-impacted zone.

Goal 4: Network Capacity Building

The external evaluators at Headwater People observed early- to mid-formative indicators that the CORaL Network is building the kinds of capacities envisioned in the proposal, while still actively refining how that capacity is organized and sustained. Through structured observations and recurring discussions with partners, Headwater People documented increasing use of shared protocols, more consistent meeting practices, and a regular qualitative "temperature check" that functions as an emerging mechanism for tracking trust, collaboration, and Network health over time. Partners' reflections suggest growing skill and confidence in working across organizational boundaries, especially in balancing care for capacity limits with meaningful contribution. Process evaluation documented skill improvement in meetings that employed culturally grounded approaches (e.g., language-inclusive tools, compensated local knowledge roles, and intentional bridging of Indigenous and Western knowledge). These process outcomes should be understood as promising signals of continued improvement, rather than settled achievements, in a network that is still maturing its routines, roles, and shared expectations.

Goal 5: Leveraged Regional Resources

Headwater People also found preliminary evidence that CORaL partners are beginning to leverage EVOSTC-funded resources through more intentional cross-partner alignment. The evaluator's notes point to multiple emerging mechanisms that can enable "greater-than-sum" impact over time, including improved collaborative structuring of shared planning spaces (annual meetings and structured workshops), increasing clarity about collective identity and public messaging (elevator pitch work), and practical visibility tools (mobile booth kits and a centralized website) that show promise to reduce perceived fragmentation for audiences seeking programs and resources. Program examples and partner-reported learning shifts (e.g., stronger attention to culturally responsive practice and increased participant interest in culture/history/community in some contexts) are best interpreted as early indicators of the Network's potential to produce integrated outcomes, with continued testing, tracking, and refinement still needed to demonstrate durable cross-project synergy at scale.

Goal 6: Self-Sustaining Network Development

From a developmental evaluation perspective, 2025 findings reflect a network in active formation. Headwater People reported observed increases in attention to the enabling conditions of sustainability, consistency, accountability, leadership, and shared infrastructure. While these increases are promising, input from partners also revealed gaps that remain unresolved and will require deliberate planning as the team moves into the next year of the project. Evidence drawn from observations and confidential partner discussions suggests that the Network has begun to stabilize certain operating rhythms (clearer agendas, repeatable meeting structures, shared tool links, and increased transparency) and that partners are increasingly willing to "stay at the table" through difficult conversations. These are important midstream indicators of relational durability. At the same time, the evaluator documented open questions about long-term funding pathways, role clarity, and the level of executive leadership engagement that will be needed to carry the Network beyond the grant.

Looking Ahead at Outcomes

The combined findings from process evaluation and program outcome synthesis suggest that CORaL is achieving more collectively than partners could independently. By maintaining clear role separation between process evaluators and program outcome analysts while coordinating interpretation and reporting, the Network has strengthened both rigor and learning. As CORaL enters its next phase, continued investment in community-based co-created programming is expected to strengthen program outcomes by sustaining progress and supporting long-lasting, community-responsive science learning across the EVOS-impacted zone.

Impact on other EVOSTC-Funded Projects

EVOSTC Long-Term Research and Monitoring Projects

The CORaL Network actively collaborated with and supported communication of EVOSTC Long-Term Research and Monitoring projects through:

- **AMSS** workshop and exhibition presence.
- **Community science programming**, such as the *Tuesday Night Talk* lecture series, the *Ocean Sciences Festival,* and the *Discovery Room* program, all of which integrate ongoing research.
- **COMPASS** program data collection supporting Gulf of Alaska ecosystem monitoring.

Gulf Watch Alaska Long-Term Research and Monitoring (GWA-LTRM) Project 2522LTRM A-B

- GWA-LTRM Principal Investigator Meetings
    - PWSSC partners attended the GWA-LTRM spring and summer online principal investigator meeting and presented CORaL Network updates (April 2025 and August 2025).
    - PWSSC partners attended the GWA-LTRM annual meeting and presented CORaL Network updates (October 2025).
- Digital Outreach
    - Articles
        - April *Breakwater* (April 2025): Killer Whale Ecotypes Field Notes.
        - Summer *Breakwater* (July 2025):
            - Herring and salmon interactions.
            - Happy retirement, Scott.
            - CCE.
            - Microacoustic tracking of juvenile salmon.
        - September *Breakwater* (September 2025): Summer Camp Wrap Up (featuring GEMS).

        - November *Breakwater* (November 2025): Cape St Elias Weather Station.
        - December *Breakwater* (December 2025): Ocean Sciences Festival.
        - *Delta Sound Connections* (2025):
            - GWA.
            - Showing renewal post heatwaves.
    - *Field Notes* (PWSSC). Short podcasts about a variety of research topics.
    - Social Media
        - PWSSC shared more than 30 social media posts about GWA-funded projects on PWSSC social media channels. Those posts reached more than 5,000 followers and collectively garnered hundreds to thousands of likes, comments, and shares. A few examples of those posts can be found below:
            - *Field Notes*: Herring (February 2025).
            - New publication: Phenotypic sorting of pink salmon hatchery strays (February 2025).
            - *Field Notes*: Killer Whale Ecotypes (April 2025).
            - New publication: Marine bird abundance and species composition (May 2025).
            - Auto Analyzer (May 2025).
            - Micro Acoustic Tagging 1 (July 2025).
            - CCE Post 6 (July 2025).
            - Salmon/Herring Research Update 1 (July 2025).
            - GWA killer whale update (October 2025).
            - GWA Principal Investigator Meeting (December 2025).
- GWA-themed Programs
    - **Discovery Room.** GWA-LTRM research is incorporated into PWSSC's monthly in-school science lessons to grades K–6 in Cordova. Overall, GWA-LTRM research is incorporated into approximately 20 lessons throughout the school year, reaching approximately 235 elementary-aged students. For example, during field trips to the Science Center:
        - Third-grade students completed a scavenger hunt, talked to PWSSC Research Associate Anne Schaefer to learn how she studies and bands birds, and dissected mock bird stomachs made of jello (February 2025).
        - Fifth-grade students simulated the effect of carbon dioxide in the ocean in an experiment where they raised the pH of the water by blowing into it with a straw. They also had the chance to meet Dr. Cypher from the Science Center to learn how kelp can help sequester the carbon in the ocean (April 2025).

        - Fourth-grade students ventured down to the R/V *New Wave* to learn about plankton (May 2025).
    - **Tuesday Night Talks** (PWSSC community lecture series)
        - Pacific Herring Disease Ecology, featuring Dr. David Paez (USGS) and Dr. Malina Loeher (Alaska Pacific University) (11 participants; February 2025).
- Hands-on Education with Researchers
    - **Girls Exploring Marine Science Camp.** Campers met with GWA scientists every day of camp (10 campers; July 2025).
    - **CCE in Cordova** (8 interns; June 2025).
        - Prince William Sound Science Center salmon and herring research overview with hands-on components: bomb calorimetry, stomach dissections, fish identification, plankton identification.
        - R/V *New Wave* oceanography cruise: performed a plankton tow with Dr. Rob Campbell, identified plankton under the microscope.
        - CCE potluck with partners.
    - **Ocean Sciences Festival.** GWA-LTRM was represented at the Ocean Sciences Festival, which included a student session and a community session (306 participants from 18 partner organizations; November 2025).
- Outreach Opportunities Email
    - A CORaL Network education and outreach opportunities email was sent to GWA in August 2025.

EVOSTC Mariculture Projects

Mariculture Research and Restoration Consortium (Mar ReCon) Project 23220302

- Principal Investigator Meetings
    - PWSSC virtually attended the Mar ReCon Annual PI meeting and presented on CORaL Network opportunities (January 2026).
    - ASG attended two days of principal investigator meetings and networked with members of Mar ReCon (January 2026).
- Meetings
    - PWSSC met with Melissa Good in person to plan future outreach efforts (August 2025).
    - PWSSC, CACS, and ASG met with the Mar ReCon management team to plan for an outreach event during the annual meeting. This group met six times between October 2025 and January 2025.
    - The CORaL Network hosted the Mariculture Science Night in Homer, Alaska, during the Mar ReCon annual meeting (January 2025). PWSSC met virtually with several of the researchers to help with activity creation planning for the event.

- Digital Outreach
    - Articles
        - May *Breakwater* (May 2025): Welcome New Staff.
        - Summer *Breakwater* (July 2025): CCE.
        - September *Breakwater* (September 2025): Summer Camp Wrap Up (Featuring GEMS).
        - December *Breakwater* (December 2025): Ocean Sciences Festival.
        - January *Breakwater* (January 2025).
        - *Delta Sound Connections* (2025).
            - Mar ReCon annual meeting in Kodiak.
            - Sympson Bay Oyster Co.
            - There's fish in the sea.
            - The mystery of bull kelp.
            - What's on an oysters menu.
    - Mariculture-Related Videos
        - Meet Your Alaskan Farmer video series:
            - Shucking Barriers—Developing the Alaska Oyster Cooperative.
            - Seawan Gehlbach, Simpson Bay Oyster Farm.
        - AMRTC Salty Interview Sessions highlighting Alaska mariculture farmers. Two videos have been released featuring Mar ReCon partners, expanding farmer-led outreach and industry visibility: Kachemak Bay oyster farmers Sean Crosby (Moss Island and Bootleggers Cove Oyster Farms) and Lindsay Olsen (Spinnaker Sea Farms).
    - *Field Notes* Podcast: Kelp Hatchery.
    - Social Media Posts — PWSSC shared more than 20 social media posts about Mar ReCon–funded projects on PWSSC social media channels. Those posts reached more than 5,000 followers and collectively garnered hundreds of likes, comments, and shares. A few examples of those posts can be found below:
        - Mar ReCon Annual Meeting (February 2025).
        - Mariculture Conference of Alaska (February 2025).
        - Fish at Kelp Farm Research Update (February 2025).
        - CCE Post 5 (July 2025).
        - Mar ReCon Surveys (August 2025).
        - Mar ReCon Surveys Part 2 (August 2025).
        - Mariculture Science Night Highlight (January 2025).
- Hands-on Education with Researchers
    - Camps
        - **Girls Exploring Marine Science Camp.** Campers met with Mar ReCon scientists every day of camp (10 campers; July 2025).

- **CCE in Cordova** (8 interns; June 2025).
    - R/V *New Wave* Oceanography/Mariculture cruise: visited the Native Village of Eyak research kelp farm and discussed PWSSC mariculture research and kelp nursery, performed a plankton tow, identified plankton under the microscope.
    - CCE potluck with partners.
- **Mariculture Science Night.** This event took place in Homer, Alaska, during the Mar ReCon annual in-person principal investigator meeting. PWSSC worked with researchers to create outreach activities related to their research. Researchers hosted booths during Mariculture Science Night in an effort to share their work with the community. This event was open to anyone in the community (approximately 60 participants; January 2026).
- **Ocean Sciences Festival.** Mar ReCon was represented at the Ocean Sciences Festival, which included a student session and a community session (306 participants from 18 partner organizations; November 2025).

- Mariculture-themed Programs
    - **Discovery Room:** Mar ReCon research is incorporated into PWSSC's monthly in-school science lessons to grades K-6 in Cordova. Overall, Mar ReCon research reached approximately 235 elementary-aged students in Cordova through the *Discovery Room* program. For example, during field trips to the Science Center:
        - Fifth-grade students wrapped up their unit on the carbon cycle by simulating the effect of carbon dioxide in the ocean in an experiment where they raised the pH of the water by blowing into it with a straw. They met Dr. Cypher from the Science Center to learn how kelp can help sequester the carbon in the ocean (April 2025).
        - Kindergarteners and first-grade students learned about marine creatures on a tidepooling field trip and illustrated their own tidepooling guides (May 2025).
        - Fifth-grade students were introduced to carbon and tracked ways carbon moves throughout Earth's spheres (October 2025).
    - **Tuesday Night Talks** (PWSSC community lecture series)
        - Diving into Kelp, featuring Skye Steritz (Noble Ocean Farms) and Dr. Alysha Cypher (PWSSC) (27 participants; March 2025).
        - Studying Uses of Wild Resources in Cordova, featuring CRRC, USFS, ADFG, and Native Village of Eyak (31 participants; September 2025).
        - Carbon Dioxide Removal in the Gulf of Alaska, featuring Caitlin McKinstry and Kinsey Brown (28 participants; October 2025).
- Outreach Opportunities Email

    - A CORaL Network education and outreach opportunities email was sent to Mar ReCon in August 2025.
- Other
    - PWSSC updated the Mar ReCon flowchart Mar ReCon Flowchart
    - ASG offers regular mariculture-focused workshops and training events that incorporate information learned through the MarReCon project with community participants from the EVOS region. ASG continues to regularly meet with Mar ReCon team members.

Social, Cultural and Economic Assessment of Kelp Mariculture Opportunities for Coastal Villages within the EVOS Zone (Kelp Values) Project 22220301

- ASG attended two days of principal investigator meetings.
- ASG presented on mariculture initiatives in Alaska, including Mar ReCon and CORaL Network.
- ASG continues to regularly meet with Kelp Values team members.
- The Mariculture Mini-Summit brought together four EVOSTC-funded mariculture projects for data sharing. Coordination for the mini-summit took place November 2025–January 2026.

EVOSTC Education and Outreach Projects

Youth Programs

- **Seldovia Science Friday.** Weekly science education through interactive activities and games, rotating among partners throughout the school year.
- **Science and Snacks**. Twice-monthly after-school program (PWSSC).
- **COMPASS.** Community-based oceanographic research program in Cordova (PWSSC) and Seward (ASLC and CRRC).
- **Discovery Room.** Monthly elementary school program (K–6) (PWSSC).
- **Seward Science Symposium, student day.** Annual event for Seward High School students to engage with local science through tours of marine facilities (Alutiiq Pride/ASLC) and by hearing from local experts (CRRC, ASLC).
- **Stewards of the Bay lunch & learn. P**rogramming that connects local experts in the fields of science, culture, and art; hosted at Seward High School (CRRC, ASLC).
- **ROV Challenge.** Annual remotely operated vehicle build and challenge in Cordova (PWSSC).
- **Tsunami Bowl.** National Ocean Science Bowl (PWSSC, CRRC, ASLC).
- **Summer camps.** Offered across all age ranges in Seward, Homer, Cordova, Valdez, and Kodiak.
- **Sea Squirts.** Monthly preschool program in Cordova (PWSSC).
- **Marine Science Club.** Weekly science education through journaling, games, and activities for middle-schoolers, paired with mentoring opportunities for high-schoolers.
- **Culture Camps.** For children ages 9–14; focused on culture and history (AMAR).

- **Marine Science Expeditions.** Programming for 16- to 18-year-olds offered during a 7-day trip to Kachemak Bay (CACS).
- **Rural School Visits.** Educational outreach providing school place-based education (AMAR, CRRC, CACS, ASLC).
- **Sea Week Seward Elementary.** PreK through 5th grade, programming designed to create an interest in science and science careers for young kids, creating pathways for involvement in science programs and clubs as they move into secondary school (ASLC).
- **Sea Week Port Graham and Sea Week Nanwalek.** Collaboration with local partners and schools to provide multiple days of place-based, experiential science activities for K–12 students in each community, with a focus on local beach foods and organisms, as part of their overall Sea Week schedule. In Nanwalek, this included a partnership with an artist who led students in creating plankton-inspired mandalas as part of the Artist-in-the-Schools program (CACS, CRRC).
- **Discover Cordova.** Monthly summer nature exploration program for pre-school and younger elementary students (PWSSC).
- **Ocean Sciences Festival.** Session designed for students to engage with industry professionals to learn more about local research, culture, and ocean-related careers (PWSSC, CRRC, ASG, ASLC).
- **Boat ecology and oceanography field trips.** Designed for both students and adults (CACS, ASLC).
- **CCC.** Summer program designed for middle-school students in Alaska's coastal communities. Program was offered in Valdez (2 weeks), Seward (3 weeks), Kodiak (1 week), and Whittier (1 week). (Six leaders trained; 71 middle-school youth served; ASG).

Community Science Events

- **Ocean Science Festival.** Student and Community session to learn from ocean industry leaders (PWSSC, CRRC, ASG, ASLC).
- **Seward Science Symposium** (ASLC, CRRC, PWSSC).
- **Seward World Ocean Day.** Culture, science, education, art and community event (ASLC).
- **Tuesday Night Talks.** Weekly lecture series in Cordova (PWSSC).
- **Shorebird Festivals** (PWSSC, CACS, ASLC, CRRC).
- Natural History Symposium **presentations and watch parties** (CRRC, PWSSC, ASLC, ASG).
-
- **Student Lunch and Learns.** Monthly scientist presentations on local research and career opportunities (CRRC, ASLC).
- **Lecture Series.** In-person and virtual lectures focusing on local history, culture, and science taking place in the Kodiak community. (AMAR).
- **Nature Yoga.** Monthly science-themed yoga sessions in Cordova (PWSSC).
- **Mariculture Conference of Alaska** (ASG, PWSSC, CRRC).
- **Kodiak Kelp Festival** (ASG).
- **Alaska Seaweed and Shellfish Festival** (ASG).

- **Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference, and Kodiak Ocean Growers.** Six-day community celebration showcasing Alaska's growing kelp industry (ASG).
- **Better Process Control School.** Activities included regulatory and food safety training (ASG).
- **Aquaculture 2025 Macroalgae Session.** Knowledge exchange; also extended to national and policy-focused audiences (ASG).
- **Alaska Food Policy Council Conference.** Targeted, hands-on technical training supporting workforce and business development (ASG).
- **Prince William Sound Regional Citizens's Advisory Council (PWSRCAC) Science Night Watch Party.** Held in Cordova (PWSSC).

Adult and Professional Development

- **CCE.** Career pathway exploration for adults 18 years and older.
- **Mariculture Workshop**. Hands-on, three-day workshop designed to help Alaskans and Alaska businesses understand what's involved in becoming a commercial seaweed processor (ASG).
- **Partnerships with local tourist organizations** for wildlife cruise science education and interpretation (ASLC).
- **Teachers Workshop.** Connecting Alaska educators for collaborative learning and curriculum bringing together Indigenous Knowledge, Science, and Stewardship (ASLC, CRRC).
- **AKSEA.** Co-creation model bringing together knowledge experts, researchers, and educators to create educational programming (ASG).
- **CANP.** Cultural competencies training (CRRC).
- **Ocean Sciences Festival.** Session designed for community members to engage with industry professionals to learn more about local research, culture, and ocean-related careers (PWSSC, CRRC, ASG, ASLC).
- **Mariculture Science Night.** Mariculture outreach event in Homer, Alaska, during the Mar ReCon annual meeting to share EVOSTC-funded mariculture research with the community of Homer (PWSSC, ASG, CACS).
- **CCC Leader Training.** Four-day training for community leaders and educators to lead camps in their local communities (ASG, CRRC).

Rural and Distance Outreach

- **Outreach to rural communities** paired with distance learning and community projects (ASLC).
- **Sea Week Port Graham and Sea Week Nanwalek.** Collaboration with local partners and schools to provide multiple days of place-based, experiential science activities for K–12 students in each community, with a focus on local beach foods and organisms, as part of their overall Sea Week schedule. In Nanwalek, this included a partnership with an artist who led students in creating plankton-inspired mandalas as part of the Artist-in-the-Schools program (CACS, CRRC).

- **Seldovia Science Friday.** Weekly science education through interactive activities and games, rotating among partners throughout the school year (CACS; support from partner organizations).
- **Rural school visits.** Educational outreach providing school place-based education (AMAR, CRRC, CACS, ASLC).

Cultural Competency and Indigenous Knowledge Integration

Training and Education

- **CANP training.** Course covering cross-cultural communication, Alaska Native histories, collaborative management, subsistence, and TEK (CRRC).
- **Seasonal and intern interpretation training.** Training included Alaska Native culture orientation, communication best practices, and subsistence training (ASLC).
- **Alutiiq Cultural Orientation training.** Online and in-person offerings (AMAR).
- **Lecture series.** Online and in-person (AMAR).

Cultural Programming and Products

- **ASLC Audio Tour and signage.** Featuring stories from Elders and scientists and Sugt'stun language and pronunciations.
- **Development of new Sugt'stun words for plankton** by Elders in partnership with CACS and Indigenous partners to support language vitality and advance communication between Indigenous communities, educators, and scientists.
- **Qutekcak Native Tribe Sobriety Celebration.** Coordinated by CRRC with Network partner support.
- **Youth and Elders Conference.** Intergenerational gathering centering Native ways of knowing and being.

Intern Programs

The **CCE intern program**, coordinated and facilitated by CACS, had two primary locations in 2025: Homer (CACS) and Cordova (PWSSC). ASLC, ASG, and CRRC provided planning, content, and logistic support. Key content included:

- Activities and knowledge-sharing with Elders and culture bearers, including Eugenia Moonin (Nanwalek), Michael Opheim (Seldovia, CRRC), Sandy K. Wilson and Kya Ahlers (Salamatof Tribe), Danaya Hoover (Native Village of Eyak), Denise Eleshansky (Native Village of Eyak),and Michael Bernard and the Yaghanen Summer Interns (Kenaitze Tribe). Activities ranged from beading to bidarki harvest to archaeology to ethnobotany.
- Activities and presentations from EVOSTC-funded scientists Rob Campbell (PWSSC), Krimson Anderson (PWSSC), and Jasmine Becker (PWSSC) and from local science partners from the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Syverine Bentz, Spencer Johnson), NOAA Kasitsna Bay Lab (Paul Cziko), Copper River Watershed Project

(Kirsti Jurica and Kate Morse), US Forest Service Archaeology Department (Christy Mog), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (Rachel Ertz), and EPSCoR Interface of Change (Hannah Gerrish). Activities in Homer ranged from clam sampling to measuring the depth of peatlands. Activities in Cordova included mariculture research cruises, salmon calorimetry, culvert monitoring, and archaeology.

Internal Network Development

- **Emerging WORMS (Witnessing, Observing, Relationship building, Mentoring and Support) Program.** Internal CORaL Network program providing opportunities for partners to provide programming support to build capacity; observe and learn programs and techniques from partners; co-create programs and opportunities; and gain better perspective and understanding of each partner's roles, capacity, and expertise. Some partners were able to take part in this opportunity in the last quarter of the year, and we plan to expand the opportunity in the coming year to provide all partners an opportunity to participate based on varying capacities.
- **Collaborative Learning Series.** Presented by Heather Sauyaq Gordon of Sauyaq Solutions.
- **CORaL Annual Meeting.**
- **Collaborative Learning Series.** Offered at monthly CORaL Network meetings.

Trustee or Management Agencies

NA

Native and Local Communities

Cordova

- PWSSC hosted the Native Village of Eyak and Prince William Sound Science Center mingle where staff from both organizations came together to bond and discuss collaborative opportunities (15 participants; April 2025).
- Third-grade students met with Culture Bearer Teal Hansen and Elder Mike Webber from the Native Village of Eyak to learn about the cultural importance of birds as part of the Discovery Room program (35 students; April 2025).
- CCE collaborations with Native Village of Eyak included:
    - June 18: Suncatcher beading class with NVE.
    - June 19: Drum-making class with the Native Village of Eyak.
    - June 20: R/V *New Wave* Oceanography/Mariculture cruise; visited the Native Village of Eyak research kelp farm.
    - June 20: Suncatcher beading class with NVE.
    - June 24: Forage Club with NVE.
    - June 24: CCE potluck with partners.

- PWSSC volunteered at Culture Week at Mt. Eccles, led by Native Village of Eyak (September 2025).
- Studying Uses of Wild Resources in Cordova (31 participants; September 2025; CRRC, USFS, ADFG, NVE).
- PWSSC attended the Native Village of Eyak grand re-opening event (October 2025).
- Landslide-Induced Tsunamis Workshop with the Arctic Tsunamigenic Slope Instabilities Partnership (20 participants; November 2025).
- Third-grade students learned about the cultural practice of gull egg subsistence harvest through a game designed by the Native Village of Eyak as part of the Discovery Room program (39 students; December 2025).

4. Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations and Comments

We valued the direction provided on the 2023 annual report at the mid-point of our front-end experiential work and how it shaped the 2024 report at the conclusion of those first projects. We look forward to continued collaboration with EVOSTC on review of the results from this first full year of formative development and refinement of our work.

5. Budget

Budget Category:	Proposed FY 22	Proposed FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5-YR TOTAL PROPOSED	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel	$1,108,919	$1,168,245	$1,201,966	$1,214,819	$1,195,726	$5,889,676	$3,718,742
Travel	$165,642	$171,396	$195,290	$194,549	$226,049	$952,925	$571,988
Contractual	$352,460	$362,642	$356,372	$353,658	$512,852	$1,937,984	$634,810
Commodities	$140,351	$84,131	$72,570	$69,152	$58,189	$424,394	$223,046
Equipment	$10,000	$15,000	$0	$0	$0	$25,000	$0
Other	$0	$0	$0	$0	$128,359	$128,359	$0
Indirect Costs (rate will vary by project)	$447,504	$405,862	$416,272	$411,340	$428,491	$2,109,469	$1,193,154
SUBTOTAL	$2,224,877	$2,207,277	$2,242,470	$2,243,517	$2,549,666	$11,467,806	$6,341,739
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	$200,239	$198,655	$201,822	$201,917	$229,470	$1,032,103	N/A
PROGRAM TOTAL	**$2,425,116**	**$2,405,932**	**$2,444,292**	**$2,445,434**	**$2,779,136**	**$12,499,909**	**$6,341,739**
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	

INSTRUCTIONS: This summary page provides a five-year overview (FY 22-26) of proposed funding and actual cumulative spending which includes the **non-trustee agency** and **trustee agency worksheets.** **The formulas reference the cells in the non-trustee agency and trustee agency worksheets and should automatically populate. Please make sure the totals given are correct.** The column titled 'Actual Cumulative' will be updated each fiscal year and included in the annual report (include information on the total amount actually spent for all completed years of the project). On the Project Annual Report Form, if any line item exceeds a 10% deviation from the originally-proposed amount; provide detail regarding the reason for the deviation.

COMMENTS:

FY22-26	**Program Number:** (assigned by EVOSTC office) **Program Title: Community Organized Restoration and Learning (CORaL) Network**	SUMMARY TABLE

6. Program Schedule

Table shows project milestone and task progress by fiscal year and quarter, beginning February 1, 2022. Table begins on following page.

Key:

- D = delayed, C = completed, X = planned or not completed.
- Fiscal year quarters: 1 = Feb. 1–April 30; 2 = May 1–July 31; 3 = Aug. 1–Oct. 31; 4 = Nov. 1–Jan 31.

Milestone/Task	FY22				FY23				FY24				FY25				FY26			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	4	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Program Administration																				
Annual travel meeting of core partners		D	C				C				C	C		C	C				X	
Annual internal review for workplan development			D	C	C		C	C	C	C	C	C			C	C			X	X
Evaluation/Iterative Adaptations																				
Development of 5-year Evaluation Plan	D	D	D	D		C	C	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C				
Formative assessments for Website, Data Viz App, & COMPASS			D	D			D	D			D	D	C	C						
Integration of evaluation activities into work plan			D	D			X	C			X	C	C	C	C	C			X	X
Assessment summaries inform annual meetings						C	C			C	C			C	C			X	X	
CORaL Network Website													C	C	C	C				

Milestone/Task	FY22				FY23				FY24				FY25				FY26			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	4	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Website design and build	D	D	D	D	D	D				X	C	C	C	C	C	C				
Aggregation of resources & dialogue integration				D	D	D	D	C		D	D	C	C	C	C	C				
Recruitment of users and shared resources					D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	X	C	C	C	X	X	X	X
Community Sharing																				
Stakeholder discussions to determine annual schedule and formats		C	C	C	C	C					C	C	C	C	C	C				
Agendas published prior to facilitated meetings	To be determined by above task										C	C	C	C	C	C				
Design protocols for Scientists in the Community			D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	X	X	C	C				
Publish Applications for Scientists in the Community			D	D	D	D			D	D	D	D		C	C	C		X		
(NO LONGER APPLICABLE) Application Reviews				X			X				X				X				X	

Milestone/Task	FY22				FY23				FY24				FY25				FY26			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	4	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
(NO LONGER APPLICABLE) Administer/Mentor visits			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	C	X	X	X	X
Cultural & Communication Learning Opportunities																				
Formative & development eval of competency needs	D	D	D	D	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	C	C	C	C	C				
Alaska Native Relations Capstone Course, annual		D				D	C		C					C				X		
Alaska Native Relations Short Course, quarterly	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	C	C	C	C	C	X	X	X	X
Build & deliver ongoing, complementary offerings		C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	X	X	X	X
Intern Institute																				
Develop curricula & schedules with partners		D	D	C	C	C		C	C	C		C	C	C		C	X	C		X

Milestone/Task	FY22				FY23				FY24				FY25				FY26			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	4	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Recruit participants with local partners		D	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	X	C	X	X
Implement 5-week course		D	D			C	C			C	C			C	C			X	X	
Post-institute follow-up with interns & partners				C	C			C	C			C	C			C	X			
Community Science & Outreach Resources																				
ASLC, ASG, AMAR, CACS, CRRC, PWSSC build five-year outreach products plan with EVOSTC-funded projects	D	D	D	D				C	C	D	D	D	C	C	C					
ASLC, ASG, AMAR, CACS, CRRC, PWSSC develop and deliver annual programs, products, and exhibits	D	D	D	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	X	X	X	X
ASLC, ASG, AMAR, CACS, CRRC, PWSSC install kiosk stations at 6+ sites.	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	C	C	C	C	C	X	X	X	X

Milestone/Task	FY22				FY23				FY24				FY25				FY26			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	4	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
ASLC, ASG, AMAR, CACS, CRRC, PWSSC develop video library for kiosks, updated quarterly.	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	X	X	X	X
(APP ALREADY EXISTED – REALLOWCATED FUNDS TO AKSEA PROGRAM 2025) ASG designs & builds Data Viz App with contractor				D	D	D	D	D					X	C	C	C				
(NO LONGER APPLICABLE – AKSEA TRAINING REPLACED) Data Viz App dissemination & training								X	X	X	C							X	X	
Data Viz App: Data verification												C	C		C	C	X			X
Assess additional data streams to incorporate into Data Viz App																	X	X	X	X
COMPASS Curriculum design			D	C	C	C	C	C												
COMPASS pilot school projects									D	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	X	X	X	X

Milestone/Task	FY22				FY23				FY24				FY25				FY26			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	4	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Data analysis & review of COMPASS									D	D	D	C	C	C	C	C	X	X	X	X
Dissemination of best practices and outreach products from COMPASS												C				C				X
Build sustainability plans with COMPASS participants					D	D	D	D	D	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	X	X	X	X
Reporting																				
Annual reports (due Mar1)					C				C				C				C			
5-year review																	X			
Deliverables																				
Evaluation Plan	D	D	D	D							C	C	C	C	C	C				
Evaluation Summaries					D		D		D	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	X			
CORaL Network Website					X	C								C	C	C				
Community Sharing schedule and agendas				D	D	D	D	D	D	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	X	X	X	X

Milestone/Task	FY22				FY23				FY24				FY25				FY26			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	4	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Suite of communication, social science, and native relations learning opportunities – formats and specific outcomes TBD, reported annually					C				C				C				X			
5-week Intern Institute program		D	D			C	C			C	C			C	C			X	C	
ASLC, ASG, AMAR, CACS, CRRC, PWSSC outreach products (curricula, distance learning sessions, podcasts, etc.)				D	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	X	X	X	X
Network of kiosks across the region & video library				D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	X	X	X	X
Data Visualization App for Community Science	D	D	D	D	D	D	D				C	C	C	C	C					
COMPASS Community Science model for schools			D	D	D	C	C	C												

*With the removal of mini grants from the original grant proposal, there will no longer be a need for mini grant proposal reviews or visits.

7. Attached Documents

- Year 4 Formative Evaluation
- CORaL Pathways, Goals, Key Program Achievements Outline