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

Detailed instructions for each section below are given in Reporting Procedures.

Project Number: 26220502

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

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

Reporting Period: May, June, July 2026

Submission Date: August 28, 2026; budget corrected October 16, 2026

Project Website, if applicable: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Lingering Oil | AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation

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

☒ **Project progress is on schedule.** *Please indicate by what date you expect the project to be completed (this can be an estimate and change in future reports).*

Project is on track to be completed by December 31, 2026.

☐ **Project progress is delayed.** *Please explain the cause(s) of the delay(s) and the affected project components (i.e., field work, due diligence, construction etc.), anticipated length of delay, and impact(s) on the project objectives and plan to resolve them.*

Text

☐ **Budget amendment request.** *If you would like to amend the project budget by more than 10% of the annual budget amount, please describe the request and provide justification. Reallocations of 10% or less of the previously approved annual budget amount do not require a budget amendment request. Requests over 25% of the annual budget amount will require approval by the Trustee Council. Please see the EVOSTC Financial Policy for details.*

DEC has overcharged General Administration and anticipates adjusting the charged amount during this Fiscal Year.

☐ **No-cost extension request.** *Only relevant to Q4 report. Principal investigators may carry forward budgeted funds to the subsequent fiscal year of a multiple-year project if the requested adjustment does not alter the underlying scope or objectives of the project. Explain why the funds were not spent during the previous FY, the amount requested to carry over to the next FY, and how funds will be spent.*

Text

☐ **Personnel changes.** *Provide an explanation for the change, a curriculum vitae or resume for the proposed changes to personnel and a description of the potential impact on the project.*

Text

Abstract. *Provide a summary (not to exceed 200 words) of work performed during the reporting period and on the project overall, including an estimated project completion date. This summary will be used to provide regular updates on the project to the Trustees.*

In response to public comments received during a public comment period, DEC revised and clarified the proposed changes to the impairment status of EVOS beaches. The EVOS impairment listing rationale was finalized and provided to the U.S. EPA, along with other waterbody rationale decision documents, for review on May 5, 2026. EPA has approval authority over impaired waters. EPA provided a copy of all material associated with decision rationales (collectively called the Integrated Report) to Tirbal governments with an invitation to request to government-to-government consultation. No Tribal governments elected to participate. EPA has begun their official review of impairments, including changes to the EVOS impacted beaches.

Summary of Work Performed.

Objective #1 Identify waters of concern.

Completed. During this reporting period DEC developed draft GIS maps summarizing the data and information known about potentially impacted EVOS beaches.

Objective #2 Updating Clean Water Act status of impaired beaches

Ongoing. DEC and its contractor developed a decision process, formerly called a Listing Methodology, that explains the steps and analysis used to evaluate data. A technical approach report was also developed to explain and document the thresholds and methodologies used in the development of the decision process.

Data analysis using that process was completed. Based on the results of that analysis, DEC is delisting 11 previously impaired assessment units (AUs), leaving five AUs as impaired, and adding

no new impaired AUs. The change in impaired areas reflects DEC's more robust decision approach and modified AUs that more accurately reflect geomorphic conditions. Due to the new process and modified AUs, while the number of AU's is reduced from 16 to 5, the length of impaired shoreline is increased from 10,701 m to 25,600 m, see the Final 2026 Integrated Report Category 4B demonstration paper for detailed information. With various recovery plans currently in place, DEC recommends placing EVOS beaches with lingering oil in Category 4b, Impaired with a Recovery Plan for Petroleum hydrocarbons, Oils and Grease.

The majority of work under this objective is complete.

Objective #3 Stakeholder involvement

Ongoing. DEC held a public comment period from March 4, 2026, through April 7, 2026, on the proposed changes in the Integrated Report. Additionally, a public meeting was held on March 18, 2026, to present an overview of the process, summarized information on waterbodies or beach segments, and allow time for open discussion. Within this report, analysis of 211 beach segments potentially affected by EVOS were presented. Four public comment letters were received. DEC reviewed the comments, and when warranted revised decision documents. Comments and responses are presented in the Public Participation Summary attached.

The majority of work under this Objective is complete. Remaining work consists of responding to EPA questions that may arise during review and approval, EPA has completed Tribal consultation invitations. No Tribal governments requested consultation. DEC has received positive feedback from EPA and anticipates full approval. The timeline for EPA review is unknown, although we do expect to review it within the grant's term.

Coordination and Collaboration.

This project complements the Clean Water Act (CWA) Integrated Report on water quality that occurs every two years and is overseen by EPA. DEC focuses the Integrated Report on nonpoint source pollution and rarely includes areas affected by spills or other contaminated sites. This project allowed DEC to re-evaluate EVOS beaches and others potentially affected to update their impairment status.
Other states with marine areas impacted by oil and gas spills have expressed interest in this process. Those states, like Alaska, do not have a process for evaluating waters for attainment of water quality standards specific to lingering oil.

Status of Scheduled Project Accomplishments.

***Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council**

General Restoration, Habitat Enhancement and Facilities Projects

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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
Milestone: Status of impaired waters																				
Task: Identify waters of concern					x	x	x	~~c~~					x	x	c					
Task: Develop standards to gauge recovery								x	x	x	x	c								
Task: Compile data and information								~~x~~	~~x~~	x	x	x	x	c						
Milestone: Update status																				
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	x	c
Milestone: Stakeholder involvement																				
Task: Develop communication plan					x	x	c													
Task: Public engagement, outreach meeting											c		c				c			
Reporting:																				
Quarterly progress report						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Final report/Project results*																				
Deliverables:																				
Literature Review and Data Summary, draft						x	x	c												
Literature Review and Data Summary, final							x	c												
GIS Map												x	x	x	~~x~~c	x	c			
Listing Methodology, draft											x	x	c							
Listing Methodology, final														x	c					
Determination Report, draft																x	c			
Determination Report, final																		x	x	c
Outreach Material					x	x	x				x		x					x	x	c

X- work in progress

C- completed

The draft Determination Report was completed during this quarter, one quarter early.

Response to EVOSTC Review, Recommendations, and Comments. *This only applies to feedback shared during biennial reviews (i.e. from the EVOSTC PAC or Trustees). Describe how any EVOSTC review comments or recommendations were addressed during the reporting period.*

Text

Budget Summary Table.

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	$ 11,092.33	$ 182,567.93
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		$ 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
SUBTOTAL	$0	$98,459	$126,460	$161,118	$57,672	$443,709	$11,092.33	$ 354,545.53
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	$0	$8,861	$13,665	$12,217	$5,191	$39,934	$ -	$ 39,959.83
PROJECT TOTAL	$0	$107,320	$140,125	$173,335	$62,863	$483,643	$11,092.33	$394,505.36
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)		$6,624	$6,823	$7,027	$7,238	$27,712		$1,765.00

DEC has overcharged General Administration and anticipates adjusting the charged amount during this Fiscal Year.