Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
Proposal Amendment Form

Project Number: 26220302

Project Title: Mariculture ReCon: Farm, Econ, Production, Outreach

Principal Investigator(s): Ginny Eckert, UAF

Submission date: September 2, 2026, revised October 21, 2026 revised November 17, 2026

Please check all the boxes that apply to this request.

☒ **Changes to the original scope or objectives of the project.**

COMPONENT 5: Product Development

a) Original Objectives

Objective 5.1: Develop industry-driven proof-of-concept product forms for seaweed and shellfish that consumers may favor through five 2-year product development cycles over the 10-year research period. If successful, seaweed and shellfish prototype products will be adopted by industry to be further developed for large-scale commercial production.

b) Changes to the scope and objectives and their justification

New *Objective 5.1*: *Advance the development, processing, and commercialization of Alaska mariculture products by providing technical expertise, product development support, market evaluation, and industry engagement for seaweed and shellfish opportunities.*

This component will support the development, processing, and commercialization of Alaska mariculture products through technical expertise and industry engagement. The project originally planned to hire a dedicated postdoc position to lead this work; however, despite extensive recruitment efforts, the position could not be filled.

Activities will instead be carried out by current project personnel and contractors who provide specialized expertise in product development, processing, market evaluation, and commercialization. Work will be informed by industry needs, which (for seaweed) were recently identified at an Alaska Sea Grant-hosted workshop on seaweed processing and product development needs for Alaska, which was held in March 2026 in Anchorage (workshop report).

Once this rebudget is approved, we will issue a request for proposals from contractors that address priority research topics and processing approaches in product development that were identified at the workshop including:

- value-added product development

- byproduct utilization and cascading
- agricultural products and biostimulants
- construction materials and bioplastics
- cosmetics and nutraceutical ingredients
- market-informed product design
- seasonal compositional analysis

While the above topics were specifically identified for seaweed, some are relevant to shellfish. Proposals will need to explain how the product development work is driven by clearly defined market opportunities rather than technology development in isolation. Approaches that may be supported include the following.

· Reduce technical or economic barriers to handling, transporting, processing, stabilizing, or storing Alaska-grown seaweed or shellfish.
· Develop, test, refine, or validate market-relevant seaweed or shellfish products, ingredients, or processes.
· Generate quality, composition, safety, efficacy, or performance data needed by buyers, regulators, manufacturers, or investors.
· Increase the value obtained from harvested seaweed or shellfish.
· Demonstrate approaches that are practical, scalable, and responsive to the needs of Alaska businesses and coastal communities.
· Strengthen collaboration among industry, researchers, Alaska Native organizations, agencies, and economic-development partners.

Product development is a complex challenge, and thus our approach to finding contractors is broad. Proposals will need to identify deliverables that we will track and report to EVOSTC. Project personnel will support the contractor and also engage in product and market development activities, including conducting product development activities & processing support, providing technical assistance to producers & communities, conducting market exploration & buyer engagement, and communicating product development activities and results to industry.

☐ **Personnel changes.**
No changes.

☒ **Budget reallocation request.**
1) Move funds from travel to equipment:
Our original scope of work included a plan to expand the number of participating farms, with a reduced set of sampling requirements than we established for the farmer partners identified in the original proposal. After an open call for applications, we selected four new farms to participate in this farmer-lite approach. Expanding the number of farmers involved in the project provides greater geographic coverage and environmental variation to inform our understanding of

mariculture farm productivity and to inform site selection for future farms. This equipment rebudget will purchase four new CTDs that include a temperature, salinity, depth, and chlorophyll sensors. This RBR CTD is easy for farmers to use to capture growing conditions and water column conditions at their sites. The $85,000 for these four CTDs are requested to be reallocated from travel. Travel expenses for this project were less than anticipated in the original budget.

2) Re-allocate product development postdoc funds
We included a plan to hire a product development postdoc in the original proposal, for a five-year total of $417,283 in personnel costs. Following multiple unsuccessful searches, we would like to pivot in FY26 to shift these unspent product development postdoc funds towards FY26 personnel costs for co-PI Melissa Good and faculty researcher Chris Sannito and towards a contractor in FY26. Good and Sannito work closely with the mariculture industry and have developed the state of the art for seaweed processing. They will interface closely with the contractor working on product development. To achieve this reallocation of $300,000 to contractual, we propose decreasing $281,670 from personnel into contractual.

Additional justification for reallocation from indirect costs to Contractual:

Under our previously approved FY24 budget amendment dated April 8, 2024, we reallocated $31,200 from direct costs to indirect costs following budget adjustments that included moving funds from Equipment to Commodities. This adjustment increased our indirect costs because commodities are subject to indirect costs, whereas equipment is excluded.

Upon further review of our project budget and funding needs, we determined that a portion of the previously allocated indirect costs is no longer needed. We are therefore requesting to reallocate $18,330 from Indirect Costs to Contractual to support our revised product development activities.

The proposed $18,330 represents a portion of the previously approved $31,200 increase in indirect costs. Combined with the proposed $281,670 reduction in Personnel, this adjustment will provide the $300,000 needed in Contractual to support the revised product development approach.

Overall summary of budget changes requested.

	current budget	rebudget +	rebudget -	new budget
Personnel	$1,361,279		$-281,670	$1,079,608
Travel	$229,150		$-85,000	$144,150
Contractual	$132,950	$300,000		$432,950
Commodities	$193,300			$193,300
Equipment & F&A Exempt	$186,299	$85,000		$271,299
Indirect Costs	$480,832		$-18,300	$462,502
Total	$2,583,810			$2,583,810

Re-budget request:

Budget Category:	Actual FY 22	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Actual FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5- YR TOTAL PROPOSED	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel	$0	$2,308	$132,869	$165,826	$778,606	$1,079,608	$301,003
Travel	$0	$13,236	$31,701	$22,706	$76,507	$144,150	$67,643
Contractual	$0	$2,176	$20,950	$40,447	$369,377	$432,950	$63,573
Commodities	$5,225	$123,117	$10,322	$17,656	$36,980	$193,300	$156,320
Equipment & F&A Exempt	$0	$137,055	$19,869	$3,940	$110,435	$271,299	$160,864
Indirect Costs Rate = 25% (non-equipment)	$1,306	$35,209	$48,960	$61,659	$315,367	$462,502	$147,135
SUBTOTAL	$6,532	$313,101	$264,672	$312,233	$1,687,272	$2,583,810	$896,537
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	NA
PROJECT TOTAL	$6,532	$313,101	$264,672	$312,233	$1,687,272	$2,583,810	$896,537
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)						$0	$0

Original approved budget – with April 2024 amendment

Budget Category:	Amended FY 22	Proposed FY 23	Proposed FY 24	Proposed FY 25	Proposed FY 26	5- YR TOTAL PROPOSED	ACTUAL CUMULATIVE
Personnel	$167,650	$253,965	$299,590	$302,580	$337,495	$1,361,279	$229,554
Travel	$33,514	$49,103	$46,995	$48,044	$51,493	$229,150	$55,722
Contractual	$9,400	$14,900	$10,850	$36,400	$61,400	$132,950	$33,872
Commodities	$143,300	$12,500	$12,500	$12,500	$12,500	$193,300	$144,633
Equipment & F&A Exempt	$129,949	$28,350	$15,000	$13,000	$0	$186,299	$156,185
Indirect Costs Rate = 25% (non-equipment)	$90,128	$82,617	$92,484	$99,881	$115,722	$480,832	$115,352
SUBTOTAL	$573,942	$441,435	$477,419	$512,405	$578,609	$2,583,810	$735,318
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	NA
PROJECT TOTAL	$573,942	$441,435	$477,419	$512,405	$578,609	$2,583,810	$735,318
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)						$0	$0

Original approved 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	$167,650	$253,965	$299,590	$302,580	$337,495	$1,361,279	
Travel	$40,163	$49,103	$46,995	$48,044	$51,493	$235,799	
Contractual	$9,400	$14,900	$10,850	$36,400	$61,400	$132,950	
Commodities	$18,500	$12,500	$12,500	$12,500	$12,500	$68,500	
Equipment & F&A Exempt	$279,300	$28,350	$15,000	$13,000	$0	$335,650	
Indirect Costs Rate = 25% (non-equipment)	$58,928	$82,617	$92,484	$99,881	$115,722	$449,632	
SUBTOTAL	$573,942	$441,435	$477,419	$512,405	$578,609	$2,583,810	
General Administration (9% of subtotal)	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	
PROJECT TOTAL	$573,942	$441,435	$477,419	$512,405	$578,609	$2,583,810	
Other Resources (In-Kind Funds)						$0	

☒ Milestone/task changes.

Original Table 9 FY22-FY26. These timelines, milestones, and tasks will be accomplished by PIs **Fong, Sannito,** and **Good**. They address objective 5.1 from Component 5: Product Development.

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: Product Development Cycle 1																				
Phase 1: Engagement, Secondary Information Sources and Advisory Committee	X	X																		

Phase 2. Conduct Focus Groups and/or Expert to Define Product Attributes and Survey Design		X	X	X															
Phase 3. Consumer taste Panels and/or Value Chain Intermediary Product Evaluation				X	X	X	X												
Phase 4. Dissemination of Results and Outreach Activities							X	X											
Reporting																			
*Annual reports				X				X											
Final report								X											
Deliverables																			
Peer reviewed paper									X										
Data posted online									X										
Outreach Activities and Extension Publication								X	X										
Milestone: Product Development Cycle 2																			
Phase 1: Engagement, Secondary Information Sources and Advisory Committee									X	X									
Phase 2. Conduct Focus Groups and/or Expert to Define Product Attributes and Survey Design										X	X	X							
Phase 3. Consumer taste Panels and/or Value Chain Intermediary Product Evaluation												X	X	X	X				
Phase 4. Dissemination of Results and Outreach Activities															X	X			
Reporting																			
*Annual reports												X				X			
Final report																X			
Deliverables																			
Peer reviewed paper																	X		

Data posted online																X			
Outreach Activities and Extension Publication															X	X			
Milestone: Product Development Cycle 3																			
Phase 1: Engagement, Secondary Information Sources and Advisory Committee																X	X		
Phase 2. Conduct Focus Groups and/or Expert to Define Product Attributes and Survey Design																	X	X	X
Phase 3. Consumer taste Panels and/or Value Chain Intermediary Product Evaluation																			X
Phase 4. Dissemination of Results and Outreach Activities																			
Reporting																			
*Annual reports																			X
Final report																			
Deliverables																			
Peer reviewed paper																			
Data posted online																			
Outreach Activities and Extension Publication																			

Revised Table 9 FY22-FY26. These timelines, milestones, and tasks will be accomplished by PIs **Fong, Sannito,** and **Good**. They address objective 5.1 from Component 5: Product Development.

	FY22				FY23				FY24				FY25				FY26			
Milestone/Task	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Issue call for proposals from contractors and select those that best serve industry needs																	X			
Contractor(s) and project personnel conduct product																		X	X	X

development activities & processing support																			
Project personnel provide technical assistance to producers & communities																	X	X	
Project personnel conduct market exploration & buyer engagement																X			
Project personnel communicate product development activities and results to industry																			X
Reporting																			
*Annual reports																			X
Final report																			X

Description of Changes to Milestones/Tasks in Table 7
Table 9 has been revised to align with the updated scope of Objective 5.1 with a focus on FY26. The original table focused on five sequential two-year product development cycles centered on consumer preference testing and proof-of-concept product development. The revised table reflects the transition to an ongoing technical assistance and commercialization approach following the inability to recruit the originally proposed research position. Rather than discrete product development cycles, the revised work plan emphasizes product development activities conducted by a contractor and industry support activities conducted by project personnel, including product development and processing assistance, technical consultations, buyer engagement, outreach material development, and annual reporting. These revisions better represent how project objectives will be achieved through contracted technical expertise while maintaining the overall goal of advancing Alaska mariculture product development, processing, and commercialization. This revised scope and new deliverables are planned to continue in FY27-FY31.

Internal use only:
Fiscal Year of Request: FY25
Approved by ED? ☐No ☒Yes
Requires TC review? ☒No ☐Yes
Copy sent to fiscal managing agency(yes)? ☐No ☒Yes