



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

2006 Annual Report



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- ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526.
- The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers: (VOICE) 907-465-6077, (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648, (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646, or (FAX) 907-465-6078.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300 Webb, Arlington, VA 22203
- Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington DC 20240.





Mission Statement

The mission of the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council is to efficiently restore the environment injured by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill to a healthy, productive, world-renowned ecosystem, while taking into account the importance of quality of life and the need for viable opportunities to establish and sustain a reasonable standard of living.

The restoration has been and will be accomplished through the implementation of a comprehensive interdisciplinary recovery and rehabilitation program that includes:

- Natural recovery
- Monitoring and research
- Resource and service restoration
- Habitat acquisition and protection
- Resource and service enhancement
- Replacement
- Meaningful public participation
- Project evaluation
- Fiscal accountability
- Efficient administration

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Dear Reader:

The Trustee Council was formed to guide the use of the civil settlement funds from the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill. Since then, the restoration program has matured into one of the largest long-term research and monitoring programs in the world. By protecting important habitats, the Council has also provided a “safety net” for the recovery of injured resources and services in the spill areas.

In shaping and guiding the restoration program, the Trustee Council continues to emphasize both credible science and the meaningful involvement of the public. An active scientific review process, including peer review and a science panel, ensures that the Trustee Council continues to make decisions based on sound science.

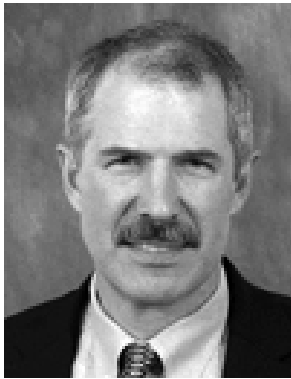
The Trustee Council is also entrusted with restoring the natural resources and human services injured by the spill. Because these resources belong to the public, the Council is committed to making the public, especially the communities and residents of the spill area, active partners in the restoration process. Our Public Advisory Committee played a strong role this year in guiding our restoration decisions and was invaluable in providing insight into the current state of the Prince William Sound ecosystem.

We have continued to move forward and the Trustee Council has worked hard at maintaining a program that is cost-effective, follows well established management principals, and is of the highest scientific quality.

Seventeen years ago, we had little understanding of the potential long-term effects that would result from the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill. With the information provided by our researchers, resource managers, and the public, the Council is continually evolving to seek better ways to achieve our mission. The Trustee Council has continued the work of its predecessors by turning abstract restoration goals into concrete achievements. We look forward to the next year of work and invite your involvement.

Michael Baffrey
Executive Director





McKie Campbell
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish
& Game



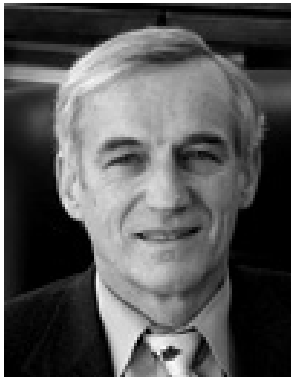
Kurt Fredriksson
Commissioner
Alaska Department of
Environmental
Conservation



Joe Meade
Supervisor
Chugach National Forest



David Marquez
Attorney General
Alaska Department of Law



Jim Balsiger
Director, AK Region
National Marine Fisheries
Service



Drue Pearce
Senior Advisor to the
Secretary for Alaskan Affairs
US Department of Interior

Council Priorities for FY06

- Host an Alaska-wide Pacific herring workshop to bring together fishermen, scientists, and fisheries managers to discuss the restoration of herring in Prince William Sound
- Fund and publish an Information Synthesis and Recovery Recommendations for Resources and Services Injured by EVOS report to provide additional guidance.
- Update the 2002 Injured Resources and Services list to provide guidance for future priorities.
- Update and add to our existing peer review experts database for proposal and final report review.
- Continue to build a scientific library that is publicly accessible through ARLIS.

2006 Trustee Council

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council was formed to jointly use the \$900 million civil settlement to restore, replace, enhance or acquire the equivalent of natural resources injured as a result of the oil spill and reduced or lost services provided by such services. The Council consists of three State of Alaska trustees and three Federal trustee members.



Council Funded Projects Completed in FY06

Ballachey - Oil Exposure Biomarkers of Marine Vertebrates
Ballachey - Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Pathways of Exposure
Bodkin - Implementation of the GEM Nearshore Monitoring Plan
Carls - Mussel Bed Restoration and Monitoring
Castellini - Harbor Seal Recovery: Effects of Diet on Lipid Metabolism
Cooper - Developing an Interactive Water Quality and Habitat Database
Day - Sediment Quality Survey of Heavily-Oiled Beaches in PWS
Eckert - A Synthesis of Natural Variability in the Nearshore
Esler - Quantifying Temporal Variation in Harlequin Duck Exposure
Fall - Update of the Status of Subsistence Uses in EVOS Communities
Foster - Database on the Marine Invertebrate Macrofauna of PWS
Irons - Surveys to Monitor Marine Bird Abundance in PWS
Irvine - Analysis of Nearshore Marine Communities
Irvine - Monitoring Lingering Oil on Boulder-Armored Beaches
Jacobs - Assessment of Lingering Oil and Resource Injuries from EVOS
Kiefer - Alaskan Groundfish Feeding Ecology
Lees - Assessment of Bivalve Recovery on Treated Mixed-Soft Beaches
Michel - Oil Remediation Technologies Applicable to Lingering Oil
Moffitt - Implementing the SEA Pink Salmon Survival Model
Rice - Persistent Oil Contamination in Pink Salmon Natal Habitats
Rice - PWS Herring populations: Updated Synthesis
Rosenberg - Harlequin Duck Populations Dynamics in PWS
Ruesink - Relative Roles of Natural and Shoreline Harvest
See - Lessons Learned: Evaluating Scientific Sampling of Oil Spill Effects
Stabeno - Surface Nutrients Over the Shelf and Basin in Summer

Restoration Highlights and Accomplishments

From October 2005 to September 2006, the Trustee Council received over 25 reports on research funded by the Council. Our researchers have logged thousands of hours of field study and countless hours in the lab. Their work for the Council has been represented in journals such as *Scientific American*, *Fisheries Oceanography*, *Ecology*, *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Science*, *North American Journal of Fisheries Management*, *Journal of Wildlife Management*, and the *Journal of Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom*.

Research has targeted lingering oil, fish and wildlife restoration, human use recovery, and long-term monitoring of the oil spill area. The work completed by these world-class scientists has helped the Council in setting priorities for the both the near and long-term future as well as helping the Council in their mission to provide information to the affected communities.



Council Funded Projects for FY06

Baird - Linking Shoreline Mapping with Community-based Monitoring
Ballachey - Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Pathways of Exposure and Recovery
Batten - Acquisition and Application of CPR data in the GOA
Bishop - Trophic Dynamics of Intertidal Soft-Sediment Communities
Bodkin - Lingering Oil and Sea Otters: Pathways of Exposure and Recovery
Bodkin - Implementation of the Nearshore Monitoring Plan
Cokelet - Biophysical Observation on Alaska Marine Highway Systems Ferries
Crumley - PWS Youth Area Watch
Finney - Marine-terrestrial Linkages in Northern GOA Watersheds
Goldman - Monitoring Ecosystem Parameters in the Northern GOA
Honnold - Effects of Marine-derived Nutrients on Sockeye Salmon
Heintz - Energy Allocation in Juvenile Salmonids
Hoover-Miller - Harbor Seal Monitoring in Southern Kenai Peninsula Fjords
Irons - Surveys to Monitor Marine Bird Abundance in PWS
Irvine - Monitoring Lingering Oil on Boulder-Armored Beaches in the GOA
Matkin - Monitoring of Killer Whales in PWS/Kenai Fjords in 2005-2007
Nelson - The EVOSTC Hydrocarbon Database and Interpretation Service
Okkonen - Monitoring for Near-Surface Temp, Salinity, and Fluorescence
Otis - Temporal Stability of Fatty Acids used to Discriminate Pacific Herring
Rice - Lingering Oil: Pathways of Exposure and Population Status
Rice - Lingering Oil: Contaminant Inputs and CYPIA Induction in Fish
Rice - PWS Herring Populations
Schneider - Kodiak Archipelago Youth Area Watch
Short - Long-term Monitoring of Anthropogenic Hydrocarbons in EVOS
Saupe - ShoreZone Mapping for Kodiak Island
Thorne - Impacts of Seafood Waste Discharge in Orca Inlet, PWS
Walker - Marine Derived Nutrients in Stream, Riparian and Nearshore
Weingartner - Long-Term Monitoring of the Alaska Coastal Current
Willette - Improving Preseason Forecasts of Kenai River Sockeye Salmon Runs
Willette - Monitoring Dynamics of the Alaska Coastal Current
Woody - Nutrient-Based Resource Management in Watersheds and Estuaries



EVOSTC Office

Support for the activities of the Trustee Council is provided by State of Alaska employees at the Trustee Council office in Anchorage. Much of the work we do is in the arena of public outreach; we field questions, coordinate and host meetings and ensure that agendas and related information are available to the public. Additionally, we manage data and information related to research projects and maintain our website.

Our office experienced a renaissance in 2006 with the addition of Executive Director, Michael Baffrey and Interim Science Director, Kim Trust. They both brought a clear vision of how to implement the Council's priorities for the year and have worked tirelessly to ensure that the Council's mission is met and that good science continues to be produced by our researchers.

EVOSTC Staff Activities in 2006

Annual Marine Science Symposium

January 22-25, 2006



EVOSTC researchers presented their work in both speaker and poster sessions. Office staff was responsible for:

- Coordination of logistics - schedule, compiling abstracts, developing protocols for poster/oral presenters, 12-page agenda
- EVOS Session: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Restoration Process. Presentations made by Craig Tillery, Ted Cooney, Jeff Short, Jacqui Michel, and Lucinda Jacobs, followed with a panel discussion with the presenters plus Council members Joe Meade and Kurt Fredriksson.
- Preparation of the Injured Species poster and handout

2006 Herring Workshop

April 24-25, 2006

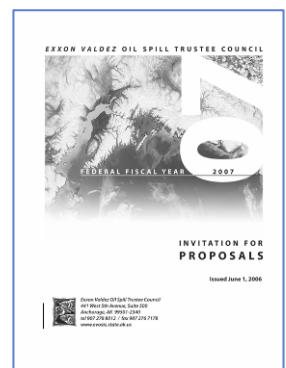


Kim Trust developed the Workshop to discuss the current state of herring in Prince William Sound with fishermen, scientists, and managers. Ideas for the FY07 Invitation for Proposals were generated from this meeting. General consensus was formed around a two-pronged approach to Herring Restoration: 1) an overarching recovery plan should be designed and implemented; and 2) short-term projects designed to provide preliminary information for long-term intervention and restoration should be funded in FY07.

FY07 Invitation for Proposals

June 2006

Our Invitation for Proposals yielded 53 full proposals and 12 pre-proposal ideas. Many of the projects requested funding for more than one year. The total amount requested in for FY07 is approximately \$23M and for all years \$68 million. The 12 pre-proposals total an additional \$40 million if completely funded. The proposals were reviewed by the Trustee Council, science staff, anonymous peer reviewers, Science Panel, Public Advisory Committee, and the Trustee Council and recommendations for funding will be determined at the Council's November 2006 meeting.



Public and Community Involvement

Since its inception, the Trustee Council has been committed to public participation and local community involvement in all aspects of its programs. The Council recognizes the tremendous loss of livelihood and cultural heritage caused by the spill and has devoted a major portion of the restoration funds to the restoration of fish, birds, marine mammals, and archeological resources that are important economically and culturally.

The Trustee Council is committed to having community members actively involved in:

- Planning and developing the program
- Guiding the goals and topics of research projects
- Collecting data and participating in long term monitoring efforts
- Providing traditional ecological knowledge
- Interpreting results in a local context
- Educating other community members about ongoing research



Prince William Sound Youth Area Watch

Highlights

- Youth Area Watch groups in Kodiak and Prince William Sound continue to work with local researchers to enhance science education in the local communities. Over 100 students participate annually in the Youth Area Watch programs.
- Our Public Advisory Committee (PAC) continued their work advising the Trustee Council on matters of public interest. PAC Committee members included:
 - Torie Baker | Commercial Fishing
 - Jason Brune | Public at Large
 - Kurt Eilo | Sport Hunting and Fishing
 - Larry Evanoff | Native Landowners
 - Gary Fandrei | Aquaculture and Mariculture
 - John Gerster | Science/Technical
 - Randy Hagenstein | Recreation Users
 - Lisa Ka'aihue | Regional Monitoring
 - Robert J. (RJ) Kopchak | Commercial Fishing
 - Patrick Lavin | Conservation and Environmental
 - Vern McCorkle | Public at Large
 - Brenda Norcross | Science/Technical
 - Ron Peck | Commercial Tourism
 - Martin Robards | Conservation and Environmental
 - Stacy Studebaker | Recreation Users
 - Andy Teuber, Jr. | Subsistence
 - Mead Treadwell | Subsistence
 - Ed Zeine | Local Government



Alaska Resources Library & Information Services (ARLIS)

ARLIS is the mother lode of Alaska natural resources information and the home of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council's comprehensive collection of EVOS materials, including final and annual project reports, annual work plans, publications, videos and photographs.

Supported by the Trustee Council and seven other state and federal founding agencies, ARLIS was established in Anchorage in 1997 and relocated to the University of Alaska Anchorage campus in 2004.

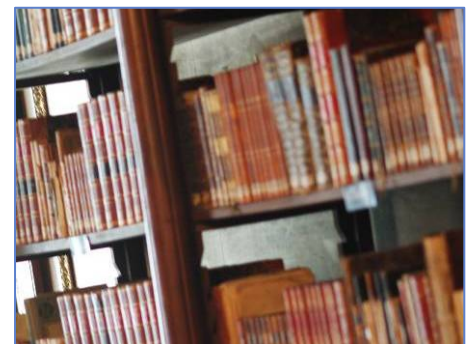
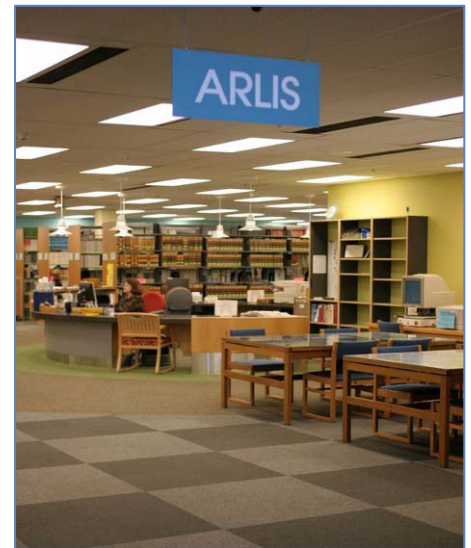
Visitors to ARLIS will find a unique collection of 200,000 books, 700 journals, 185 electronic journals and databases, countless maps, environmental education materials and a circulating collection of animal furs and skulls and mounted birds.

EVOS information is readily available to researchers and the public through the ARLIS catalog, www.arlis.org, which provides full-text access to Trustee Council publications. Print materials are loaned worldwide through a cooperative interlibrary loan system.

Librarians provide reference assistance Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and much of the collection is available for use evenings and weekends. ARLIS visitors may park free of charge in the UAA parking garage.

Highlights in FY06:

- Since its move to the UAA campus, the number of visitors to ARLIS has doubled. This year ARLIS welcomed 48,000 visitors.
- Librarians answered 30,000 requests for information and materials from people in Alaska, across the nation, and around the world.
- 12% of the library service provided at ARLIS was directly related to EVOS.
- Librarians received an average of 45 EVOS questions per week.
- ARLIS continues to seek new members for its innovative partnership and in FY06 welcomed the Prince William Sound Science Center and Oil Spill Recovery Institute.



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