

**EVOS Mariculture - Marine Mammals**

**FY2023 Request: \$1,660,000**

**Reference No: 63995**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation

**Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning

**Category:** Natural Resources

**Location:** Statewide

**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

**Contact:** Eddie Grasser

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2027

**Contact Phone:** (907)267-2339

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This is an Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council approved project through the Mariculture Research and Restoration Consortium (Mariculture ReCon). This project will document mariculture farm-marine mammal interactions and develop mitigation tools to address these interactions.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>Total</u>
1018 EVOSS	\$1,660,000						\$1,660,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$1,660,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,660,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

**Project Description/Justification:**

The overall objective of the Mariculture Research and Restoration Consortium (Mariculture ReCon) is to support restoration, habitat enhancement, and economic development through research and partnerships between scientists, and seaweed and shellfish farmers. The applied research takes a farm-centered approach to address Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council economic development and data management interests that overlap top priorities identified by stakeholders and the [Alaska Mariculture Development Plan](#) developed by the Governor’s Mariculture Task Force.

The research at Department of Fish & Game is one component of a multifaceted cooperative effort. Results will inform shellfish and seaweed production with farmers as full participants in the research, including the Native Village of Eyak, which has a permit in progress for the largest oyster and seaweed farm in Prince William Sound.

This project will document mariculture farm-marine mammal interactions and develop mitigation tools to address these interactions. The effect of human activity on marine mammals will be tested using response variables that can be measured using visual and behavioral observations through control and project area sites. The project will be conducted in partnership with active farmers who will document interactions with marine mammals and any consequences to their gear and crop (destruction and depredation).

