

EVOS PWS Kelp Mariculture Development for Habitat Restoration and Local Economy

FY2024 Request: \$0
Reference No: 64745

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning
Category: General Government
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1 - 40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40) **Contact:** Melissa Hill
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2022 - 06/30/2027 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-4208

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Prince William Sound Kelp Mariculture Development for Habitat Restoration and Local Economy is a five-year project that aims to enable Native Alaskan and coastal communities in the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Area to play a significant role in building a regenerative ocean farming economy and establishing sustainable kelp farming industry in Prince William Sound based on best practices that fulfill long-term restoration goals for the ecosystem. Actual execution of the project will be contracted to outside entities.

Funding:	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>Total</u>
1018 EVOSS	\$2,761,472						\$2,761,472
Total:	\$2,761,472	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,761,472

<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	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:

The *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council (EVOS-TC) was formed to oversee restoration of the injured ecosystem using the \$900 million civil settlement.

The Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC), in partnership with the Native Conservancy, is spearheading a five-year project to enable Native Alaskan and coastal communities to play a significant role in building a regenerative ocean farming economy in Prince William Sound (PWS). The hypothesis is that careful and evidence-based kelp farming in oil-spill impacted areas of PWS will enhance localized water quality and habitat and sustain a profitable mariculture industry in the region through conservation-based kelp farming. The overall goal is to establish this sustainable kelp farming industry in PWS based on best practices that fulfill long-term restorative economic development goals through specific objectives to:

Objective 1: Scale the infrastructure to increase the production capacity of the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute and Community Kelp Seed Nurseries to meet projected kelp seed string demands of the

region.

Objective 2: Develop effective, affordable, and sustainable practices for Native kelp farming through specific array designs, deployment methods, and seed cultivation strategies that will lead to the long-term restoration of oil-spill impacted areas of PWS.

Objective 3: Conduct a comprehensive landscape analysis by deploying research kelp sites and kelp dropper lines to develop commercial farm capacity rating per region. Collect, analyze, and share data related to water quality, kelp tissue composition, sea life and other factors that may indicate the viability of a site for commercial kelp farms.

The project builds on three years of training coastal and Native Alaskan kelp farmers, kelp nursery development at CRRC’s Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute (APMI) in Seward, Alaska, the establishment of seven test-line sites, research into native species, and technology transfer of best practices in kelp farming and conservation practices. The project will pave the way for 2,000 acres of a recovering ecosystem capable of producing 30 million pounds of kelp annually through 100 Native-owned kelp farms. Leveraging a mix of Native farmer training, infrastructure and market development, and metrics-driven research, this initiative will lay the necessary groundwork for networks of Native-owned ocean farms and kelp seed nurseries, processing hubs and value-added kelp businesses throughout Alaska.

This is for a 5-year project started in FY22 with a total funding amount of \$2,761,472 which includes a 9% general administrative amount for the managing state agency.

Line Item	Amount
1000 - Personal Services	\$934,725
2000 – Travel	\$46,750
3000 - Services	\$903,272
4000 - Commodities	\$199,570
5000 - Capital Outlay	\$26,900
7000 - Grants	
Indirect Cost	\$422,243
General Administration	\$228,011
Total Request	\$2,761,472

Project will fund existing positions:

Actual execution of the project will be contracted to outside entities.