

EVOS Status and Trends of EVOS Injured Seabirds

FY2024 Request: \$0
Reference No: 64802

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning
Category: Fund Transfers
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:

Status and Trends of EVOS Injured Seabirds is a five-year project that will explain trends in abundance and productivity of three injured seabird species that are not recovering from the oil spill, or whose recovery status is unknown, in two regions impacted by the spill: Kenai Peninsula Coast and Kachemak Bay, thus supporting the EVOSTC in assessment of their recovery status.

Funding:	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	Total
1018 EVOSS	\$712,739						\$712,739
Total:	\$712,739	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$712,739

<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.

This project is an integrated study of status and trends of Kittlitz’s murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*), marbled murrelet (*B. marmoratus*), and pigeon guillemot (*Cephus columba*) in two regions impacted by the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill (EVOS): Kenai Peninsula Coast and Kachemak Bay. The overall goal is to provide information about trends in abundance and productivity of these three injured seabird species that are not recovering from EVOS or whose recovery status is unknown, thus supporting the EVOSTC in assessment of their recovery status. Kittlitz’s murrelet and marbled murrelet two seabird species that were impacted by EVOS, with an estimated 5-10% and 6-12% of the spill zone population killed by acute oiling, respectively. Recovery status of Kittlitz’s murrelets following the EVOS remains unknown, while marbled murrelets have not recovered to their pre-Spill numbers. Kittlitz’s murrelet became a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act in 2004 and was found not warranted for listing in 2013 due to insufficient or inconclusive knowledge but remains a species of conservation concern for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The marbled murrelet is more abundant and widespread in Alaska but remains a species of conservation concern

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due to evidence of population declines and is listed as a Threatened species from British Columbia to California. Pigeon guillemot populations in Prince William Sound have declined by an estimated 67% since the 1970s, and an estimated 10-15% of the spill area population died from acute oiling. Pigeon guillemots will be monitored in the Kenai Peninsula coast study area.

Our objectives for murrelets are to 1) Estimate current population sizes and decadal trends in abundance, 2) Characterize abundance patterns and identify factors influencing patterns, and 3) Estimate productivity trends. Knowledge gained about population levels and trends in productivity will provide information to assess recovery status of these species. Our objectives for pigeon guillemot are to estimate current population size, trends in distribution, and trends in relative abundance in the Kenai Peninsula coast study area.

This is for a five-year project started in FY21 with a total funding amount of \$712,739 which includes a 9% general administrative amount for the managing state agency.

Line Item	Amount
1000 - Personal Services	\$155,361
2000 – Travel	\$1,265
3000 - Services	\$329,956
4000 - Commodities	\$5,000
5000 - Capital Outlay	\$5,000
7000 - Grants	
Indirect Cost	\$157,307
General Administration	58,850
Total Request	\$712,739

Project will fund existing positions:

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