

**Research Projects Catalog -- 2005
For the Prince William Sound/Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Area**

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Regional Catalog of Research Projects

Overview

In 2004, PWSRCAC developed the first web-based edition of a project catalog of research sites in the Prince William Sound/*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill region. This catalog was developed based on recommendations from the 2004 Workshop on Physical Oceanographic Data Sharing and Coordinated Research in the Prince William Sound/*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill region. The catalog has been updated for 2005 in an effort to provide project information for the region before the start of the 2005 summer field season. Similar annual updates are anticipated in the future in cooperation with the North Pacific Research Board.

The goals of the catalog are to encourage coordination of research projects and sharing of project information and resources. All researchers, research funding organizations, and end users benefit from increased coordination of research and sharing of project information and resources. The catalog provides an easily accessible, central project location for research in the area using web-linked maps. Project sites are plotted on interactive maps in three regions – Prince William Sound, Kenai Peninsula, and the Kodiak archipelago. All research and data gathering projects in the region are welcome to be submitted for the catalog, whether from individual researchers or organizations. The process is designed to be as inclusive as possible. An initial list of supporting organizations at this time include the Alaska Ocean Observing System, Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, North Pacific Research Board, Prince William Sound Science Center, Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, and the Oil Spill Recovery Institute.

Project Data Format

PWSRCAC gathers project data from funding organizations and researchers in a simple metadata format for the catalog. The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) has established metadata as the official language for national data development and exchange. (For a description of metadata see <http://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/metadata.html>.) For the catalog, researchers provide the following information about their projects:

- title
- abstract
- purpose
- project contact/principal investigator
- project dates
- status
- geographic location
- theme keywords

To maintain consistency, project coordinates are provided in Decimal Degrees format (thousandths or ten thousandths of a degree). This avoids potential conversion

problems and provides for more specific project locations. Study areas are described with decimally-coded latitude and longitude readings (also called Decimal Degrees or D.d) of the sampling locations or the bounding coordinates of the sampling region (i.e., 60.8233, - 147.1029, 60.479, - 147.7309 for the north, east, south, and west bounding coordinates). The formula for converting from degree minute seconds to decimal degrees is: degrees + (minute/60) + (seconds/3600). So, 121 degrees 8' 6" = 121 + (8/60) + 6/3600 = 121.135. Only the metadata for the projects is available in the catalog. Those interested in the raw data or processed data from a project will need to retrieve it from the original project website or organization. The catalog serves as the tool to identify and locate the project of interest and as the tool that provides the contact information for the project data.

Accessing Project Information on the Web

On PWSRCAC's website, project sites are plotted on interactive maps to graphically link location and project information for research that is currently being conducted by various organizations and independent researchers in the Prince William Sound/*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill region.

Selecting one of the regional maps will display a large interactive version of the map. On the interactive map, each research project site number is an active link to a document with specific information about that particular project. Included in the project-specific information is a brief summary of the project's purpose, the principal investigator, contact information, and, when available, precise coordinate information. On each map, the individual project site information is provided in PDF format. The maps are printer-friendly.

Summary

This web-based project catalog of research sites in the Prince William Sound/*Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill region is welcome to be used by researchers or the general public. In keeping with the inclusive nature of this catalog, information regarding it can be forwarded to others who may have been omitted from the original catalog distribution list for inclusion in future updates. All researchers and research funding organizations as well as end users can benefit from increased coordination of research and sharing of project information and resources.

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