

**Consent Agenda Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – September 2023**

**ACTION ITEM**

**Sponsor:** Danielle Verna and the Scientific Advisory Committee

**Project number and name or topic:** 9110 Prince William Sound Marine Bird Winter Survey

1. **Description of agenda item:** The Board is being asked to approve a sole source contract with the Prince William Sound Science Center (PWSSC) in an amount of \$65,138 for project 9110 to conduct marine bird winter surveys in Prince William Sound. PWSSC staff have conducted similar surveys for the Council in 2021, 2022, and 2023. This is the fourth year of surveys, adding data to an ongoing dataset that is being made publicly available to help determine vulnerability to oil spills and inform spill response efforts, such as updates to NOAA’s Environmental Response Management Application. In addition to the surveys, staff from the PWSSC will conduct a hot spot analysis with marine bird data from 2007–2024, ultimately producing maps showing areas of high marine bird density.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** This project will monitor habitat and densities of marine bird species that were impacted by the Exxon Valdez oil spill and would be impacted again in the event of another major spill. The project identifies nearshore habitat important to marine bird survival which may warrant additional protection and can inform spill responders. These surveys take place in winter months, which is an important time for marine bird survival given the typically harsh conditions, and during which surveys have typically not been performed. The hot spot data analysis will summarize a time series of available data on marine bird densities in Prince William Sound that will enable us to identify highly sensitive areas.

3. **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:**

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
Board	5/4/2023	The Board approved the adoption of the 2024 budget as presented during the budget workshop on April 29, 2023, and as described in the Draft Budget 2024 dated April 25, 2023.

4. **Summary of policy, issues, support, or opposition:** None.

5. **Committee Recommendation:** The Scientific Advisory Committee supports this project.

6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** Project 9110 PWS Marine Bird Winter Survey is included in the approved FY2024 budget and annual work plan.

**9110 - PWS Marine Bird Winter Survey**  
As of August 2, 2023

## Contract Authorization: Marine Bird Winter Surveys 3-3

Original Budget	\$71,738.00
Revised Budget	\$71,738.00
Actual & Commitments	\$0.00
<b>Amount Remaining</b>	<b>\$71,738.00</b>

7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a sole source contract with the Prince William Sound Science Center to conduct project 9110 Marine Bird Winter Surveys in 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$65,138.
8. **Alternatives:** None.
9. **Attachments:** None.