

Consent Item Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – May 2021

ACTION ITEM

Sponsor: Austin Love and the Scientific Advisory Committee

Project number and name or topic: 9520 – Marine Invasive Species

1. **Description of agenda item:** This agenda item requests Board approval of an FY2021 contract with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center for work associated with the Council’s Marine Invasive Species Project. The specific action for the Board’s consideration includes:

- Authorize contract negotiation with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center for work to perform metagenetic analyses on Port Valdez plankton samples, with the goal of identifying non-indigenous marine species, and interpreting and reporting the results of those metagenetic analyses at an amount not to exceed \$46,450.

Other costs associated with this contract, not listed in this briefing, include sample shipping costs, and equipment and supplies costs. Additionally, Council staff will be collecting the plankton samples from Port Valdez needed to support this work by the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 directs PWSRCAC to "devise and manage a comprehensive program of monitoring the environmental impacts of the operations of terminal facilities and crude oil tankers while operating in Prince William Sound". One potential environmental impact of the crude oil tankers is the introduction of marine invasive species in Port Valdez. This contract is meant to help support monitoring the potential introduction of such non-indigenous species. Therefore, this contract helps support the Council’s overall program to comprehensively monitor the environmental impacts of the terminal and tankers.

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

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>
XCOM	6/3/2003	The Executive Committee approved the Non-Indigenous Species database and final report for distribution.
XCOM	7/31/2003	The Executive Committee approved comments on the Draft National Management Plan for the European Green Crab for immediate distribution.
XCOM	8/29/2003	The Executive Committee Approved a letter to Senator Lisa Murkowski on the National Aquatic Invasive Species Act (NAISA) of 2003.
Board	3/11/2004	The Board approved Resolution 04-02 to the owner companies, shipping companies and Alyeska to engage in a coordinated effort to evaluate viable shipboard and shoreside ballast water treatment technologies for implementation.
XCOM	3/25/2004	The Executive Committee approved the report titled “Projecting Range Expansion of Invasive European Green Crabs (Carcinus Maenas) to Alaska: Temperature and Salinity Tolerance of Larvae” for distribution.

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Board	5/12/2005	The Board approved a letter regarding S. 363 to Senator Stevens regarding the Ballast Water Management Act of 2005.
XCOM	12/6/2005	The Executive Committee approved the reported titled “Ballast Water Exchange: Efficacy of treating ship’s ballast water to reduce marine species transfers and invasive success” for distribution and posting on PWSRCAC website.
XCOM	12/11/2006	The Executive Committee approved the report titled “Biological Invasions in Alaska’s Coastal Marine Ecosystems: Establishing a Baseline” for distribution and posting on the PWSRCAC website.
XCOM	11/20/2007	The Executive Committee approved the report titled “Northward Spread of Marine Nonindigenous Species along Western North America: Forecasting Risk of Colonization in Alaskan Waters Using Environmental Niche Modeling” for distribution and posting on PWSRCAC’s website.
XCOM	2/10/2009	The Executive Committee approved the report titled “Tunicate: Northward spread, diversity, source and impact of non-native tunicates in Alaska: Establishing a monitoring and education network” by Sarah Cohen and Greg Ruiz for distribution and posting on the PWSRCAC website.
XCOM	1/14/2010	The Executive Committee approved the report titled “Characterizing Risk Associated with Vessel Fouling and Non-Indigenous Species in Prince William Sound” for distribution.
Board	7/18/2011	The Board approved sending the proposed letter to Governor Sean Parnell regarding the designation of a non-indigenous species coordinator in each cabinet department of the State of Alaska.
XCOM	11/20/2012	The Executive Committee approved the report from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center titled “Quantitative Survey of Nonindigenous Species (NIS) in Prince William Sound” for distribution.
Board	1/23/2014	The Board accepted the report titled “Non-Indigenous Species (NIS) in PWS: Plankton” by Greg Ruiz of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.
Board	9/25/2014	The Board accepted the report titled “Analysis of Crude Oil Tanker Ballast Water Data for Valdez and Prince William Sound, Alaska, by Danielle Verna.
Board	5/5/2016	The Board approved the report titled “Updated: Analysis of Crude Oil Tanker Ballast Water Data for Valdez and Prince William Sound, Alaska” by Danielle Verna for distribution and posting on the PWSRCAC web site.
Board	5/4/2017	The Board accepted the final reports titled “Analysis of Federal and state ballast water management policy as it concerns crude oil tankers engaged in coastwise trade to Alaska” and “Status of international and domestic regulations on installation and use of ballast waste management systems” by Danielle Verna, including a footnote added to page 7 of the second report (get note from minutes).
Board	9/14/2017	The Board accepted the report titled “BioBlitz 2016: Re-assessing marine invasions in Valdez, Prince William Sound, Alaska” by Greg Ruiz of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center for distribution and posting on the PWSRCAC website.
Board	9/19/2019	The Board accepted the report titled “Metagenetic Analysis of 2017 Plankton Samples from Prince William Sound, Alaska” by Dr. Jonathan Geller, Melinda Wheelock, and Martin Guo, dated August 15, 2019 as meeting the terms and conditions, and for public distribution.
Board	9/17/2020	Report Acceptance - Metagenetic Analysis of Prince William Sound Plankton Samples: The Board accepted the report titled “Metagenetic Analysis of 2018 and 2019 Plankton Samples from Prince William Sound, Alaska” by Dr. Jonathan Geller, Melinda Wheelock, and Martin Guo dated April 13, 2020, as meeting the terms and conditions of Purchase Order 17255, and for distribution to the public.

4. **Summary of policy, issues, support or opposition:** Members of the Scientific Advisory Committee have provided advice in the development of the scope of work for this potential contract with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

5. **Committee Recommendation:** None.

6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** Project 9520 – Marine Invasive Species is included in the FY2021 budget and \$51,250 was allocated for use on contract for professional services, such as the one being presented here.

**9520--Marine Invasive Species
As of March 22, 2021**

FY-2021 Budget

Original	\$53,350.00
Modifications	\$3,800.00
Revised Budget	<u>\$57,150.00</u>

Actual and Commitments

Actual Year-to-Date	\$4,400.00
Commitments (Professional Services)	\$400.00
Actual + Commitments	<u>\$4,800.00</u>

Amount Remaining	<u>\$52,350.00</u>
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7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** Authorize a contract with Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, for work to be performed under the 9520 Marine Invasive Species Project FY2021 budget, at an amount not to exceed \$46,450.

8. **Alternatives:** None recommended.

9. **Attachments:** None.