

What will the Emergency Response Center be used for when training is not in session?

This space would also be available to be used for the following: community meetings; conference break-out sessions; Incident Command/EMS training; local training opportunities and classes.

Also, can you give me more details about what films EVOS has produced.

I have listed some of the specific films funded by EVOS but in general we would like to be offer more opportunities for the science presentations and programs offered now in the community in a larger and better equipped venue. For example, last night the Science Center presented a program on www.pwsherringportal.org explaining the implementation of a relational database of 4 dimensions (x, y, z, and time) of PWS herring data from 1973 to the present. This was a significant community program important to the fishing community, but held in a small space.

Here are some other examples that we know of:

(Project 96214) The purpose of this project is to make a documentary on subsistence hunting of harbor seals in PWS. This video will document all facets of harbor seal hunting including the ecological and biological knowledge hunters use to hunt harbor seals. By documenting this knowledge, the project will enhance the restoration of the seal population by providing an indigenous hunter's perspective on harbor seal ecology.

(Project 98274) This project will produce a 28-minute film on the subsistence use of herring, herring spawn, and nearshore ecosystem resources in Prince William Sound. Historically, the nearshore ecosystem produced critical resources for subsistence users including herring spawn, octopus, clams, mussels, sea otters, harlequin ducks, and chitons. In the harbor seal documentary (Project 96214) Tatitlek residents discussed their view of the relationship between the oil spill, Pacific herring populations, harbor seal populations, and their ability to pursue subsistence. This film will expand on this discussion by documenting all facets of herring and nearshore ecosystem resource use including the ecological and biological knowledge people use to harvest those resources.

(Project 00481) This project will produce a 27 minute documentary film on the impacts of the oil spill on the subsistence use of intertidal resources, including mussels, clams, chitons, and octopus, by residents of two predominantly Alaska Native communities: Chenega Bay in Prince William Sound and Ouzinkie on Kodiak Island. This project will build on two previous subsistence documentaries (projects 96214 and 98274) and will focus on the use of resources in the

intertidal, the area hardest hit by oil, and broaden the discussion by bringing in the perspective of the residents of Chenega Bay, the first community directly in the path of the spilled oil, and Ouzinkie, the first Kodiak-area community to see the oil arrive. The documentary will compare the impact the spill has had on the use of intertidal resources in each community as well as the ongoing EVOS restoration efforts to help residents mitigate these impacts

Also, can you tell me a little about the tourism numbers in Cordova, also any info you have re before and after the spill?

While we have minimal local visitor records pre-spill I can provide you with some information that we have gathered over the years. I've attached the museum's visitor statistics which you can see have increased over the years but we supplemented our local visitation by bringing the school system into the museum for regular cultural curriculum visits. Also what I have observed in the past two years is that we seem to be reaching our local capacity in terms of infrastructure. Visitation has slowly regained in numbers, but the community has not improved, enlarged or been able to invest in the development of infrastructure to support this.

The other observation is that more and more of the visitors are interested in the relationships between the fishing industry, oil spill, safety and science of the Sound. This is an area that needs to be addressed to produce a better learning experience for the visitor to Prince William Sound.

Additional information that I have in my files was gleaned from studies produced by EVOSTC funding. Highlights follow.

Studies of sportfishing activity and tourism indicators (vacation planning, visitor spending and canceled bookings) indicated decreases in recreation/tourism activity.

The McDowell Group did an initial assessment of the impact of the oil spill on the Alaska Tourism Industry in August 1990 that is available through the EVOSTC site.

Summary and Analysis Overall, the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill of March 24, 1989 had major effects on the tourism industry throughout Alaska.

The major negative effects identified by business surveys conducted for this report were: Decreased resident and non-resident Vacation/Pleasure visitor traffic in the spill-affected areas of Valdez, Homer, Cordova and Kodiak due to lack of available visitor services (accommodations, charter boats, air taxis).

Of the businesses surveyed in spill-affected areas, 43% felt their business had been significantly or completely affected by the oil spill in summer 1989.

Severe labor shortage in the visitor industry throughout the state due to traditional service industry workers seeking high-paying spill clean-up jobs. The result was a higher cost of doing business among visitor industry

Fifty-nine percent of businesses in the most spill-affected areas reported spill-related cancellations and 16% reported business was less than expected due to the spill. The business segments most negatively affected by the spill included lodges and resorts, Alaska-based tour companies, guided outdoor activities, charter and sightseeing boats.

Other major negative effects were reported in related research conducted by The McDowell Group and the Alaska Visitors Association. This research measured direct visitor spending and potential visitor impacts of the spill during summer 1989. The negative effects of the spill felt directly by visitors were as follows: Visitor spending decreased 8% in Southcentral Alaska and 35% Southwest Alaska from previous summer spending, the two major affected areas. The net result was a loss of \$19 million in visitor spending. (Source: Alaska Visitor Statistic Program, Visitor Expenditure Survey, Summer 1989).