

Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program

FY2002 Request: \$1,000,000
Reference No: 33990

AP/AL: Appropriation
Category: Health/Safety
Location: Statewide
Election District: Statewide
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2004

Project Type: Health and Safety
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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project establishes baseline information to determine whether Alaska's coastal waters are improving, deteriorating, or staying the same.

Funding:

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$1,000,000						\$1,000,000
Total:	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

There have been no prior appropriations for this project.

Although there are many coastal Alaskan environmental studies, most have targeted existing problems or "hot spots" where human caused pollution has occurred. The State of Alaska does not have scientific data to support the assumption that most Alaskan coastal waters are pristine and healthy. Transport of contaminants from distant shores has become an issue of concern. This project will answer a basic question of "what is the overall environmental condition of the estuary waters of Alaska's coast?" The project will be consistent with a national effort assessing the health of coastal waters.

EMAP provides set monitoring protocols for water quality, benthic sediment quality and invertebrate and fish health in randomly selected, ecologically-based monitoring locations.

Benefits of the project include the following:

1. EMAP will establish baseline information to determine whether Alaska's coastal waters are improving, deteriorating, or staying the same. This information will be available to the DEC staff, other agencies and the public to become informed about Alaskan coastal waters and knowledgeable about possible future actions regarding these waters.
2. Knowledge of the condition of Alaska's coastal waters will provide baseline information to reduce permit applicant effort, and provide the basis for sound resource decisions to protect the public health and the State's economic well-being, which requires good water quality.
3. EMAP will provide partnerships with other research efforts in Alaska coastal waters. While there are other data gathering efforts being conducted such as the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill – Gulf Environment Monitoring project (EVOS-GEM), these researches do not necessarily meet the standardized methods and monitoring assessment goals mandated by EPA. EMAP is the first of its kind in the State of Alaska. The information gathered will become part of the statewide database system and will aid in better regional prioritization of stressors and impacts.
4. EMAP will provide a set of standardized methods and procedures used in common along the West Coast, which will improve the comparability of data among these states (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, northern California and Hawaii).
5. EMAP will provide the State with the ability to make sound environmental decisions based on data of known and verifiable quality.

ADEC expects to lead the EMAP monitoring effort in one of the 5 geographic Alaska estuary areas during two field seasons. Partnering with other research projects will enable ADEC to accomplish environmental monitoring in more than one geographic area. The US EPA EMAP program will provide up to \$1,000,000 to ADEC to lead the project, with no match required.

EMAP funds would be spent primarily under contractual agreements to cover the costs of obtaining and analyzing samples and monitoring equipment. This project will require non-permanent staff. EMAP funding is intended to fund personnel costs and other costs associated with the non-permanent positions.

EMAP is a national research effort led by EPA's Office of Research and Development intended to assess the status and trends of US coastal waters using standardized scientific tools, through partnerships with states. If the State of Alaska does not participate in EMAP, EPA will proceed with gathering the required information with other federal agencies. This defeats the EPA EMAP mandate of partnering with states to accomplish the monitoring assessment goal. The State of Alaska would miss the opportunity to participate in this coastal environmental baseline study which would benefit its citizens, our business economy and the environment.