

Report from the STC

Terry Whitledge
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1. STC membership reviewed the 2009 Work Plan and STC representatives attended the June meeting in Cordova. A review of the proposed funding areas relating to understand, respond and inform and costs was accomplished.

2. A quote was received for a cost estimate of a blimp-based camera system to track oil spills. The STC discussed the various options but nearly all were interested in the expanded capability such a system would provide to monitor location of an oil spill from a "birds eye view". There was a bit of discussion of detection of oil spills at night and a question arose about whether a balloon would present a problem in strong winds and big waves. It was mutually decided that a demonstration of a blimp system at UAA might be useful to help decide of the utility of the system. The industry reps on STC recommended a full blown test be recommended for FY09 funding with the possibility of a borrowed camera would be the next step in assessing the value of such a system in oil spill tracking. It is likely that a partner(s) could be found to help with the overall costs.

3. Possible subjects for possible joint projects with shared funding from the North Pacific Research Board was 1)NPZ model validation, 2)Contaminant affect on community structure, 3)Rockfish habitat association, and 4) Larval drift. After numerous email exchanges the STC recommended and NPRB approved the RFP's for Prince William Sound NPZ model validation, Rockfish habitat association in Prince William Sound, and Larval drift, transport and distribution in Prince William Sound with a combined funding cap of \$200K.

In principle, the rockfish habitat study nicely fits into the plan to focus more of the OSRI supported studies in the nearshore zone.

Some of the concern of the STC regarding the NPZ model validation was the lack of description of the field data that would be collected. Most of the concern related to the possible space and time scales of the sampling of an unknown set of physical and biological variables since such an effort would be time consuming and costly.

4. InnoCentive challenges were discussed by the STC for 1) an ideation challenge for a new design of a boom system for use in broken ice and 2) a theoretical challenge for Inclement Weather Oil Detection in situations such as fog, high winds and big waves.

5. The STC also discussed and generally approved the idea of a planning meeting in Cordova to facilitate a comprehensive scientific and socioeconomic review of the Prince William Sound system.