

Prince William Sound Oil Spill Recovery Institute Scientific and Technical Committee Charter

1. Background: As a result of the T/V *Exxon Valdez* oil spill in Prince William Sound in 1989, Congress passed the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. That law created the Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI) and established the Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) as a component of OSRI. The STC has been a valuable element of the OSRI program since its inception. Recommendations made by the National Research Council in its 2002 review of the OSRI program included statements about the role of the STC: 1) the STC should have continued strong oversight and play a key role in the quality assurance of the OSRI program; and 2) the STC should have an active role in judging the quality and appropriateness of medium and large proposals. They also recommended term limits for STC members and establishing a clear process for selecting new STC members. These recommendations are to help ensure the STC remains an independent voice in the OSRI program.
2. Purpose of the STC: Provide advice to the OSRI Advisory Board, OSRI Research Program Manager and OSRI Director on the conduct and support of research, projects, and studies related to Arctic and subarctic oil spills and their effects.
3. Role of the STC:
 - a. Review, evaluate, and advise on all proposal requests made and proposals received for over \$25,000 of OSRI funds, in conformance with the Grant Policy Manual and bylaws.
 - b. Advise the Advisory Board on the long-range strategic plan.
 - c. Provide information and advice on such proposals, projects, and studies that the Advisory Board may request.
 - d. Submit recommendations to the Advisory Board for their consideration in appointing the OSRI Executive Director and OSRI Research Program Manager.
 - e. Recommend to the OSRI Research Program Manager, OSRI Executive Director and Advisory Board, research needs that could be addressed by OSRI.
4. Official to Whom the STC Reports: The STC shall report to the OSRI Research Program Manager and the Advisory Board. These communications will be through the Chair or co-Chair as spokesperson for the committee. The Chair will report the consensus of the committee on the issues considered. Consensus means that no one on the committee objects to the recommendation.
5. Administrative Support: Administrative support for the STC shall be provided by the OSRI Executive Director, who shall provide such funds as appropriate to carry out this support.
6. STC Membership: The STC shall consist of at least five and no more than nine members who are specialists in matters relating to oil spill containment and cleanup technology, Arctic and sub-Arctic marine environment, and the living resources and socioeconomics

of Prince William Sound and its adjacent waters.

- a. Members: shall include representatives of:
 - (1) the University of Alaska Institute of Marine Science;
 - (2) the Prince William Sound Science Center.
 - b. Members: may include representatives invited from the following organizations:
 - (1) oil and gas industry doing business in Alaska;
 - (2) oil spill response organizations in Alaska;
 - (3) State, federal and local governments;
 - (4) the Regional Citizens' Advisory Councils;
 - (5) the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council; and
 - (6) Universities and research institutions within and outside of Alaska.
 - c. Appointment: STC members shall be appointed by the OSRI Advisory Board. STC members shall be selected from nominations requested of the organizations listed above. Nominations will be reviewed by the STC and the OSRI Research Program Manager, who will make recommendations for membership to the OSRI Advisory Board.
 - d. Term: Terms of members shall be staggered and turn over will occur in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. Members may be re-appointed.
 - e. Officers: A Chairperson shall be elected by a vote of the STC members. The Chairperson shall serve for a term of one year. The Chairperson will serve as a non-voting member of the Advisory Board.
 - f. Conflict of interests: All STC members shall take all steps necessary to avoid any actual, apparent or potential conflict of interests identified with respect to any project reviews or other work brought before the STC. When conflicts arise, the STC member affected shall immediately disclose and describe the potential conflict to the STC Chair and OSRI Research Program Manager. Unless the STC unanimously determines there is no conflict, the STC member declaring a potential conflict will not participate in deliberative actions and recommendations on the specific issue.
7. Expenses: Any required administrative and staff support will be provided by OSRI. While away from home or regular place of business in performance of business of the STC, members shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at the applicable government rate. Travel and per diem shall be provided by OSRI. Members will not receive compensation for their time spent on STC business.
 8. Duties of Members: Members are expected to attend up to two in-person meetings at the request of the Chair each year. Members are expected to contribute to the execution of the duties of the STC identified in Section 3 above at the request of the Chair. The Chair (or the co-Chair at the request of the Chair) will report the findings and recommendations of the STC to the Advisory Board in accord with the requirements of Section 3.
 9. Internal Operating Procedures: The STC shall establish internal operating procedures as necessary for the fulfillment of its obligations under Section 3. The Chair shall inform the Advisory Board in writing of the current internal operating procedures. STC meetings dealing with proposals and contractual matters will be closed to the public.
 10. Administrative Authority: The STC functions are advisory only, and its members and

officers shall have no administrative authority by virtue of their membership.

11. Termination Date: The STC shall terminate upon the termination of the Oil Spill Recovery Institute.
12. Authority: This STC is established as an advisory committee for OSRI, as created by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (amended in 1996) [Section 5001 (d)] and described in the Oil Spill Recovery Institute Bylaws [Article VII, Section 2].
13. Approval: The STC Charter was originally approved by the OSRI Advisory Board on February 12, 2004 and amended February 10, 2005. Corrections to titles were incorporated in this document on June 2, 2006.



Executive Director
Oil Spill Recovery Institute

Chairman
Oil Spill Recovery Institute Advisory Board

Date Signed: June 2, 2006

Date Signed: _____