

5.0 Recommendations

Based on the results and interpretation of the samples collected from the 1997 and 1998 outermost Cook Inlet and Shelikof Strait field surveys, there are a number of recommendations for future monitoring and scientific studies of the region.

Future Monitoring

- Based on the results of this study, future monitoring of the sediments and biota of the area should be performed if new offshore oil exploration and production activities in the area are planned. In the absence of any oil exploration activities, a smaller, focused sediment and tissue program (chemistry and biology) could be performed over the next 5 to 10 years to confirm the trends reported in this study.
- Future monitoring in the area should include both intertidal and shallow subtidal depositional areas, and embayments (Kamishak Bay, Alaskan Peninsula, Kodiak, and Afognak) of outermost Cook Inlet and the Shelikof Strait. This would add to the baseline data generated for this program, which focused on the deep depositional areas.
- Future studies should include additional samples of seep oils and associated river/stream sediments from the Iniskin Peninsula and the Alaskan Peninsula. These samples would serve to confirm the historical hydrocarbon source relationships observed in this study and add new potential petroleum hydrocarbon sources for evaluation.