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Anchorage, AK - Annie Maligine, a master's student in marine biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, is the recipient of the 2022 Angus Gavin Memorial Migratory Bird Research Grant. Her proposal, titled "Steller's Eider Foraging Habitat in Izembek Lagoon, AK," is focused on understanding how forage habitat conditions for Steller's eiders may have changed in the last two decades at Izembek Lagoon, Alaska.

Maligine is comparing benthic data collected at the lagoon from 1998 and from 2018 to 2019. The eider population has declined dramatically at that site since the early 1980s and is now a federally threatened species. She is using her findings to create a habitat suitability model of the lagoon for eiders, and to understand factors causing habitat changes.

The Gavin Grant is awarded annually to support research on bird species found either permanently or seasonally in Alaska or its coastal waters, including their biology,