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March 31, 2011

TO: Council Members

FROM: Erik Merrill, ISRP and ISAB Coordinator, and Jim Ruff, ISAB Ex Officio

SUBJECT: ISRP Appointment of Greg Ruggerone and Process for Future Appointments

PROPOSED ACTION

Council staff asks that the Council appoint Greg Ruggerone to the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) for a four-year term through September 2015.

SIGNIFICANCE

The ISRP provides scientific review of Fish and Wildlife Program proposals and their results, improving program implementation and ensuring accountability. In developing this appointment recommendation, the experience and expertise of the scientists on the ISRP were considered with the goal to maintain a panel that fosters a multi-disciplinary approach and offers fresh perspectives, while preserving an institutional knowledge of independent scientific review and fish and wildlife management in the Columbia River Basin.

BACKGROUND

The Council alone makes ISRP membership decisions. ISAB member appointments and term renewals are decided by the ISAB Administrative Oversight Panel consisting of the Council chair, the science director of NOAA-Fisheries Northwest Fisheries Science Center (in consultation with the NOAA Fisheries regional administrator), and a representative of the Columbia River Indian Tribes (at this time the executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission). ISAB and ISRP members are eligible for two three-year terms with adjustments for continuity.

Appointments

The ISAB and ISRP appointments process follows three steps, of which the first two are complete for this appointment decision. First, in 2008, the Council, NOAA Fisheries, and

Columbia Basin Indian Tribes invited the region to nominate scientists to be considered for service on the ISAB and/or the ISRP. Second, the National Academy of Sciences screened the lists of nominees based on their scientific credentials and selected a pool of 16 candidates for potential ISRP and ISAB appointment (see the [National Academy's October 2008 memo](#)¹). These candidates augment an existing pool of 52 highly qualified ISAB and ISRP nominees who were screened in 2005.² Third, as stated above, from the list of recommended candidates, the ISAB Administrative Oversight Panel appoints ISAB members and the Council appoints ISRP members.

General Considerations

The ISAB and ISRP's governing documents call for membership to include expertise in anadromous and resident fish ecology; statistics; modeling; wildlife ecology; genetics; fisheries; fish passage/bioengineering; fish husbandry; marine ecology; geomorphology; and socio-economics. Pacific Northwest scientists with expertise in Columbia River anadromous fish and non-anadromous fish must be included. Expertise can rarely be pigeonholed in narrow categories, and thus many ISAB and ISRP members have broad backgrounds and can cover multiple disciplines.

All of the 68 scientists recommended by the National Academy of Sciences in 2008 or 2005 meet the criteria of membership to the ISAB and ISRP. Specifically, they have demonstrated high achievement in a relevant discipline; a strong record of scientific accomplishment documented by contribution to peer-reviewed literature or other evidence of creative scientific accomplishment; high standards of scientific integrity, independence and objectivity; ability to forge creative solutions to complex problems; and interest in and ability to work effectively in an interdisciplinary setting. ISAB and ISRP members participate as independent scientists and are not selected to represent the views of any organization or interest group. In fact, the scientists' reputation of providing sound independent advice is an important factor considered in the screening process. In addition, all appointees have confirmed their ability to commit sufficient time to effectively participate in review activities and to comply with the ISAB/ISRP conflict of interest standards for the duration of their appointment.

ISRP APPOINTMENT

[Greg Ruggerone](#), Ph.D., is an ISAB member, a fisheries scientist for Natural Resources Consultants, and an affiliated research scientist with the Alaska Salmon Program at the School of Fisheries, University of Washington. He has investigated population dynamics, ecology, and management of salmon in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest for thirty years. His most recent research has focused on species interactions in the ocean and freshwater, including the roles of density-dependent interactions and climate effects on salmon growth and survival. His expertise on these cutting edge topics proved valuable for the ISAB's Food Web Report. Recently, he has also participated as a Peer Review Group reviewer for the ISRP on the Research, Monitoring and Evaluation and Artificial Production Categorical Reviews, for which he contributed insightful and constructive evaluations. In addition, ocean expertise is specifically called for in ISRP

¹ The National Academy of Sciences' 2008 letter is available at www.nwcouncil.org/fw/isab/nrc2008.pdf.

² The National Academy of Sciences' 2005 letter is available at www.nwcouncil.org/fw/isab/nrc.pdf

membership, and he would fill this need as the ISRP's current ocean expert, Kate Myers, completes her second term this September.

He would join Rich Alldredge, Colin Levings, and Dennis Scarnecchia as joint members of the ISAB and ISRP. Having four joint members will increase coordination, communication, and consistency between the ISRP and ISAB.

FUTURE APPOINTMENTS

For Fiscal Year 2012, the ISRP has four positions that will open up and the ISAB has three positions. Most of these positions are becoming open because members have completed their full two terms of service; however, a recent appointee, Tim McDaniels, needed to resign due to unexpected commitments. A table of the current and recommended ISRP and ISAB members and their terms is included below on pages 4 and 5.

In early April, the Council, NOAA Fisheries, and CRITFC will jointly send out a letter requesting nominees from the region. These nominees will be considered by the National Academy of Sciences for inclusion in the pool of recommended ISAB and ISRP candidates. We are seeking nominees covering a wide spectrum of scientific expertise relevant to fish and wildlife management, and we are especially interested in increasing our pool of candidates with expertise in social sciences, wildlife ecology, terrestrial habitat restoration, mainstem fish passage, modeling, and population genetics. We anticipate discussing potential appointments with the Council in August and September 2011.

Tables of ISRP and ISAB Members and Terms

ISRP Member	Affiliation	Expertise	Term
Pete Bisson	U.S. Forest Service, Washington	Stream ecology and fish population dynamics	2011, 2 nd
Eric Loudenslager	Humboldt State University, California	Fish genetics and culture	2011, 2 nd
Katherine Myers	University of Washington	Fisheries - ocean and salmon ecology	2011, 2 nd
Bruce Ward	British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (retired)	Fisheries - tributary habitat restoration techniques, hatchery evaluations, and fish population dynamics	2011, 2 nd
Charles Henny	U.S. Geological Survey (emeritus), Oregon	Wildlife and environmental toxicology	2012, 2 nd
Colin Levings	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, BC (emeritus)	Fisheries - estuary ecology	2012, 2 nd
Tom Poe	Consulting fisheries scientist, formerly with U.S. Geological Survey, Washington	Fisheries - behavioral ecology and hydrosystem passage	2012, 2 nd
Rich Alldredge	Washington State University	Statistics	2013, 2 nd
Robert Bilby	Weyerhaeuser	Riparian ecology and fish population dynamics	2013, 2 nd
Dennis Scarnecchia	University of Idaho	Fisheries - large river	2013, 1 st
<i>Recommended Appointment</i>			
Greg Ruggerone	Natural Resource Consultants, Washington	Fisheries - ocean and freshwater salmon ecology	2015, 1 st

ISAB Member	Affiliation	Expertise	Term
Nancy Huntly	Idaho State University	Wildlife	2010, ³ 2 nd
William Pearcy	Oregon State University (emeritus)	Oceanography	2011, 2 nd
Peter Smouse	Rutgers University, New Jersey	Biometrics and population theory	2011, 2 nd
Colin Levings	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, BC (emeritus)	Fisheries - estuary ecology	2012, 2 nd
James Congleton	University of Idaho (emeritus)	Fisheries - hydrosystem passage	2012, 1 st
Bruce Rieman	U.S. Forest Service (emeritus), Montana	Fisheries and habitat management	2012, 1 st
Greg Ruggerone	Natural Resource Consultants, Washington	Fisheries - ocean and freshwater salmon ecology	2013, 1 st
Chris Wood	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, BC	Fisheries - genetics and ecology of salmon	2013, 2 nd
Rich Alldredge	Washington State University	Statistics	2014, 2 nd
Dennis Scarnecchia	University of Idaho	Fisheries - large river	2014, 2 nd
<i>Renewal Pending ISAB Administrative Oversight Panel Approval</i>			
Robert Naiman	University of Washington	River ecology	2015, 2 nd

³ Term extended to complete Landscape-Scale Restoration Report, for which she is one of the lead authors.