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December 3, 2013

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Erik Merrill, ISRP and ISAB Coordinator, Jim Ruff, ISAB Ex Officio member, and Laura Robinson, Program Implementation and Liaison Specialist

SUBJECT: ISRP and ISAB Appointments, Membership Renewal, and Process for Future Appointments

PROPOSED ACTION

Council staff asks that the Council:

1. appoint Kurt Fausch and Alec Maule to the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP)
2. renew Dennis Scarnecchia's ISRP membership for a second term
3. initiate the ISRP and ISAB appointments process for 2015 membership decisions

Staff also asks that the Council advise Chairman Bill Bradbury, in his capacity as the Council's representative on the Independent Scientific Advisory Board's (ISAB) Administrative Oversight Panel, to support the appointment of Alec Maule and Steve Schroder to the ISAB.

SIGNIFICANCE

The eleven-member 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 Appointment Process

The ISRP and ISAB appointments process follows three steps, of which the first two are complete for this ISRP appointment decision. First, in March 2011, 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 19 candidates for potential ISRP and ISAB appointment (see the [National Academy's December 2011 memo](#)¹). These candidates augment an existing pool of about 70 highly qualified ISAB and ISRP nominees who were screened in 2008 and 2005. Third, from the list of recommended candidates, the ISAB Administrative Oversight Panel appoints ISAB members and the Council appoints ISRP members.

Member Qualifications

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. All of the scientists recommended by the National Academy of Sciences 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.

ISRP Appointment Recommendations

[Kurt Fausch](#), Ph.D., is a Professor of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at Colorado State University. He is an expert in population ecology, and his research has focused on the ecology and management of streams and stream fishes, including the impacts of non-native fish. His expertise is needed on the ISRP, especially for review of habitat restoration and resident fish management projects. He has been an influential and productive member of the ISAB since 2012 serving as a lead section author on reviews of the 2009 Fish and Wildlife Program and NOAA's life-cycle model. He has effectively participated as a Peer Review Group member on a range of ISRP reviews. He also has extensive experience in communicating scientific information to non-scientists, which is an important ISAB and ISRP function. His documentary film [RiverWebs](#) was broadcasted to over 100 million homes.

[Alec Maule](#), Ph.D., is a former leader of the Ecology and Environmental Physiology Section, United States Geological Survey, Columbia River Research Laboratory. He has extensive experience conducting research, supervising research teams, and communicating findings. He

¹ The National Academy of Sciences' 2011 letter is available at <http://www.nwcouncil.org/media/14669/members2011.pdf>.

has researched a broad range of topics that are critical to Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife management. Specifically, his work has covered delayed mortality, fish transportation past dams, gas bubble disease, contaminants, potential climate change effects, non-natives, foodwebs, and fish diseases. His broad expertise is needed on the ISAB and ISRP, especially his experience with the hydrosystem. Based on ISRP and ISAB expertise needs and his strong reputation of collaboration, objectivity, and productivity, he is recommended for appointment to the ISRP and the ISAB.

ISRP Membership Renewal

[Dennis Scarnecchia](#), Ph.D., is a Professor of Fish and Wildlife Resources at the University of Idaho and an expert in large river fisheries population dynamics and salmon, trout, and char. He has effectively served on the ISRP since 2010 and the ISAB since 2007. He is currently the ISRP Vice-chair. Before being an ISRP member he effectively participated as an ISRP Peer Review Group member on the review of subbasin plans and 2007-09 proposals. He has experience with Columbia River fisheries and knowledge of fish passage behavior past dams. Thus, his institutional knowledge of the Fish and Wildlife Program is extensive. He also has extensive experience working with sturgeon and out-of-basin non-salmonid fish; consequently, he has been an instrumental reviewer of Fish and Wildlife Program sturgeon and resident fish proposals. He brings a multi-species perspective, which has been invaluable for the ISRP given the wide spectrum of Fish and Wildlife Program work.

ISAB Appointment Discussion

As noted above, Staff also asks that the Council advise Chairman Bill Bradbury, in his capacity as the Council's representative on the ISAB's Administrative Oversight Panel, to support the appointment of Alec Maule and Steve Schroder to the ISAB.

Steve Schroder, Ph.D., is a fisheries consultant and former Fisheries Research Scientist at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. He has over 30 years of fisheries research experience ranging from developing fish marking tools, to examining juvenile salmon ecology in freshwater and estuarine areas, to studying recovery of ESA listed salmonids via habitat restoration and fish cultural methods. He also has excellent knowledge of Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife recovery efforts. He has served on the ISRP since 2012 and has proved to be an insightful, objective, and productive member of the ISRP.

FUTURE APPOINTMENTS

In addition to the appointments described above, the ISAB and ISRP each have an additional position open. We have contacted many top candidates for these open positions, but so far none of the candidates have been available. We have contacted several other top candidates and are awaiting their response. We hope to make the final appointment of an 11th ISRP member at the Council's January or February meeting. ISRP and ISAB members who have completed their terms will continue to serve until replacement appointments are made.

Finally, we request that the Council begin the first step for the next round of ISRP and ISAB appointments for 2015 by sending a letter to the region inviting nominations with a deadline of

February 28, 2014. We last sought nominations from the region in 2011, and the next round of appointments would benefit from an up-to-date pool of ISAB and ISRP candidates. For example, a number of well-qualified scientists in the region with needed expertise have expressed interest in potentially serving on the ISRP or ISAB. We will seek 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, terrestrial habitat restoration, mainstem fish passage, modeling, estuarine ecology, hatcheries, and population genetics. We are also interested in candidates with experience in the Interior Columbia. We anticipate discussing potential 2015 appointments with the ISAB Administrative Oversight Panel in the summer of 2014.

Table of ISRP and ISAB Members and Terms

ISRP Member	Affiliation	Expertise	Term
<i>Colin Levings</i>	<i>Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, BC (emeritus)</i>	<i>Fisheries - estuary ecology</i>	<i>Serve until replaced</i>
<i>Rich Alldredge</i>	<i>Washington State University</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Serve until replaced</i>
<i>Robert Bilby</i>	<i>Weyerhaeuser</i>	<i>Riparian ecology and fish population dynamics</i>	<i>Serve until replaced</i>
Dennis Scarnecchia	University of Idaho	Fisheries - large river	Renew to 2016
Greg Ruggerone	Natural Resource Consultants, Washington	Fisheries - ocean and freshwater salmon ecology	2015, 1 st
David Heller	Aquatic Habitat Management and Restoration Consultant, formerly with U.S. Forest Service	Aquatic habitat management, restoration, and monitoring	2015, 1 st
Scott Lutz	University of Wisconsin	Wildlife	2015, 1 st
Steve Schroder	Fisheries Consultant, formerly with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Fisheries - artificial production, freshwater and estuarine salmon ecology	2015, 1 st
Carl Schwarz	Simon Fraser University, Canada	Statistics and Actuarial Science	2015, 1 st
Chris Wood	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, BC	Fisheries - genetics and ecology of salmon	2015, 1 st
Robert Naiman	University of Washington	River ecology	2015, 1 st

ISAB Member	Affiliation	Expertise	Term
<i>Colin Levings</i>	<i>Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, BC (emeritus)</i>	<i>Fisheries - estuary ecology</i>	<i>Serve until replaced</i>

<i>Bruce Rieman</i>	<i>U.S. Forest Service (emeritus), Montana</i>	<i>Fisheries and habitat management</i>	<i>Serve until replaced</i>
<i>Chris Wood</i>	<i>Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, BC</i>	<i>Fisheries - genetics and ecology of salmon</i>	<i>Serve until replaced</i>
Rich Alldredge	Washington State University	Statistics	2014, 2 nd
Dennis Scarnecchia	University of Idaho	Fisheries - large river	2014, 2 nd
Robert Naiman	University of Washington (emeritus)	River ecology	2015, 2 nd
Greg Ruggione	Natural Resource Consultants, Washington	Fisheries - ocean and freshwater salmon ecology	2016, 2 nd
Kurt Fausch	Colorado State University	Fisheries - population and stream ecology	2015, 1 st
Kate Myers	University of Washington (emeritus)	Fisheries - ocean and salmon ecology	2015, 1 st
Laurel Saito	University of Nevada Reno	Civil engineer - hydrology and ecosystem modeling	2015, 1 st
Carl Schwarz	Simon Fraser University, Canada	Statistics and Actuarial Science	2016, 1 st