Joan M. Dukes
Chair
Oregon

Bruce A. Measure
Montana

James A. Yost
Idaho

W. Bill Booth
Idaho

Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Rhonda Whiting
Vice-Chair
Montana

Bill Bradbury
Oregon

Tom Karier
Washington

Phil Rockefeller
Washington

January 25, 2012

TO: Council Members

FROM: Erik Merrill, ISRP/ISAB Program Manager, and Jim Ruff, ISAB Ex Officio

SUBJECT: ISRP and PRG Appointments

PROPOSED ACTION

Council staff asks that the Council:

1) Appoint Steve Schroder, Dave Heller, Carl Schwarz, Scott Lutz, and Chris Wood to the ISRP.

2) Appoint 13 scientists to the pool of ISRP Peer Review Group Members - Robert Anthony, Virginia Butler, Dennis Dauble, Greg Hood, Robert Hughes, Mike Jones, Steven Kolmes, Alec Maule, Stephen McCormick, Vaughn Paragamian, Randall Peterman, Laurel Saito, and Steve Schroder.

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 foster a multi-disciplinary approach, offer fresh perspectives, and maintain an institutional knowledge of independent scientific review and fish and wildlife management in the Columbia River Basin. With a broad range of expertise, the ISRP should be configured to effectively review the science pertaining to topics, plans, and projects likely to arise in the next few years such as ocean research, habitat restoration, artificial production, and research, monitoring and evaluation (RME).

851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204-1348
www.nwcouncil.org

Steve Crow
Executive Director

503-222-5161
800-452-5161
Fax: 503-820-2370

BACKGROUND

Appointments

The ISAB and ISRP appointments process follows three steps, of which the first two are complete for this 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 Council alone appoints ISRP members, and the ISAB Administrative Oversight Panel appoints ISAB members. ISRP and ISAB members are eligible for two terms of usually three years per term with adjustments to ensure that turnover of membership each year is limited to no more than four 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 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. 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 scientists recommended for appointment in this memo 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.

Alternatives

The Council can request further consideration of alternative National Academy recommended candidates than those recommended in this memo for some or all of the open ISRP positions.

[1] The National Academy of Sciences' 2011 letter is available at www.nwcouncil.org/fw/isab/members2011.pdf.

Resumes of the scientists recommended below or included in the National Academy's pool of candidates are available on request. Resumes available on the web are hyperlinked below.

ISRP APPOINTMENTS

Four ISRP positions are currently open, and three more become open on October 1, 2012. With the Geographic reviews beginning in 2012 and the ongoing reviews of artificial production efforts through the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan and Council Step reviews, expertise in habitat restoration and artificial production are especially needed.

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. With the loss of many long time ISRP members, he would provide excellent knowledge of Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife recovery efforts. Some of his *past* projects were funded through the Fish and Wildlife Program so care would be taken in making assignments to avoid the appearance of bias. His perspective of being reviewed by the ISRP would add a new perspective to the ISRP and facilitate constructive reviews.

David Heller, M.S., is an expert in aquatic resource management and restoration. He is a retired Pacific Northwest Regional Fish Program Leader, U.S. Forest Service. Among many accomplishments at the Forest Service, he managed the development of a comprehensive Fish and Aquatic Resource Program for 17 National Forests, in Oregon and Washington. His expertise, experience, and institutional knowledge of the Columbia Basin would be especially valuable in the review of habitat restoration projects and the development of a regional habitat restoration effectiveness monitoring plan.

Carl Schwarz, Ph.D., is a Professor of Statistics and Actuarial Science at Simon Fraser University, Canada. His statistical and modeling research and consulting experience covers a wide range of topics but is directly applicable to Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife management. For example, he has developed methods to estimate salmon escapement, smolt runs, and fish populations. His expertise in experimental design and analyzing results would be especially useful for ISRP reviews of projects that include a research, monitoring and evaluation component.

Scott Lutz, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor at the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is a wildlife ecologist with work focused on game and non-game birds. As a peer review group member, he has successfully participated in major proposal reviews, including the Wildlife Category Review. With his wildlife and terrestrial habitat expertise, he would complement the fish and aquatic habitat specialists on the ISRP in the review of habitat protection and restoration projects.

Chris Wood, Ph.D., is a Research Scientist at the Pacific Biological Station, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada and an expert in genetics and ecology of Pacific salmon and other

marine fish. He is currently an ISAB member. He has authored many sections of ISAB reports over the past four years, and his active research work in Canada translates well to informing scientific analysis of Columbia River fisheries. His knowledge of salmon genetics is especially applicable to reviews concerning wild and hatchery fish interactions and recovery planning. His expertise will be highly valuable for habitat restoration and artificial production projects. He would join Rich Alldredge, Greg Ruggerone, 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. *Chris Wood has requested that his term begin in October 2012, due to other commitments.*

Table 1. Current ISRP members and terms

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

ISRP PEER REVIEW GROUP APPOINTMENTS

The 1996 amendment to the Power Act provides for the ISRP to be assisted by Peer Review Groups. The Council has appointed a Peer Review Group pool of over 168 scientists, a subset of whom are used on an ad hoc basis to provide specific expertise and augment the capabilities of the ISRP. While not members of the ISRP, Peer Review Group members are active and essential contributors to the review process. Over the past fifteen years, over 50 Peer Review Group members have participated in ISRP project reviews.

Council staff recommends that the 13 scientists listed below (Table 2) be appointed to the ISRP's Peer Review Group. These scientists would bolster the ISRP's expertise and workforce and thus ability to participate in large-scale reviews such as the Category and Geographic Reviews. The scientists include those nominated and considered in the 2011 ISRP and ISAB member selection process by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. In 2011, the National Research Council did not develop a list of recommended scientists for the Peer Review Groups. As in the past, they decided not to take an active role in the appointment of the Peer Review Groups and felt that this was better handled as a matter between the ISRP and the Council. These appointees would join the current pool of 168 potential Peer Review Group reviewers.

This large number of potential Peer Review Group members is needed because significant numbers of reviewers covering a wide range of expertise are often needed on short notice to participate in time-intensive reviews. In addition, some of these scientists, at times, propose or have BPA funded projects, which constitutes a conflict of interest disallowing their participation in reviews. Finally, enlisting potential future ISAB and ISRP members as peer review group members for discrete, temporary review roles allows the scientists to gauge their interest and the ISRP and Council to gauge the scientists' suitability for full ISRP or ISAB membership.

Table 2. Thirteen recommended Peer Review Group appointees

Nominee	Affiliation	Expertise
Robert Anthony	Oregon State University	Wildlife ecologist
Virginia Butler	Portland State University	Social science
Dennis Dauble	Consultant (formerly with Pacific Northwest National Labs)	Fisheries, mainstem fish passage
Greg Hood	Skagit River System Cooperative	Fisheries, ecology and habitat
Robert Hughes	Oregon State University	Biometrics and modeling
Mike Jones	University of Michigan	Biometrics and modeling
Steven Kolmes	University of Portland	Fisheries, ecology and habitat
Alec Maule	United States Geological Survey, Cook Labs, Washington (current conflict)	Fisheries - physiological ecology of salmonids
Stephen McCormick	United States Geological Survey, Massachusetts	Fisheries - physiology, Atlantic salmon
Vaughn Paragamian	Consultant (formerly with Idaho Fish and Game)	Fisheries - resident fish research
Randall Peterman	Simon Fraser University, BC, Canada	Quantitative biology

Laurel Saito	University of Nevada Reno	Hydrology and ecosystem modeling
Steve Schroder	Consultant (formerly with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)	Fisheries - research scientist