

NORTHWEST POWER AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100, Portland, Oregon 97204

NORTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER, NOAA FISHERIES
2725 Montlake Blvd. E., Seattle, Washington 98112

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 1200, Portland, Oregon 97232

October 5, 2018

Dear Interested Party,

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and NOAA Fisheries invite nominations by November 9, 2018 to establish a pool of candidates who are qualified and interested in potential appointment to the Independent Scientific Advisory Board ([ISAB](#)) and/or the Independent Scientific Review Panel ([ISRP](#)).

The National Academy of Sciences will evaluate the credentials of the nominees, submit additional nominees if necessary, and recommend a pool of qualified candidates for potential appointment to the ISRP and ISAB. As vacancies arise on the ISAB or ISRP, new members will be selected from this pool (see the [National Academy's October 28, 2014 memo](#)). The Council makes final appointments to the ISRP. ISAB appointments are made by the ISAB Administrative Oversight Panel consisting of the Council chair, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's executive director (on behalf of all tribes in the Columbia Basin), and the science director of NOAA Fisheries' Northwest Fisheries Science Center (in consultation with the Northwest Regional Administrator).

The ISAB serves the Council, NOAA Fisheries, and Columbia River Indian Tribes by providing independent scientific advice and recommendations on issues related to regional fish and wildlife recovery programs under the Northwest Power Act and the Endangered Species Act. The ISAB is designed to foster a scientific approach to fish and wildlife recovery and ensure the use of sound scientific methods in the planning and implementation of research and recovery strategies related to these programs.

At the direction of Congress, the Council established the ISRP to review projects proposed for funding through the Bonneville Power Administration's annual fish and wildlife budget, including those in federal agency budgets that are reimbursed by BPA. The projects are reviewed for their scientific merit and consistency with the program. The ISRP analyzes the information gained from the review of projects and makes recommendations to the Council.

When making nominations, we ask that you provide contact information for the nominee. If feasible, we greatly appreciate that nominators submit the resume of each nominee and a brief cover letter that describes how the nominee meets the criteria for membership specified below and confirms the candidate's interest in becoming a member of the ISAB or the ISRP.

The specific criteria each nominee must meet include:

- high achievement in a relevant discipline, which may include Columbia River anadromous and resident fish ecology, statistics, wildlife ecology, genetics, fisheries, fish passage/bioengineering, fish husbandry, marine ecology, geomorphology, socio-economics, or other appropriate disciplines;
- 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;
- interest in and ability to work effectively in an interdisciplinary setting;
- ability to commit sufficient time to effectively participate in review activities, approximately 12 to 40 hours per month depending on assignments (members are compensated for their services and reimbursed for travel expenses);
- ability to comply with the ISAB/ISRP conflict of interest standards (attached) for the duration of their appointment.

Please submit your nominations by November 9, 2018 via email to emerrill@nwcouncil.org or mail:

Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Attn: Erik Merrill
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204

If you have any questions please contact Erik Merrill, ISAB and ISRP manager, at 503.222.5161 or toll free at 1.800.222.5161. For more information on the ISAB and ISRP including publications and a list of current members visit the Council's website at: www.nwcouncil.org/fish-and-wildlife.

Sincerely,

[Letter approved by the ISAB Administrative Oversight Panel on October 4, 2018]

James Yost, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Jaime Pinkham, Executive Director
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Kevin Werner, Science Director
Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries

ISAB and ISRP Guidelines on Conflict of Interest

For the ISAB to function effectively, it must maintain its status and credibility as a deliberative scientific board. Members must not only avoid activities that create a conflict of interest, but those activities that may represent a significant appearance of conflict of interest or otherwise impair the credibility or status of the board. Given the controversial nature of many of the questions/issues that the ISAB must deal with, questionable professional or personal activities could easily undermine the effectiveness of the individual members and ultimately the ISAB as a whole. The goal of establishing these conflict of interest guidelines is to maintain the integrity of ISAB opinions. As a general principle, the ISAB will follow the guidelines for bias and conflict of interest outlined in, "The National Research Council Policy on Disclosure of Personal Involvements and Other Matters Potentially Affecting Committee Service" (November 1992; "the NRC Conflict of Interest Guidelines").

"Bias" and "Conflict of Interest"

"Bias" relates to views stated or positions taken that are largely intellectually motivated or that arise from the close identification or association with a particular point of view or the positions or perspectives of a particular group. Such potential sources of bias are not necessarily disqualifying for purposes of ISAB service. Indeed, membership of the ISAB is intended to include individuals with a variety of interests, backgrounds and expertise. However, where bias impairs a member's ability to view matters in a scientific manner and give fair consideration to new information it can jeopardize the member's usefulness to the board.

"Conflict of interest" means any financial or other interest which conflicts with the service of the individual because it 1) impairs the individual's objectivity or 2) could create an unfair competitive advantage for any person or organization.

Examples of Activities that Should Be Avoided

1) Members should avoid direct involvement in or public endorsement of projects or activities that will likely be subject to ISAB review such as those connected to the Fish and Wildlife Program of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and NOAA Fisheries' Endangered Species Act recovery programs in the Columbia River Basin. Such an involvement would create a conflict of interest that would preclude participation of that member in the review of a project or activity, and could lead to questions regarding the ability of the ISAB as a whole to objectively judge the merits of the subject research or to provide objective scientific advice.

2) Members should avoid financial relationships with organizations receiving substantial economic benefit from the programs and activities connected to the Fish and Wildlife Program of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and NOAA Fisheries' Endangered Species Act recovery programs in the Columbia River Basin. Such a relationship could potentially create a conflict of interest, particularly if the ISAB is asked to review the scientific merits of a project being proposed or conducted by the employing organization. Even though a member may excuse him or herself from reviewing such projects, the mere association with such a member may unduly influence other members of the ISAB.

3) Members, as individuals, should avoid taking public positions on issues related to the Fish and Wildlife Program of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and NOAA Fisheries' Endangered Species Act

recovery programs in the Columbia River Basin. Members should be especially conscientious in ensuring that their opinions as individuals are not perceived or construed to be those of the board or to result from board activities. Whenever possible, members should refer the public to NOAA Fisheries, the Council or the ISAB Chair. The Council and NOAA Fisheries, through the coordinators, should be kept informed of all outside contacts.

4) Members should avoid to the extent practicable identification as a major advocate for particular scientific, intellectual, or social causes that provide the appearance of undue bias relative to matters likely to come before the board.