

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES


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Memorandum

TO: W. Bill Booth, Chair, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Usha Varanasi, Director, National Marine Fisheries Northwest Fisheries Science Center
D. Robert Lohn, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service
Robert Lothrop, Acting Executive Director, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

CC: David Policansky

FROM: E. William Colglazier, Executive Officer 

DATE: October 23, 2008

SUBJECT: Nomination of Candidates to the ISAB and ISRP 2008

At the request of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC), the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the National Research Council's Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology is pleased to suggest nominees for potential appointment to the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) and Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP).

Dr. David Policansky of the National Research Council's Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology sought the advice of independent experts Charles Coutant, formerly chair of the ISAB, and Daniel Schindler of the University of Washington, Seattle, to help evaluate potential nominees. In addition, several members of the National Research Council's (NRC's) Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology were consulted. The NRC is submitting a list of the names of 14 scientists from which ISAB and ISRP members can usefully be appointed. These suggested nominees should be added to the list of 52 nominees recommended in 2005¹ from which a majority of the current ISAB and ISRP members were appointed and many well-qualified nominees remain for future appointment consideration.

The NRC understands that the NPCC appoints ISRP members, while the NPCC, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Columbia River Indian Tribes appoint ISAB members. Rather than submit nominees for the ISRP and ISAB in separate memos, we suggest that the selection process for ISAB and ISRP members should be closely coordinated to help maintain the strong collaborative relationship the ISAB and ISRP have formed over the past twelve years. The ISAB and ISRP governing documents call for membership to include expertise in the

¹ See the May 23, 2005 letter from the National Academy of Sciences: www.nwrcouncil.org/fw/isab/nrc.pdf.

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following areas: anadromous and resident fish ecology, statistics, modeling, wildlife ecology, genetics, fisheries, fish passage/bioengineering, fish husbandry, ocean and estuary ecology, geomorphology, and socio-economics. Pacific Northwest scientists with expertise in Columbia River anadromous fish and non-anadromous fish must be included. Previous NRC selections have emphasized the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach, and, in fact, the ISAB and ISRP's multi-disciplinary composition has been critical to the groups' success and ability to cover the wide spectrum of issues, plans, programs, and proposals assigned for the groups to evaluate. The NRC continues to stress the importance of the social sciences, ethnic and gender diversity in membership, the importance of large system drivers, and cross-pollination with other broad-scale ecosystem recovery efforts, such as those with Atlantic salmon and the successful Great Lakes stocks of introduced Pacific salmon.

The recommended list is provided in the table below organized by primary expertise, although many of the scientists have multiple areas of expertise. The evaluations were based on biographical and bibliographic information concerning all the persons who were nominated. Overall, the nominees submitted for consideration were highly qualified. When coupled with the 2005 list, the areas of expertise required on the groups should be adequately covered for the next round of appointments. We note that some of the nominees may have potential conflicts of interest, which should be evaluated in the member selection process.

The National Research Council is pleased to have been of service in this manner.

Table of Recommended ISAB and ISRP Candidates Recommendations

Fisheries ecology and habitat		
	David Bennett	Northwest Ecological Sciences (NES), Idaho
	Jeff Kershener	US Geological Survey, Montana
	Bruce Rieman	Consultant, Montana, retired US Forest Service
	Gregory Ruggerone	Consultant, Seattle
	Webb Van Winkle	Consultant, Idaho, formerly Oak Ridge National Labs
	Fred Whoriskey	Atlantic Salmon Federation, St. Andrews, Canada
Fish passage		
	Jim Congleton	University of Idaho
	Peter Klingeman	Oregon State University, emeritus
	John Nestler	US Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi
Biometrics and modeling		
	Steve Railsback	Humboldt State University, visiting professor and consultant
	Robert Van Kirk	Idaho State University
Social sciences		
	Tim McDaniels	University of British Columbia
	Evelyn Pinkerton	Simon Fraser University, British Columbia
Wildlife		
	Edward O. Garton	University of Idaho

Reserve: The NRC also suggests that Tom Ebert, population dynamics expertise, and David Johnson, wildlife expertise, be on a reserve list if their particular area of expertise is needed on the ISRP or ISAB.