

NORTH PACIFIC RESEARCH BOARD

*“Building a clear understanding of the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean ecosystems
that enables effective management and sustainable use of marine resources.”*

David Benton, Chairman
Tylan Schrock, Vice Chairman
Clarence Pautzke, Executive Director

441 West 5th Avenue, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501-2340
Phone: (907) 278-6772
Fax: (907) 276-7178

Draft Summary
North Pacific Research Board Meeting
EVOS Trustees Conference Room
Anchorage, Alaska
March 21-22, 2002

1. Call to Order and Election of Officers

The Board convened at 8 a.m., Thursday, March 21, 2002. Present were Jim Balsiger, David Benton, Rob Bosworth (designee for Frank Rue), John Gauvin, Trevor McCabe, Phil Mundy, George Newton (designee for Gary Brass), Walter Parker, Rich Preston, John Roos, Robin Samuelsen, Tylan Schrock, Bill Seitz, Jev Shelton, Jack Tagart, and John White. The meeting was staffed by Clarence Pautzke and Paula Banks. The Board unanimously elected David Benton as Chairman, and Tylan Schrock as Vice-Chairman, for one-year terms. The Board approved a summary of the March 1, 2002, teleconference.

2. NPRB Procedures

On the March 1, 2002 teleconference of the full Board, the Executive Director was tasked with developing a discussion paper on voting procedures and how to meaningfully involve all members of the Board in its decision-making process. After reviewing the discussion paper at this meeting, the Board proceeded to define a quorum (which also applies to teleconferences) as the presence of at least three executive committee members and nine other members. The Board approved the following voting procedures:

- a. For any motion, the Chairman will ask first if there are any objections.
- b. If there are no objections, a motion passes unanimously. If there are objections, then:
 - i. A motion is considered approved by “useful consensus,” if three or less members object.
 - ii. If at least 20% of the members present and voting object, then a poll is taken.
 - iii. For a motion to pass by polling there must be (1) an affirmative vote of a simple majority of the Executive Committee, and (2) an affirmative vote of a simple majority of other members present and voting.

The above procedures apply to major decisions that must be made by the full Board, rather than by the executive committee. The Board noted that major decisions could include those on the budget, research plans and priorities, approval of projects for funding, and other items as determined appropriate. The Executive Director was tasked to develop a list of decisions, identifying those that would require full Board consideration and those of a more administrative nature that would be made by the Executive Committee. This decision matrix will be considered at the next meeting of the Board on June 3-4, 2002. The Executive Director also will attempt to draft operating procedures for review in June. Among other items, it will include consideration of conflicts of interest, disclosure rules, recusal procedures, and use of designees. Different models should be explored and brought to the Board for consideration.

3. Request for Proposals for 2002

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2002 was approved by the Board on March 1, 2002 and posted on a special website on March 8 (www.fakr.noaa.gov/nprb/rfp.htm). Deadline for proposals is April 12, and then they will be sent to peer review. About May 13-14, a senior science panel will be convened to provide a secondary review of the proposals and their ratings by the primary peer reviewers. The Board considered three options for this secondary, senior science panel review:

- Option 1: Convene 6-10 member senior science panel from around nation.
- Option 2: Convene panel using primarily agency scientists for the particular review.
- Option 3: Do not use a senior panel. Let NPRB review primary reviews and rank proposals, possibly using a special committee.

The Board approved convening a diverse 6-10 member senior science panel from around the nation. The panel is expected to select a chairman or spokesman who will summarize panel proceedings to the Board when it meets in early June to consider final approval of research projects for 2002.

The Board also discussed whether to take public comment on proposals. This particular RFP is on a very tight schedule to allow research to start in 2002, and many proposals may be proprietary. The Board decided not to circulate the proposals for public comment, but to schedule at its next meeting up to two hours for public comment on the proposals or other matters before the Board. The Board will publish a list of the proposals on a website, with title, requested funding amount, and names of principal investigators. The Board considers this a unique situation and not precedence. Formal procedures will be developed for handling proposals under future RFP's.

4. North Pacific Marine Research Program Extension

On February 4, the Executive Committee forwarded to the full Board, five projects from the North Pacific Marine Research Program (NPMR) needing a third year of funding. The projects would be supported by North Pacific Marine Research Institute funds. On March 1, the Board set aside the required \$571,632 for the projects, but postponed review until this meeting. The Board noted that all projects had been peer reviewed and approved under the NPMR program, and proceeded to approve unanimously the funding amounts requested for a third year.

<u>Partially funded under NPMR</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Need</u>
Bering Sea Metadatabase	82,210	42,166
Right Whale Research	70,000	75,000
Shelf slope mesoscale eddies in SE Bering Sea	377,794	109,732
Continuous Plankton Recorder	250,000	150,000
Nutrient cycling SE Bering Sea &	400,000	<u>194,734</u>
Total		571,632

5. North Pacific Marine Research Institute Education and Demonstration Projects

On March 1, the Board reviewed summaries of five education and demonstration projects developed by the Alaska SeaLife Center for support from North Pacific Marine Research Institute (NPMRI) funds. The Board allocated \$500,000 and \$300,000 for demonstration and education projects, respectively, but postponed deliberation of the specific proposals until this meeting.

<u>NPMRI Demonstration and Education Projects</u>	
	<u>Estimated Need</u>
Research Video Production	65,700
Research -based educational outreach	165,020
Post secondary education and training	156,280
Bering Sea exhibits	<u>413,000</u>
Total	800,000

The Board unanimously (Schrock recused himself) approved the four projects for funding. Concerning the Bering Sea exhibit, the Board noted that funding allocations between the Anchorage and Alaska SeaLife Center portions of the exhibit should remain flexible, and that informational materials developed for the exhibit should be previewed by the Board.

6. Science Planning and Coordination Projects

On March 1, the Board reviewed five science planning and coordination projects suggested by the Executive Committee. The Board allocated funds from the Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund to the projects, but postponed final approval until now.

<u>Science Planning and Coordination Projects</u>	
Searchable GIS research database	200,000
NRC Review of Research Needs	460,000
Science Planning	500,000
Alaska's Oceans and Watersheds Symposium	20,000
Consortium Ocean. Research and Education	<u>16,500</u>
Total	1,196,500

Searchable GIS Research Database. The Board unanimously approved this project for \$200,000.

National Research Council (NRC) Review of Research Needs. The Board expressed concern with lack of detail in the proposed statement of work and budget. It decided to establish a committee of its members, yet to be named, to develop the statement of work and terms of reference, and requested additional budget detail from NRC. The committee also will explore alternatives to the NRC for developing a research plan

that would have long-term scientific credibility. The committee will report back to the Board on June 3-4, and final action will be considered then.

Science planning. The Board unanimously approved \$500,000, but requested more detail in June.

State of Alaska Oceans and Watersheds Symposium. The Board unanimously approved (Bosworth and White abstaining) \$20,000 to support the symposium scheduled for June 18-19, 2002.

Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education. The Board unanimously approved joining at the Governing Membership level.

7. RFP Development for Research in 2003

A major RFP of \$10 million or more of EIRF funds will be released in September 2002 for research starting in 2003. The Board considered four general issues involved in developing the RFP over the next six months: (1) schedule for developing the RFP; (2) process for identifying research priorities; (3) stakeholder input; and (4) future committee structure.

Schedule. The Board approved an overall planning schedule to develop draft research priorities by late June 2002, gather public comment over the summer, revise the priorities for Board review in September, and circulate the RFP this fall. Final approval of projects will occur early in 2003.

Draft research priorities. The Board decided to establish a committee of its members, yet to be named, to work with the Executive Director in developing draft research priorities for review on June 3-4. The Executive Director was instructed to take advantage of opportunities to gather suggestions for research, for example, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in April, and on other occasions as they arise.

Stakeholder input. The Board approved circulating the draft research priorities by mail and on a website during the summer for public comment, and holding one public hearing in Anchorage in late August. The Board decided not to send a committee out to regional communities this summer because it is the busiest season and few local people would be available to attend a hearing.

Committee structure. The Board tasked the Executive Director and a committee, yet to be named, with developing a discussion paper that will consider potential formation of a science panel and an advisory panel representing stakeholders. The paper will consider terms of reference, appointments process, duties, need for regional representation, costs, and other relevant matters the committee may identify. The paper, or at least a status report, will be made available for the June Board meeting. It is the Board's intent to consider establishing these panels later this year or early in 2003.

8. Draft Memorandum of Agreement

The Board considered a draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among EVOS, NPRB, Northern Fund and University of Alaska. It was scheduled to be signed at the end of the Alaska Oceans and Watersheds Symposium on June 18-19, 2002. The Board fully agrees with the intent of the MOA to promote coordination and cooperation in research planning, and may consider entering into such an agreement in the future. But for now, because the Board is just getting organized, it approved (with Mundy and White objecting) a motion to defer action on approving the MOA. A letter explaining the Board's action and its commitment to cooperation and coordination will be sent to the originators of the draft MOA.

9. Future Meetings

The Board will meet next in Anchorage. The meeting will start at 8 a.m. on Monday, June 3, and continue until noon, Tuesday, June 4, 2002. An evening session may be held Monday evening if necessary.

10. Other Business

Committee operations. Three ad hoc committees were established at this meeting: (1) to draft research priorities for 2003; (2) develop the NRC statement of work, review a more detailed budget estimate, and identify potential alternatives; and (3) consider the structure of a science panel and an advisory panel. This last committee also will consider mechanisms to obtain public input. The Board approved a motion limiting each committee to five or fewer members. Nominations will be submitted to the Executive Director and the Chairman is authorized to make the appointments. They will meet primarily by teleconference, unless a regular meeting is determined necessary.

University of Alaska representation. The Board appreciates the extensive, valuable marine fisheries and ecosystems research performed by the University of Alaska, and recognizes that the University managed the North Pacific Marine Research program in 1999-2001, and has had special interest in the formation and activities of the Board. The Board briefly discussed how to involve the University in its activities. The Chairman recalled that the Board informally decided at the May 2001 meeting to allow the University to sit as a non-voting member, and noted that the Board may wish to revisit the matter at the next meeting.

The Board adjourned at 11:30 a.m., Friday, March 22, 2002.