

Draft Summary
North Pacific Research Board
Meeting by Teleconference
1 p.m., October 18, 2006

Call to Order

The Board convened by teleconference at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18, 2006. Present were Tylan Schrock (Chairman), Stephanie Madsen (Vice Chair), David Benton, Nancy Bird, Dorothy Childers, Douglas DeMaster, Robert Gisiner, Paul MacGregor, LT Alan McCabe, and Gerry Merrigan. Alexandra Curtis, Michele Eder, John Gauvin, Leslie Holland-Bartels, Howard Horton, John Iani, Earl Krygier, Pam Pope, Robin Samuelsen, and Dennis Wiesenburg were absent. Clarence Pautzke, Francis Wiese, and Carolyn Rosner staffed the meeting. Peter Hagen and Gary Matlock also attended the teleconference.

The Board had three major items to address: (1) approve the partnership agreement with the National Science Foundation for a comprehensive Bering Sea ecosystem study; (2) approve the revised Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research Program Request for Proposals; and (3) delay the December 4, 2006 Board meeting to December 5.

NPRB-NSF Partnership Agreement

The Executive Director presented an overview of the draft agreement with NSF, now titled a management plan. He explained several revisions requested by NSF. The Board also considered issues raised in previous reviews of the document and suggested solutions, as well as comments received recently from Board members on the draft agreement. The Board discussed the need for its members to strictly follow conflict of interest and recusal provisions of its operating procedures when reviewing pre- and full proposals in December and June, respectively. The Board also discussed the need to refrain in June from attempting to revise composite alternative programs developed by the joint NPRB-NSF science panel. The major choice for the Board will be between linked upper trophic and lower trophic level programs, so long as they all are deemed scientifically meritorious.

A main motion was made and seconded to approve the agreement.

Clarifications were requested for the following three items, which could be included in the NPRB-NSF agreement or in a separate document, as appropriate:

1. Need to specify the official positions in the respective organizations that will be formally designated as cognizant program officers to perform periodic program reviews.
2. Need to specify steps that will be taken to correct program deficiencies or at least state that steps will be taken.
3. Need to require the identification of product deliverables, particularly with regard to synthesis at the end of the program, and who will be responsible for such deliverables.

The issue was raised of how much emphasis the NPRB should place on supporting lower trophic level research. The agreement now allows the Board to fund LTL proposals if such research is determined to be necessary for the program success, but will not be funded by NSF. The argument was made that if such LTL research is discretionary rather than mandatory, future LTL research capacity may be diminished. Therefore the agreement should state that LTL work will be needed under the BSIERP. After discussion, the Board concluded that the language in the agreement was sufficient to allow it to fund LTL research as appropriate. Staff noted that even though NSF has stated it will not fund LTL proposals

that are predominantly federal, such as from NOAA, they will agree to process and review such proposals so they still have opportunities to be funded eventually by NPRB if necessary.

The Board also discussed the need for research in the Aleutians. The NPRB-NSF agreement and the BSIERP RFP as now written would coincide with the geographic boundaries of BEST and thus preclude research outside the eastern Bering Sea shelf area. It was concluded that Aleutian research could be supported with non-IERP funds or possibly a stand-alone Aleutian IERP could be developed separately next year in coordination with the fishery ecosystem plan being developed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The main motion passed, with Gerry Merrigan objecting.

Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research Program - Request for Proposals

Francis Wiese reviewed the revised BSIERP-RFP for the Board.

A main motion was approved unanimously to release the revised BSIERP RFP which reflects the partnership arrangement with NSF.

Change Board Meeting Date to December 5, 2006

A motion to change the next Board meeting from December 4 to December 5, 2006, was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.