

## Summary

### **North Pacific Research Board NOAA Conference Room Juneau, Alaska September 22-24, 2010**

#### 1. Call to Order/Approve Agenda and Meeting Summaries

The Board convened at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 22, 2010. Present were Ian Dutton (Chairman), Sue Aspelund, Nancy Bird, CAPT Michael Cerne, Dorothy Childers, Douglas DeMaster, Michele Eder, Howard Horton, Paul MacGregor, Steve MacLean, Heather McCarty, Gerry Merrigan, and Eric Olson (Vice Chairman). Pam Pope joined by teleconference, and her alternate, Diane Sanzone, also joined by teleconference. John Gauvin arrived at 9:51 a.m. John Iani arrived at noon. Clarence Pautzke, Francis Wiese, Carrie Eischens, Tom Van Pelt, Nora Deans, and Katie Blake staffed the meeting. Dr. Jim Balsiger gave welcoming remarks. The agenda was approved and a safety briefing given. The Board approved draft summaries of the May, June, July and August 2010 Board meetings.

#### 2. Budget Review

The Executive Director reported the status of the Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund. The principle stands at about \$1.2 billion now, up from the roughly \$900,000 when the Board first organized in 2001. Projections of annual revenues to NPRB were presented using two different Treasury interest rates; 2.6% and 4%. The estimate of 4% interest on 10-year Treasuries has been used for budget projections at past NPRB meetings, but 2.6% was used at this meeting given current rates and to consider a more conservative planning projection. By 2014 (which would fund 2016), there is a decrease of nearly \$1 million, and the next year it is up to \$2 million, compared to using the 4% rate.

The Executive Director also showed the funding scenarios with the inclusion of a BSIERP 2 and GOAIERP 2 after a 3-yr hiatus for each program, as well as an Arctic program for \$3 million, assuming a funding level for annual RFPs ranging up to \$4.0 million by 2016. For the 2011 RFP, the Executive Director suggested a funding level of \$3.5 million.

The Board took no actions on this agenda item, other than to receive the budget report.

#### 3. Committee of Visitors Program Review Report

The COV representative was not able to attend the meeting, therefore the Executive Director reported on the status of the COV report. The COV met in Seattle on August 11-13 to draft their preliminary report; the report will not be completed until late November. Early survey results that pertain to structuring of the annual RFP were shared with the Board.

The Board reviewed the preliminary results provided and discussed its level of usefulness and the overall survey design. There was some disappointment about the level of refinement of the survey report and design. The Board emphasized that the final COV report should be a well-edited, straightforward document that is suitable for posting on the website, rather than a highly glossy report with lots of figures, tables and pictures.

The Board should prepare to receive the full report of the COV around November 22 with all back-up documentation. There was agreement to hold an afternoon joint meeting of the Board, Science Panel, and Advisory Panel on Tuesday afternoon, January 18, 2011, during the Alaska Marine Science Symposium

in Anchorage. COV Chairman Lynda Shapiro will present their report and the combined bodies of the Board will be able to ask questions and consider next steps with both the outgoing and incoming Executive Directors present.

#### 4. 2011 Request for Proposals

##### a. Overview of 2010 projects and ongoing research

Staff presented a status report on the 252 regular projects funded since 2002 (\$41.5 million) and the additional 27 projects funded under the BSIERP for \$16.1 million. To date, 181 of the regular projects (\$30.3M) have been completed.

The Board also received a report on the status of 2010 projects. Twenty-two completed projects totaling \$3.9M were approved or conditionally approved for funding by the Board at their May 2010 meeting. Applicants of the three conditionally approved projects were asked to address all issues raised by the Science Panel and technical reviewers prior to receiving final project approval. All three projects addressed these comments satisfactorily and received final approval.

Seventeen of the 2010 projects are currently underway. The remaining five projects are delayed until a fully executed memorandum of understanding is completed between NPRB and the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. A completed MOU is anticipated in October.

Metadata and data transfer for completed projects is progressing well, with continuous support from USGS. Project listings on the NPRB website continue to be populated with metadata records and embedded data links, and all metadata records also have been uploaded to the USGS metadata warehouse (<http://mercury.ornl.gov/clearinghouse/>).

NPRB staff has continued efforts to track and catalog peer review publications that have resulted from NPRB funded projects. To date, there are a total of 196 published papers and another 63 in press. Publications are being made available via the NPRB Publication Library Page <http://publication.nprb.org/list.jsf>. In coordination with ARLIS (Alaska Resource Library & Information Services), NPRB staff is developing a publication management database to allow for more accurate tracking of publications and broader searching capabilities.

##### b.-d. Development of 2011 draft RFP

The Board received an overview of a draft 2011 Request for Proposals (RFP) developed by staff and amended by the Science and Advisory Panels. The research priorities were based on priorities identified by various organizations and institutions over the previous six months, research priorities and funded projects in past RFPs, and the Board's 2005 Science Plan. Board members expressed their interest in continued opportunities for broad input to the RFP, and suggested that the "Suggest a research priority" feature on the NPRB website be widely advertised, e.g. at the Marine Science Symposium and via the ARCUS listserv.

##### e. Science Panel and Advisory Panel Recommendations

No Advisory Panel member was present at the meeting, so AP comments in regards to the RFP were brought up by staff as those sections were being discussed.

The Board received a summary of the Science Panel's recommendations regarding a 'cyclical' RFP. It was noted that in light of the target funding amount and all the current and planned activities and

potentially two active IERPs in the coming year, that a cyclical RFP could provide greater focus and higher funding levels for individual projects. Pros and cons of such an approach were discussed in detail. Although there was overall support for a cyclical RFP approach, a final decision on the amount and categories that would be cyclical was delayed until after the 2011 RFP development.

The Board also discussed the Science Panel's process in reviewing proposals as well as the Science Panel's expressed desire to receive feedback when proposals they recommend for Tier 1 do not get funded. The Board suggested that, starting with the 2011 RFP proposals, the Science Panel should put all meritorious proposals in Tier 1 as it usually does in its first round of evaluations, but then not go back and move some over to a Tier 2 because of total available funding. This way the Board would see all Tier 1 proposals together and be able to make the call on priorities and timeliness of different research topics being proposed.

f. Development of the 2011 RFP

A main framework motion was made by McCarty (seconded by Bird) as follows:

McCarty moved to accept the 2011 part of the cyclical spreadsheet proposed by the Science Panel (Aug SP meeting minutes Appendix 3) with the following changes:

For 2011 only:

1. Break out section 7 (Arctic) into a separate RFP to be known as Arctic Focus that carries with it \$300K and would not have to focus on the proposed distributed biological observatory (DBO) region.
2. Use the \$400K left from that section to amend the other sections in the RFP, so that the category totals are as follows:
  - (a) LTL stays at \$500K
  - (b) Fish and inverts stays at \$800K, but subcategories viii, ix and xii are removed from 2011, but retained for discussion in 2012
  - (c) Switch the order of cycling between seabirds and marine mammals, so that marine mammals are present in 2011 with an increased budget of \$700K. Remove subcategory for 'sea otters' and 'other' and add a subcategory for Steller sea lions.
  - (d) Set Seabirds to \$0 in FY11, but bring back in FY2012
  - (e) Increase Humans to \$200K
  - (f) Other prominent issues stays at \$0
  - (g) Cooperative research increases to \$500K.
3. All other categories not mentioned remain as per the SP recommendation.

This motion would result in a \$3.2M RFP for 2011 with an additional \$300K dedicated to a special Arctic Focus RFP, which was discussed in more detail. To simplify proposal submission and administration logistics, the Board, in the end, decided that the Arctic Focus would become a special section but would be released in the same RFP, effectively making it a \$3.5 million RFP.

Referring to the budget spreadsheet presented by the Executive Director earlier, McCarty included an additional part in this motion which moves the \$200K dedicated for 'Arctic planning' from FY12 up to FY11. It was clarified later that the \$200K was not intended for NPRB to plan an Arctic Strategy, but rather as the first year in the funding for the PIs while planning and spinning up the program (see agenda item 7).

After rationale for this framework motion was provided, the following amendments were proposed:

1. Amend the Arctic Focus section to retain the DBO language and to only include the subsection on Fish stocks and habitat, as amended to include some of the arctic cod language from subcategory ii. – *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*
2. Remove ‘other’ from LTL category – *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*
3. Remove LTL ocean acidification subcategory from 2011 but consider it again in 2012 – *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*
4. Add two items to Fish and Inverts: (1) winter spawning survey of cod and pollock in AI – include language for this in stock assessment support category; (2) cod and Atka mackerel tagging studies in AI – include text for this ‘fish and shellfish movement’ subcategory. – *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*
5. Include AP recommendation in regards to proposed changes to items 8-10 under stock assessment support – *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*
6. Increase marine mammals to \$800K and decrease ‘Technology Development’ from \$200K to \$100K
  - a. Amendment to amendment: Increase marine mammals by adding \$100K from Data Rescue category (i.e. zero out Data Rescue) and leave ‘Technology Development’ at \$200K – *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*
  - b. *Amendment Passed (excom 5-0; others 6-5)*
7. Approve new text drafted by MacLean, DeMaster and Gauvin on SSL – *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*
8. Change text for marine mammal subcategory on small and declining populations as drafted by DeMaster – *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*
9. Remove ‘ocean acidification’ subcategory under Humans – *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*
10. Remove ‘other’ subcategory under Humans – *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*
11. Add language to ‘fishery monitoring’ subcategory under Fishing Industry in Coop Research as drafted by Gauvin – *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*
12. Decrease funding for Coop Research from \$500K to \$300K and move the entire ‘Oil and Gas Industry’ section to Arctic Focus section. Topics should link to DBO and Cooperative Research should be encouraged – *Amendment Failed (excom 1-4, others 4-7)*
13. Decrease funding for Coop Research from \$500K to \$300K and move the \$200K to Arctic Focus Section, making it \$500K
  - a. Substitute: only move \$100K and call the Arctic Focus section ‘Arctic Cod’  
*Substitute Amendment Passed*
14. Re-instate all original items under Arctic as proposed by the SP and bring the budget back up to \$700K with \$200K coming from Fish and Inverts and \$100K from marine mammals – *Amendment Failed (excom 0-5; others 2-9)*
15. Add \$50K to data rescue bringing total for the 2011 RFP to \$3.55 million – *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*
16. Replace Arctic cod language with language from fish stocks and habitat but write it so as to include possible focus on cod – *This was accepted as a friendly amendment.*

The Board unanimously passed this framework motion as amended for a \$3.55M RFP for 2011.

Regarding the second part of the ‘cyclical RFP’ approach, that involved signaling the intent for 2012, especially where entire categories were removed from the 2011 RFP, the Board passed a motion that included the following intended amounts for 2012: \$200K for LTL, \$1.3M for Fish and Inverts (to include Fish habitat), \$200K for marine mammals, \$500K for seabirds, \$200K for humans, \$300K for other prominent issues, \$200K for LTK and CI, \$400K for Coop Research, \$200K for tech development,

\$100K for data rescue, for a total of \$3.6M. The Board emphasized that the proposed funding levels for the cyclical 2012 RFP are subject to change.

#### 5. Gulf of Alaska Integrated Ecosystem Research Program

Pete Hagen delivered the news that the Secretary of Commerce had approved the GOAIERP, which was gratefully received by the Board.

The Board received a report from the “Group of Experts” regarding marine mammal research within the GOAIERP. The GOE, chaired by the chairman of the Science Panel, Doug Woodby, stated their unanimous opinion that it is not necessary to have a marine mammal focus in the GOAIERP considering the indirect linkage to young-of-the-year fish that are the core focus of the GOAIERP. The Board conveyed their appreciation to the GOE for their work on this topic.

A special request initially introduced by DeMaster and submitted in writing by Jamal Moss (lead UTL PI) for graduate student support, was presented to the Board. The student is lined up to do 2005-2009 Steller Sea Lion scat analyses using Kate Wynne’s samples. After discussion, a motion was made to approve \$30,000 for this support. *The motion failed.* (excom 2-2, others 8-1; with DeMaster recusing)

The Board discussed the need for a special RFP for GOAIERP data management, and agreed that staff should develop the RFP and that the Executive Committee can approve release prior to the Board’s next regular meeting. The Board also agreed that a manager for the integrated modeling component of the GOAIERP should be hired through a personal services contract with the NPRB.

The Board suggested that staff (Nora Deans) should explore a workshop or some other form of outreach to bring together central Gulf of Alaska marine mammal experts and discuss marine mammal research interests in relation to the GOAIERP and information needs for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council when it reviews the Steller sea lion biological opinion and associated fisheries regulations in two years.

The Board also suggested that a small group of Board members should convene to discuss lessons learned from the process of developing the GOAIERP.

#### 6. Bering Sea Integrated Ecosystem Research Program

A status report on the Bering Sea integrated ecosystem research program was presented to the Board. The Board was informed about the BSIERP data management project. UAF/SFOS participation in the data management project has ended, and data access is currently supported by Axiom Consulting and Design in Anchorage. Staff described their proposed way forward, using Axiom in combination with a potential linkage to the NSF-funded BEST data management, and received support from the Board.

Several Board members (McCarty, Gauvin, Merrigan) requested they be kept informed and engaged in the management strategy evaluation modeling work.

Board members were invited to the March 22-24, 2011, Bering Sea Project Principal Investigator Meeting to be held at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage, Alaska.

#### 7. Arctic Planning

The Board received a report from the Executive Director on Arctic planning. The Board discussed how the NPRB should move forward, balancing the enthusiasm for increasing support for Arctic research with

an awareness that a strategic and well-coordinated approach is particularly important, given the high logistics costs in the Arctic and the many overlapping planning efforts among agencies and institutions. It was agreed that the Board's Arctic workgroup would meet later this fall to establish a possible course of action for the Board. The Board decided to add Cheryl Rosa to the workgroup (Michele Eder, John Gauvin, Dorothy Childers, Chris Oliver, Pam Pope, Ian Dutton, and Doug DeMaster). The workgroup will contact the NMFS Arctic team: Amy Holman, Doug Mecum, Bill Hines, Doug DeMaster, and Sue Moore, and will also contact Jackie Grebmeier concerning research plans in the DBO region in the next three years. The workgroup and staff will meet with the agencies shown in agenda item 7f and determine research budgets and potential for field studies in 2013-2014, aiming to scope out how NPRB should be involved.

The Board approved hiring new staff to help with Arctic planning and potential management if the Executive Director deemed this to be necessary.

#### 8. Other Matters

The Board considered and took actions as indicated on the following issues under Other Matters:

##### a. Education, outreach, and communications: status report

Nora Deans presented a status report. This was an informational item only but the Board expressed great enthusiasm and support for the efforts and activities undertaken.

##### b. Request for meeting support

The Board approved \$4,000 for the PICES zooplankton meeting in Pucon, Chile in March 2011; \$5,000 for the NPAFC salmon meeting in Nanaimo, British Columbia in October 2011 or April 2012; \$1,000 for the Alaska Bird Conference in Anchorage in November 2010; and \$10,000 for the Holarctic Marine Mammals meeting in Kaliningrad, Russia in October 2010.

##### c. Contribution of funding to AOOS data management

No action was taken on this item; the Board will reconsider it at the next meeting and would like staff to proceed slowly and see how this new group works out.

##### d. Science Panel memberships

Six members whose terms were to end on September 30, 2010, had their terms extended through January 31, 2011: Elizabeth Andrews, Dick Beamish, Seth Macinko, Andre Punt, Cheryl Rosa, and Doug Woodby. The Board will issue a call for nominations in October to fill expertise lost by the out-going members (Tester, Dagg, Gisiner, Piatt) with the caveat that the Board is reviewing the membership structure in light of the COV report due November 22, 2010.

##### e. Advisory Panel memberships

All current members run through the end of March 2011, but several (Gale Vick, Frank Kelty, Arni Thomson, Shirley Kelly, and Ron Hegge) cannot be reappointed for another term starting April 1, 2011, under current AP policy on term limits. The Board will call for nominations for Advisory Panel memberships this fall, but it was noted that final membership structure will be established following the COV report due in November. Attendance records of current members desiring reappointment will be reviewed by the Board during their decision-making process.

f. 2011 Graduate Student Research Awards

The Board decided to continue the stipulation that two of the five awards will be reserved for students pursuing quantitative stock assessment research.

g. Meeting Schedule

The Board reviewed its meeting schedule for 2011 and made the following decisions:

Spring 2011 Board meeting: April 28-29, 2011

Fall 2011 Board meeting: September 15-16, 2011

The Board decided to hold its fall meeting outside of Anchorage, perhaps in Barrow, and to use this away meeting to gather input for research priorities for recurring RFPs.

h. Alaska Marine Science Symposium

The 2011 Alaska Marine Science Symposium will be held in Anchorage, January 17-21, 2011. The special joint meeting of the COV, Board, SP, and AP will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011.

i. Alaska SeaLife Center Gala event

The Marine Gala will be held on January 16, 2011. A motion to approve \$1,000 for a research award at the Gala failed (excom 2-2, others 8-0, with Dutton recusing). All Board members were invited to attend the Gala.

The Board adjourned at 11:06 a.m. on Friday, September 24, 2010.