

**Meeting Summary**  
**North Pacific Research Board**  
**NPRB Conference Room**  
**Anchorage, Alaska**  
**March 2-3, 2009**

1. Call to Order/Approve Agenda and Meeting Summary

The Board convened at 10:20 a.m. on Monday, March 2, 2009. Present were David Benton (Chairman), Nancy Bird, Dorothy Childers, Douglas DeMaster, Ian Dutton, John Gauvin, John Hilsinger, Leslie Holland-Bartels, Howard Horton, John Iani, Steve Maclean, Paul MacGregor, Gerry Merrigan, Eric Olson (Vice Chairman), and Dennis Wiesenburg. Gary Matlock set in as an alternate for Doug Demaster starting at about 9:17 a.m., Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Clarence Pautzke, Francis Wiese, Carrie Eischens, Tom Van Pelt, Nora Deans, and Carolyn Rosner staffed the meeting. The agenda was approved and a safety briefing given. The Board approved the draft summary of the September 2008 Board meeting.

2. NPRB Subaward Compliance Policy

In November 2008, the NPRB Executive Committee approved an interim policy for addressing compliance issues in research funded under subawards. The interim policy was widely distributed in December, with the caveat that the Board would consider a final decision at their next meeting. In the meantime, comments were gathered on the interim policy from NOAA's Federal Law Assistance Division, the National Science Foundation, and grants managers from five major research institutions. Based on those comments and a close reading of Federal law that governs award agreements, a new subaward compliance policy was developed for the Board to review. It was more positive than the interim one and clearly spelled out the consequences for poor management. It also cited Federal law to ensure it conformed with Federal regulations and practices. The Board approved the policy unanimously. It will be appended to future requests for proposals and made part of new subaward agreements beginning in 2009.

3. Gulf of Alaska Integrated Ecosystem Research Program

The Board reviewed nine pre-proposals received in response to its request for upper trophic level (UTL) pre-proposals for the GOAIERP. The Board received recommendations from its Science Panel through its chairman, Douglas Woodby. Then through a series of motions and amendments, the Board decided to invite full proposals for the following five UTL pre-proposals:

**#1 Bailey et al:** Shifting controls on walleye pollock population dynamics in the Gulf of Alaska: predation and harvest interact with climate to structure the GOA ecosystem.

**#2 Myers et al:** Trends in abundance and survival of Pacific salmon and the potential impacts of climate change.

**#5 Foy et al:** Ecosystem stability and upper trophic level response to environmental control in the Gulf of Alaska.

**#6 Atkinson et al:** East-west community structure in the Gulf of Alaska: Interactions and factors affecting three commercial fish species and a top predator.

**#8 Moss et al:** Surviving the gauntlet: an integrated study of the pelagic and demersal linkages that determine groundfish recruitment in the Gulf of Alaska ecosystem.

In making that selection, the Board considered issues raised by the Science Panel regarding how many pre-proposals to invite for full proposals. The Board concluded that pre-proposals that presented topics of compelling interest to the Board, in light of its legislative mandate to address pressing fishery management issues and marine ecosystem information needs, should be invited so long as they have the potential to rise to the level of a significant integrated research program. The Board recognized that given the 5-page limit for the pre-proposals, the scientific approach may not be fully fleshed out or may have deficiencies identified by the Science Panel that need to be addressed subsequently in the full proposal. This pursuit of bright ideas needs to be balanced, however, with concern over not putting applicants through great effort if their topic ultimately has little chance of being funded. In addition, applicants should not be given false hopes at the UTL level, thus forestalling their opportunity to recombine on other more viable proposals. In the end, the Board decided that five pre-proposals should be invited for full proposals and that the Science Panel comments should be sent to the applicants to address in the full proposals.

The Board devoted considerable discussion to whether it should follow its originally-intended process of calling for full proposals for all components of the IERP at once. The disadvantage of doing so is that applicants to the lower levels will not know which UTL topic has the greatest likelihood of being funded and thus they will spend considerable time and energy writing separate proposals supporting one or more UTL focal areas. On the other hand, keeping several pre-proposals in the mix to the very end would give the Board flexibility to put together whatever optimal program it finally decided on without tying its hands early on. This would be particularly important if the successful UTL component for some reason, fiscal or otherwise, could not be coupled with a viable set of lower level proposals, and the Board then needed to choose another UTL focus to cap the program.

In the end, the Board decided it was better to engage in a two-step process and get past the decision of selecting the UTL component before asking the lower components to write their full proposals to fill in the vertically-integrated program. This will make it easier on them and likely result in better, more focused proposals to flesh out the scope and content of the IERP. If for some reason, fiscal resources need to be repositioned to any of the lower components to have a viable integrated study, then that will be negotiated with the UTL component.

An accelerated schedule will be needed and the Board chose to hold a special meeting on May 28-29, 2009 in Anchorage to select the UTL component. Then they would request full proposals for the other three components of the GOAIERP over the summer and make final decisions on the overall program at a special December 2009 meeting.

These decisions were made with unanimous consent of the members present (with Gary Matlock attending in place of Doug Demaster), with Howard Horton, Denis Wiesenburg, and Ian Dutton recusing themselves.

#### 4. Other Matters

The Board approved Dr. Robert Gisiner of the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission to a 2-year term on the Science Panel.

Ian Dutton, David Benton, and John Hilsinger volunteered to form an ad hoc committee to help with planning for a long term evaluation of the Board over the coming year.

The Board adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Tuesday, March 3, 2009.