

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."

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Science Panel and Affiliated Work Groups Policy and Procedures

1. Purpose and Need

The overall mission of the North Pacific Research Board is to develop a comprehensive science program of the highest caliber that will provide better understanding of the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean ecosystems and their fisheries, and help to sustain and enhance the living marine resources. The Board strongly supports extensive science planning, coordination, and review to enhance its high quality research program, taking into account regional needs. The program will strive to produce scientific knowledge that provides a reference point for understanding the marine ecosystem and impacts of human activities and natural variability on that system.

The Science Panel established by the Board will help shape its comprehensive research program and provide other scientific advice. The Panel's membership will be drawn from experts in fields of science most relevant to the Board's interests, such as oceanography, ecosystems dynamics, fish ecology, marine mammal and seabird biology, fisheries management, and socioeconomics. The Board will have access to all areas of knowledge necessary to the development of its research program through the combination of the expertise of the Panel and its supporting peer review process.

2. Objectives and Duties

As requested by the Board, through its Chairman or Executive Director, the Science Panel shall:

- a. Advise the Board on science planning and identification of research priorities;
- b. Help develop a science plan that includes a conceptual foundation, central hypotheses and questions for research;
- c. Advise the Board in identification, development, collection, and evaluation of statistical, biological, oceanographic, ecological, economic, social and other scientific information relevant to the Board's mission;
- d. Review proposals and technical evaluations received by the Board;
- e. Review reports and advise the Board on how to ensure the quality of reports and other products generated by funded research;
- f. Provide annual reviews of funded research to ensure stated goals and milestones of the research are on schedule; and
- g. Provide other scientific advice as requested by the Board.

The Panel also will interface with work groups and committees appointed by the Board to develop science plans and research priorities. Minutes shall be kept of each Science Panel meeting and shall be provided to the Board and the public.

3. Members and Officers

The Science Panel will have up to 14 members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Board, with the advice of the existing Panel, if applicable. They should include individuals with expertise in fields of science most relevant to the Board's interests, including but not limited to oceanography, ecosystems dynamics, fish ecology, marine mammal and seabird biology, fisheries management, and socioeconomics. They may be drawn from state/federal agencies, academia, or private organizations. They shall be selected for their expertise, broad perspective, long experience, and leadership in areas important to the Board's research program. They may have a direct interest in Board funding, but must adhere to recusal procedures prescribed by the Board. They shall be appointed for staggered 2-year terms and may be reappointed. Vacancies may be filled for the remaining unexpired term. The Science Panel Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected by the Panel from among its members for 1-year terms. Members may not designate alternates. The Panel shall attempt to operate by consensus, however, decisions will be made by majority vote in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order whenever necessary.

4. Administrative Provisions

The Panel shall meet as a whole, or in part, at the request of the Chairman of the Panel, with the approval of the Chairman of the Board, as often as necessary to fulfill the Panel's responsibilities, taking into consideration time and budget constraints. It is anticipated that the Panel will meet at least three to four times a year on the following occasions: (1) in late summer to develop recommended research priorities for the coming year, (2) in early winter to review research proposals received in response to the annual request for proposals, (3) in the spring to review research results and assist in science planning, and (4) at other times deemed necessary by the Chairman of the Board. The Executive Director shall provide such staff and other support as the Board considers necessary for Panel activities, within budgetary limitations. Panel members will be paid their actual travel expenses in performing their duties in accordance with applicable law and Board travel policy.

5. Science Panel Member Selection Process

The Executive Director shall issue a public call for nominations to serve on the Science Panel. It will identify the types of expertise and qualifications the Board is seeking in nominees. Any person (including oneself) or organization is free to make a nomination. A one to two page curriculum vitae and three letters of reference must be provided for each nominee. The letters of reference should come from people who have worked with the nominee on a range of relevant research activities. The list of nominees will be reviewed by a nominating committee of Board members which will develop a recommended list of nominations based on criteria set forth by the Board. The list of nominees, the committee's recommendations, and any related information shall be forwarded to the Board for consideration and approval. Additional nominations may be solicited by the Board at its discretion.

6. Affiliated Work Groups

The Board, or the Science Panel, subject to the approval of the Board, and subject to budget limitations, may establish work groups to provide guidance on research topics, testable hypotheses and other topics for consideration by the Board. Work groups shall identify implementation strategies and possible locations for measuring and monitoring variables that are relevant to the key questions and testable hypotheses. Work groups may help organize peer review on proposals and project reports and may recommend appropriate peer reviewers.

Initially, work groups may be organized along the lines of the seven primary categories of research priorities: marine ecosystem structure and processes, endangered and stressed species, fish habitat, fishery management and economics, bycatch, stock assessment and recruitment processes, and contaminants. Work group structure may evolve as a result of future science planning efforts, particularly as they relate to the Board's science planning process being assisted by the National Research Council.

Work groups may be composed of 5-8 individuals: scientists, resource managers, and/or experts selected primarily for disciplinary expertise and familiarity with the broad research priorities of the Board. Other criteria include institutional and professional affiliations in order to promote collaboration and cooperation. They may include principal investigators of Board projects. Work groups shall strive for consensus, and meetings will be run in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order. Subject to availability of funds, work group members shall be reimbursed for travel, meals, and lodging not covered by their respective agency/employer.

(Policy approved by Board on October 31, 2002)