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Northwest Power and Conservation Council

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August 6, 2018

TO: Council Members

FROM: Erik Merrill, ISRP and ISAB Manager, and Nancy Leonard, ISAB Ex Officio

SUBJECT: ISRP and ISAB Member Appointments and Renewals

PROPOSED ACTION: Council staff asks that the Council:

1. appoint Kurt Fausch to the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) for a first term of October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2021
2. renew Desiree Tullos' and Wayne Hubert's ISRP memberships for second terms through September 30, 2021
3. review and approve the attached letter to the region inviting nominations for potential ISAB and ISRP members to be considered by the National Academy of Sciences

Staff also asks that the Council discuss with Chairman Yost, in his capacity as the Council's representative on the Independent Scientific Advisory Board's (ISAB) Administrative Oversight Panel, term renewals for ISAB members Cynthia Jones, Tom Turner, and William Jaeger.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The eleven-member ISRP provides scientific review of Fish and Wildlife Program proposals and their results, improving program implementation and ensuring accountability. In developing these appointment and renewal recommendations, the experience and expertise of the scientists on the ISRP were considered with the goal to maintain a panel that fosters a multi-disciplinary approach and offers fresh perspectives, while preserving an institutional knowledge of independent scientific review and fish and wildlife management in the Columbia River Basin.

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The ISRP and ISAB operate on annual budgets, independent of the Council's budget, funded by the Bonneville Power Administration through the Fish and Wildlife Program. No additional funds are requested for this appointment and renewal decision.

BACKGROUND

The Appointment Process

The ISRP and ISAB appointments process follows three steps, of which the first two steps are complete and the third step is in process. First, in December 2013, the Council, NOAA Fisheries, and Columbia Basin Indian Tribes invited the region to nominate scientists to be considered for service on the ISAB and ISRP. Second, the National Academy of Sciences evaluated the list of nominees based on their scientific credentials and recommended a pool of 23 candidates for potential ISRP and ISAB appointment (see the [National Academy's October 28, 2014 memo](#)). These candidates augmented an existing pool of about 60 highly qualified ISAB and ISRP nominees who were evaluated by the National Academy in [2011](#), [2008](#) and [2005](#). Third, from the list of recommended candidates, the Council appoints ISRP members and the ISAB Administrative Oversight Panel appoints ISAB members.

The National Academy's list of candidates is intended to be robust enough to last through several appointment processes. However, because the last National Academy evaluation process was four years ago, the ISAB's Ex Officio members¹ – Zach Penny for CRITFC and the Columbia Basin Tribes, Mike Ford for NOAA Fisheries, and Nancy Leonard for the Council – believe that updating the list of ISAB and ISRP candidates to fill the next rounds of appointments would help ensure the most qualified members with contemporary knowledge of scientific innovations and literature are appointed. A draft letter to the region seeking nominations is attached for Council review and approval.

Member Qualifications

The ISAB and ISRP's governing documents call for membership to include expertise in anadromous and resident fish ecology, statistics, modeling, wildlife ecology, genetics, fisheries, fish passage/bioengineering, fish husbandry, marine ecology, geomorphology, and socio-economics. Pacific Northwest scientists with expertise in Columbia River anadromous fish and non-anadromous fish must be included. All the scientists recommended by the National Academy of Sciences meet the criteria of membership to the ISAB and ISRP. Specifically, they have demonstrated high achievement in a relevant discipline; a strong record of scientific accomplishment documented by contribution to peer-reviewed literature or other evidence of creative scientific

¹ Ex officio members are liaisons between their agencies and the ISAB, assist in the ISAB's operation and administration, help develop and support assignments, and provide scientific and policy context for reviews.

accomplishment; high standards of scientific integrity, independence, and objectivity; ability to forge creative solutions to complex problems; and interest in and ability to work effectively in an interdisciplinary setting. ISAB and ISRP members participate as independent scientists and are not selected to represent the views of any organization or interest group. In fact, the scientists' reputation of providing sound independent advice is an important factor considered in the screening process. In addition, all appointees must confirm their ability to commit sufficient time to effectively participate in review activities and to comply with the ISAB/ISRP conflict of interest standards for the duration of their appointment.

ISRP Appointment Recommendation

[Kurt Fausch](#), Ph.D., is a Professor Emeritus of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at Colorado State University. He is an expert in population ecology, and his research has focused on the ecology and management of streams and stream fishes, including the impacts of non-native fish. He completes his final ISAB term this year. He has been an influential and productive member of the ISAB since 2012 serving on the ISAB's executive committee, as a vice-chair, and as a lead section author on reviews of the 2009 and 2014 Fish and Wildlife Programs, NOAA's life-cycle model, the resident trout section of the Density Dependence Report, and habitat restoration strategies for Upper Columbia spring Chinook. With many long-term ISAB and ISRP members finishing their terms in 2018 and 2019, his appointment to the ISRP will ensure institutional continuity, and his expertise is especially needed for reviews of habitat restoration and resident fish management issues. He also has extensive experience in communicating scientific information to non-scientists, which is an important ISAB and ISRP function. His documentary film [RiverWebs](#) was broadcasted to over 100 million homes, and his book [For the Love of Rivers](#) shares his passion for rivers and ecology to a wide audience.

ISRP Renewals

[Desiree Tullos](#), Ph.D., PE, is a Professor at Oregon State University, Biological and Ecological Engineering Department. She has expertise in ecohydraulics, river engineering, and habitat restoration. She has broad experience modeling and researching the ecosystem impacts of dam operations, flood risk management, and dam removal case studies in the Pacific Northwest, China, and other areas. She has also researched the effectiveness of stream engineering, in particular large wood structures, a technique widely used by Fish and Wildlife Program projects. In her first ISRP term, she provided detailed and insightful reviews of habitat restoration, floodplain reconnection, and passage projects. She provides engineering and hydrological expertise to augment the biological and fisheries expertise represented on the ISRP.

[Wayne Hubert](#), Ph.D., is a fisheries consultant and Professor Emeritus at the University of Wyoming, Department of Zoology and Physiology. In 2010, he retired as Leader of the Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, where he worked since 1982. He served as President of the American Fisheries Society in 2010 and has been recognized for his career as a [constructive mentor](#). His recent work focused on salmonids in large mountain watersheds and regulated rivers, but his body of work has covered a wide spectrum of freshwater fishes and wildlife species. In his first ISRP term,

he effectively participated in the ISRP and ISAB's critical uncertainty report, wildlife program review, and reviews of predation management, sturgeon, and resident fish work.

ISAB Renewals Discussion

As noted above, Staff also asks that the Council discuss with Chairman Yost, in his capacity as the Council's representative on the Independent Scientific Advisory Board's (ISAB) Administrative Oversight Panel, term renewals for ISAB members Cynthia Jones, Thomas Turner, and William Jaeger.

[Cynthia Jones](#), Ph.D., is an Eminent Scholar and Professor of Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences; Director of the Center for Quantitative Fisheries Ecology; and A.D. and Annye L. Morgan Professor of Sciences at Old Dominion University, Virginia. She has extensive experience with marine and estuarine fisheries including harvest surveys, modeling, and research. Although much of her work has been on the East Coast, she has served on several Pacific salmon panels for the National Research Council. In her first ISAB term, she successfully provided expertise in quantitative fisheries ecology and modeling for reviews of life-cycle models, fish passage studies, and research plans.

[Thomas Turner](#), Ph.D., is a Professor of Biology and Associate Dean for Research at the University of New Mexico. He is also the curator of fishes at the University's Museum of Southwestern Biology. His research has focused on population genetics and the evolutionary ecology of fishes. He has led scientific review groups working on trout protection and recovery in Colorado and the Southwest. He is returning from a year in the nation's capital working for the National Science Foundation on population and community ecology issues. In his first ISAB term, he provided invaluable insights on life cycle models, artificial production strategies and uncertainties, the use of genetic information in monitoring efforts, and potential life history changes to species resulting from a highly altered ecosystem.

[William Jaeger](#), Ph.D., is a Professor of Agriculture and Resource Economics at Oregon State University. His research includes issues related to water and land use, energy, and modeling of coupled human-natural systems. This expertise is especially important as the region moves forward with a landscape approach that combines physical, biological, and socio-economic considerations when developing habitat restoration efforts. He has been a member of the Council's Independent Economic Analysis Board. In his first ISAB term, Dr. Jaeger was a lead author of ISAB report sections on public engagement and use of socio-economic and cost-effectiveness evaluations to prioritize habitat restoration and species recovery strategies.

Tables of ISRP and ISAB Members and Terms

ISRP Member	Affiliation	Expertise	Term
David Heller	Aquatic Habitat Management and Restoration Consultant, formerly with U.S. Forest Service, Oregon	Aquatic habitat management, restoration, and monitoring	2018, 2 nd
Scott Lutz	University of Wisconsin	Wildlife	2018, 2 nd
Carl Schwarz	Simon Fraser University, Canada	Statistics and actuarial science	2018, 2 nd
Greg Ruggerone	Natural Resource Consultants, Washington	Fisheries - ocean and freshwater salmon ecology	2019, 2 nd
Steve Schroder	Fisheries Consultant, formerly with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Fisheries - artificial production, freshwater and estuarine salmon ecology	2019, 2 nd
Chris Wood	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, BC	Fisheries - genetics and ecology of salmon	2019, 2 nd
Robert Naiman	University of Washington	River ecology	2019, 2 nd
Alec Maule	Formerly with United States Geological Survey	Fisheries - physiological ecology of salmonids (mainstem fish passage)	2020, 2 nd
Desiree Tullos	Oregon State University	Ecohydraulics, river engineering, and restoration	2018, 1 st [2021, 2 nd]
Wayne Hubert	Consultant, formerly with Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, University of Wyoming	Fisheries, ecology, and habitat	2018, 1 st [2021, 2 nd]
Stan Gregory	Oregon State University, emeritus	Fisheries, ecology, and habitat	2019, 1 st

ISAB Member	Affiliation	Expertise	Term
Kurt Fausch	Colorado State University	Fisheries - population and stream ecology	2018, 2 nd
Kate Myers	University of Washington (emeritus)	Fisheries - ocean and salmon ecology	2018, 2 nd
Laurel Saito	The Nature Conservancy, Nevada	Hydrology and ecosystem modeling	2018, 2 nd
Carl Schwarz	Simon Fraser University, Canada	Statistics and actuarial science	2019, 2 nd
Alec Maule	Formerly with United States Geological Survey	Fisheries - physiological ecology of salmonids (mainstem fish passage)	2019, 2 nd
Steve Schroder	Fisheries Consultant, formerly with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Fisheries - artificial production, freshwater and estuarine salmon ecology	2019, 2 nd
William Jaeger	Oregon State University	Economics and policy	2018, 1 st [2021, 2 nd]
Cynthia Jones	Old Dominion University	Biometrics, fisheries and population dynamics	2018, 1 st [2021, 2 nd]
Thomas Turner	University of New Mexico	Fisheries - genetics	2018, 1 st [2021, 2 nd]
Stan Gregory	Oregon State University, emeritus	Fisheries, ecology, and habitat	2019, 1 st
Peter Moyle	University of California, Davis, emeritus	Fisheries, ecology, and habitat	2019, 1 st

NORTHWEST POWER AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100, Portland, Oregon 97204

NOAA FISHERIES
2725 Montlake Blvd. E., Seattle, Washington 98112

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 1200, Portland, Oregon 97232

DRAFT August 6, 2018

Dear Interested Party,

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and NOAA Fisheries invite nominations to establish a pool of candidates who are qualified and interested in potential appointment to the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) and/or the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP).

The National Academy of Sciences will evaluate the credentials of the nominees, submit additional nominees if necessary, and recommend a pool of qualified candidates for potential appointment to the ISRP and ISAB. As vacancies arise on the ISAB or ISRP, new members will be selected from this pool. The Council makes final appointments to the ISRP. ISAB appointments are made by the ISAB Administrative Oversight Panel consisting of the Council chair, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's executive director (on behalf of all tribes in the Columbia Basin), and the science director of NOAA Fisheries' Northwest Fisheries Science Center (in consultation with the Northwest Regional Administrator).

The ISAB serves the Council, NOAA Fisheries, and Columbia River Indian Tribes by providing independent scientific advice and recommendations on issues related to regional fish and wildlife recovery programs under the Northwest Power Act and the Endangered Species Act. The ISAB is designed to foster a scientific approach to fish and wildlife recovery and ensure the use of sound scientific methods in the planning and implementation of research and recovery strategies related to these programs.

At the direction of Congress, the Council established the ISRP to review projects proposed for funding through the Bonneville Power Administration's annual fish and wildlife budget, including those in federal agency budgets that are reimbursed by BPA. The projects are reviewed for their scientific merit and consistency with the program. The ISRP analyzes the information gained from the review of projects and makes recommendations to the Council.

When making nominations, we ask that nominators provide contact information for the nominee. If possible, we greatly appreciate that nominators submit the resume of each nominee and a brief cover letter that describes how the nominee meets the criteria for membership specified below and confirms the candidate's interest in becoming a member of the ISAB or the ISRP.

The specific criteria each nominee must meet include:

- high achievement in a relevant discipline, which may include Columbia River anadromous and resident fish ecology, statistics, wildlife ecology, genetics, fisheries, fish passage/bioengineering, fish husbandry, marine ecology, geomorphology, socio-economics, or other appropriate disciplines;
- a strong record of scientific accomplishment documented by contribution to peer-reviewed literature or other evidence of creative scientific accomplishment;

- high standards of scientific integrity, independence, and objectivity;
- ability to forge creative solutions to complex problems;
- interest in and ability to work effectively in an interdisciplinary setting;
- ability to commit sufficient time to effectively participate in review activities, approximately 12 to 40 hours per month depending on assignments (members are compensated for their services and reimbursed for travel expenses);
- ability to comply with the ISAB/ISRP conflict of interest standards (attached) for the duration of their appointment.

All nominations must be received by October 19, 2018. Please submit your nominations preferably with cover letters and resumes via email to emerrill@nwcouncil.org, or mail to:

Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Attn: Erik Merrill
851 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204

If you have any questions please contact Erik Merrill, ISAB and ISRP program manager, at 503.222.5161 or toll free at 1.800.222.5161. For more information on the ISAB and ISRP including publications and a list of current members visit the Council's website at: www.nwcouncil.org.

Sincerely,

[draft - approval and signatures needed]

James Yost, Chair
Northwest Power and Conservation Council

Jaime Pinkham, Executive Director
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Kevin Werner, Science Director
Northwest Fisheries Science Center, NOAA Fisheries

ISAB and ISRP Guidelines on Conflict of Interest

For the ISAB to function effectively, it must maintain its status and credibility as a deliberative scientific board. Members must not only avoid activities that create a conflict of interest, but those activities that may represent a significant appearance of conflict of interest or otherwise impair the credibility or status of the board. Given the controversial nature of many of the questions/issues that the ISAB must deal with, questionable professional or personal activities could easily undermine the effectiveness of the individual members and ultimately the ISAB as a whole. The goal of establishing these conflict of interest guidelines is to maintain the integrity of ISAB opinions. As a general principle, the ISAB will follow the guidelines for bias and conflict of interest outlined in, “The National Research Council Policy on Disclosure of Personal Involvements and Other Matters Potentially Affecting Committee Service”(November 1992)(“the NRC Conflict of Interest Guidelines”).

“Bias” and “Conflict of Interest”

“Bias” relates to views stated or positions taken that are largely intellectually motivated or that arise from the close identification or association with a particular point of view or the positions or perspectives of a particular group. Such potential sources of bias are not necessarily disqualifying for purposes of ISAB service. Indeed, membership of the ISAB is intended to include individuals with a variety of interests, backgrounds and expertise. However, where bias impairs a member’s ability to view matters in a scientific manner and give fair consideration to new information it can jeopardize the member’s usefulness to the board.

“Conflict of interest” means any financial or other interest which conflicts with the service of the individual because it 1) impairs the individual’s objectivity or 2) could create an unfair competitive advantage for any person or organization.

Examples of Activities that Should Be Avoided

1) Members should avoid direct involvement in or public endorsement of projects or activities that will likely be subject to ISAB review such as those connected to the Fish and Wildlife Program of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and NOAA Fisheries’ Endangered Species Act recovery programs in the Columbia River Basin. Such an involvement would create a conflict of interest that would preclude participation of that member in the review of a project or activity and could lead to questions regarding the ability of the ISAB as a whole to objectively judge the merits of the subject research or to provide objective scientific advice.

2) Members should avoid financial relationships with organizations receiving substantial economic benefit from the programs and activities connected to the Fish and Wildlife Program of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and NOAA Fisheries’ Endangered Species Act recovery programs in the Columbia River Basin. Such a relationship could potentially create a conflict of interest, particularly if the ISAB is asked to review the scientific merits of a project being proposed or conducted by the employing organization. Even though a member may excuse him or herself from reviewing such projects, the mere association with such a member may unduly influence other members of the ISAB.

3) Members, as individuals, should avoid taking public positions on issues related to the Fish and Wildlife Program of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and NOAA Fisheries’ Endangered Species Act

recovery programs in the Columbia River Basin. Members should be especially conscientious in ensuring that their opinions as individuals are not perceived or construed to be those of the board or to result from board activities. Whenever possible, members should refer the public to NOAA Fisheries, the Council or the ISAB Chair. The Council and NOAA Fisheries, through the coordinators, should be kept informed of all outside contacts.

4) Members should avoid to the extent practicable identification as a major advocate for particular scientific, intellectual, or social causes that provide the appearance of undue bias relative to matters likely to come before the board.