

DRAFT AGENDA
First Organizational Meeting for the North Pacific Research Board

Hilton Hotel, Anchorage
Chart Room, 15th Floor
April 9 , 2001
0900-1700 hours

A. Introductions

1. Welcome by Dave Benton (Interim Chair)
2. Select Rapporteur
3. Opening Remarks Balsiger
4. Opening Remarks Rue
5. Opening Remarks Schrock

B. Board Membership Presentations

1. Individual NPRB members to discuss their vision, mission and goals for the NPRB.

C. Statutory Requirements

1. Review and Update of the NPRB Legislation Hines
2. Status of Funds .

D. Discussion of Institutional Structure of the NPRB

1. Mission and Goals
2. Administration, Staffing and Operations
3. Subsidiary Structures
4. Models
 - a. Presentation of EVOS Model McCammon
 - b. Presentation of University of Alaska North Pacific Marine Research Program.....V. Alexander
 - c. Presentation of Other Structures Hines

E. Discuss Next Steps

1. Process of Developing NPRB Administrative Structure
 - a. Appoint sub-committee to develop proposal.
2. Interim Administrative Process
 - a. Identify interim support staff.
 - b. Appoint sub-committee to address 2001 administrative issues.

F. Other Business

G. Adjourn

**Report of the First Organizational Meeting
of the
North Pacific Research Board
April 9, 2001
Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska**

Summary

The first organizational meeting of the North Pacific Research Board (the "Board") was held on April 9, 2001, at the Hilton Hotel, in Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting was attended by 12 representative or nominee Board members as the public members and the new fishing interests representative have not been appointed. About 30 other invited and public participants also attended. The main business of the meeting was to discuss organizational structures and operational roles for the Board. The main recommendations that came out of the meeting were: (1) appointed Dave Benton (chair of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council) to continue serving as interim chair of the Board; (2) appointed a facilitator (Bill Hines of NMFS) to organize the next meeting; (3) agreed to form a committee to review management of research planning and operations of the Board before the next meeting; (4) agreed that the next meeting (probably during the week of May 28 in Anchorage) shall be a 2-day event to (a) address the mission, vision, goals, and direction of the Board in a facilitated discussion, and (b) discuss the committee's findings on management of research planning and operations; (5) appointed a workgroup to compile research plans on the North Pacific environment and resources by agencies and other entities; (6) requested that NMFS review the legality of transferring funds to the Board and whether such funds can be vested into interest bearing accounts; and (7) agreed that the Executive Board of 5 members would be consulted to commit small interim expenses.

Proceedings of the First Organization Meeting

Agenda

The essential items were: introductions and Board member presentations; description of the legislation that creates the NPRB, presentations of example institutional structures for the Board; follow-up discussions of potential institutional structures; and the next steps for the Board to develop interim administrative processes and appointment of sub-committees/individuals to scope out issues (See Attachment A).

Attendance

Twelve nominee members or their representatives out of the 20 permanent Board members attended. Invited speakers and members of the public also participated. Attachment B is the attendance list.

Opening Session, Introductions and Board member Presentations

Opening comments were made by the interim chair, Dave Benton and the other 11 representative/nominee members of the Board. Benton spoke of the importance of the Board to organize itself to serve Alaska and bring a long term focus on marine ecosystem issues in the North Pacific. He commented that the issue of the day is to discuss the following agenda items: the vision for the Board, where the Board wishes to proceed, and how to structure the process to bring about a long term focus to the mission of the Board.

The rest of the representatives/nominees to the Board introduced themselves, briefly described their organizations and their missions and how they look forward to serving and interacting with the missions of the Board. All of them expressed that the new legislation that created this Board will offer a tremendous new opportunity to foster research to answer and understand the dynamics of the North Pacific marine ecosystem and use of the resources. Many spoke of the many other organizations that currently conduct research and manage use of the resources in the region, but all agree that none is like the Board that will focus its mission to fostering interaction and cooperation with all these entities to work towards common goals for the North Pacific marine ecosystems.

Legislation – The Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund

Bill Hines (from NMFS Regional Office) reviewed the legislation that created the Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund (the "Fund") and the Board. The presentation also discussed recent changes to the implementing legislation to include: (1) each year, 20% of the interest earned by the fund in the previous fiscal year shall be made available without further appropriation to the Secretary of Commerce to carry out marine research activities in the North Pacific, (2) removal of a sunset clause for use of the funds, (3) a representative of fishing interests was added to the Board, thus, increasing membership to 20 representatives, and (4) all decisions of the Board, including grant recommendations, shall be by majority vote of five members: Secretary of Commerce or designee, Alaska Commissioner of Fish and Game, Chairman of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Director of the Alaska Sealife Center, and the fishing interests representative.

The anticipated amount of funding from the Fund that was made available in FY01 was approximately \$2.1 million. Projected funds available for FY02 is estimated to be about \$10.4 million.

Key Questions: Two questions were posed : (1) Can the Board take the 20% interest from the Secretary of the Treasury and reinvest the funds in interest bearing accounts?, and (2) how will the funds that is available this fiscal year be transferred under control of the Board?. The NMFS Regional Director, Jim Balsiger, has been tasked to get the NOAA Counsel to answer these and related questions.

Presentations of Model Organizational Structures

Two presentations were made. The first was by Molly McCammon on the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Trustee Council, and the second by Dr. Vera Alexander on the University of Alaska North Pacific Research Program.

These presentations were scheduled in the agenda to help the Board discuss the following question posed by Chairman Benton: What type of organization should the operations of the Board be? Should it be a (1) Granting Agency, or (2) Research Entity with Operations?

Exxon Valdez Trustee Council Model

Molly McCammon, Executive Director of the Exxon Valdez Trustee Council (EVOS) presented the organizational framework of the Trustee Council. The EVOS Model is clearly a Research Entity with Operations even though its research is carried out through grants. Key features include:

1. Specific mission, vision, goals and a transparent process.
2. The administrative structure operates as an independent non-profit with a permanent staff. It is largely affiliated with the State of Alaska and integrates with other state and federal agencies through MOUs.
3. The staffing structure includes an Executive Director and a Chief Scientist, among others.
4. The scientific activities of the EVOS Trustee Council are carried out via contracts with outside experts through a rigorous granting and review process.
5. Peer review of the research proposals is accomplished by a Core Review Group (Chief scientist and 5 paid reviewers). This Core Group reviews proposals, resulting reports, and encourages formal publications of manuscripts.
6. The "Grant Cycle" is an adaptive management process with 4 modes: (a) an annual workshop to solicit ideas and projects, (b) distribution of draft work plans, (c) approval of the work plan and funding, and (d) synthesis and review of the findings.
7. The public is engaged in the process by the creation of the Public Advisory Group (PAG). The PAG consists of 17 voting members and 2 non-voting members with strong community involvement. There is an extensive public notification process of the issues and the meetings.
8. There is a strong "Accountability" process for (a) review of proposals and communications with the proposers; (b) quarterly project and financial status reports, annual and final project reports and the annual program status reports are required to be submitted; and (c) clear financial procedures and policies with annual external audits are established.
9. Molly emphasized the following lessons learned from the Trustee Council: (a) the preference for an integrated research entity with strong missions, goals and operational procedures as opposed to a simple granting agency, (b) a strong requirement for accountability, and (c) a strong public participation process.

After the presentation, the questions were directed to determine administrative cost as a percentage of total funding of the EVOS program. A total of \$1.5 - \$2.0 million would be spent on administration of \$7.0 million EVOS program this year. A general breakdown is staff and travel (\$600,000), peer review (\$300,000), and the rest are generally spent on advisory functions Molly indicated that she would like to lower the administrative cost to \$1.0 million.

University of Alaska North Pacific Marine Research Program

Dr. Vera Alexander made a slide presentation about have a Fall 1999 legislation that provided \$6.6 million to the University of Alaska to fund North Pacific marine ecosystem research was handled. Key features include:

1. Formation of a Steering Committee with representatives from the University of Alaska , NMFS, the U.S. Department of Interior, and ADF&G.
2. A meeting of scientific experts and researchers on marine ecosystems, oceanography, and living marine resources was convened to establish criteria and priorities for marine ecosystem research. The experts agreed to use an interagency "Draft Bering Sea Ecosystem Research Plan" developed by NMFS, ADF&G, and the USDO I to develop Request for Proposals (RFPs). This Draft can be found at the website (<http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/bering/pages/inter-agency/>)
3. A Request for Proposal (RFP) process was developed and issued.
4. Two review panels were formed to review the proposals that were sent to researchers from within and outside the University of Alaska system. The first was a Science Review Panel of 10 members chosen for their expertise representing diverse scientific disciplines. The second was a Traditional Knowledge Panel of 6 experts.
Each proposal received was reviewed by 3 volunteer experts. This is different from the "paid" review system used by EVOS Trustee Council.
5. The recommendations of the Panels were forwarded to the Steering Committee. The programs that were funded include physical oceanography, marine mammals, seabirds, biological oceanography, fisheries oceanography, data communications, and traditional knowledge.
6. The funding of \$6.6 million is broken down generally as follows: \$4.8 million to research, \$1.3 million to ship time and field logistics, and about (\$175,000 or 7%) was spent on "administration". Vera indicated that the administrative cost is not accurate and artificially low because much of the administrative cost was absorbed by existing administrative structures within the University of Alaska. The University already has a staff that handles \$18 million of research each year.
7. The projects that were funded are in their second year of their funding cycle.

Public Comments

After the presentations, the public was invited to provide comments. The following individuals spoke:

Arliss Sturgelewski – She stressed that the public process is very important. The Board must make science real to the people. It must include traditional knowledge. The structure of the Board must be non-duplicative. Coordination is the operative word.

Jude Henzler, Executive Director of the Bering Sea Association – He commented that coordination is important. He pitched the need to understand salmon dynamics and their abundance fluctuations and the need to study “ocean conditions” that regulate them. He wanted the Board to take charge of research coordination and not depend on any “foreign” cooperation.

Shannon Atkinson, Science Director for the Alaska Sea Life Center – She wanted the Board to focus on interdisciplinary science and integrity of the science, She strongly supported Molly McCammon’s pitch for “independence” of the Board.

John Calder, NOAA Arctic Researcher – He introduced the Board to a new research program on the changes occurring in the Arctic and their potential impacts on the Earth. This is the “SEARCH” program, a Study of Environmental Arctic Change” (see <http://psc.apl.washington.edu/search/>). He suggested that the Board will need to develop its objectives, vision, missions, and goals early in its process.

Board Discussions

Chairman Benton returned to the fundamental question – Should the Board be (1) a Granting Agency, or (2) a Research Entity with Operations? Discussions and opinions were diverse. The major themes were:

1. The Board should be pro-active in research rather than a granting agency.
2. The Board must serve in a coordinating role for research.
3. Interim support facilities and staff need to be identified.
4. Interim use of funds should be approved by the Executive Board of 5 members.
5. The Board need to work on its organizational structure and operational procedures
6. There should be long term and short term research plans and projects.
7. More emphasis needs to go into “planning”.
8. What are the visions, missions, and goals of the Board?
9. What are data and research gaps and what are priority issues?
10. In general, the discussions can be summarized to have the Board look into the following 3 tasks:(a) an administrative structure for the Board, (b) a research planning process, and (C) a public involvement process.

Recommendations

1. The Board agreed that the next meeting of the Board shall be a 2-day meeting, to be held in Anchorage prior to or after the June meeting of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (that will be holding its meeting in Kodiak). The chair was asked to look into the possibility of holding the Board meeting for 2 days during the week of May 29-June 1 in Anchorage.
2. The Board agreed that the next meeting of the Board shall address the following two main issues: a facilitated discussion to describe the vision, mission, goals, and direction of the Board; and (b) a Sub-committee to make recommendations on how to manage the research planning and operations of the Board. The membership of this Sub-committee must include one member from the 5-member Executive Central Committee and any other Board members who would submit their names to Bill Hines. Bill Hines shall serve as facilitator for the meeting of the Sub-committee.
3. The Board also tasked Phil Mundy to form a small Workgroup to collate research plans of other marine research initiatives in waters off Alaska.
4. The Board agreed that interim small expenditures shall be authorized by the 5-member Executive Board.
5. The Board tasked the NMFS Regional Director, Jim Balsiger, to inquire with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration General Counsel of options regarding the money provided to the Board by the Secretary. Namely, (1) Can the Board take the 20% interest from the Secretary of the Treasury and reinvest the funds in interest bearing accounts?, and (2) how to transfer the funds (\$2.1 million) that is available this fiscal year to the control of the Board as soon as possible
6. The Board agreed to keep Dave Benton as the Interim Chair of the Board.

Attachment A

DRAFT AGENDA

First Organizational Meeting for the North Pacific Research Board

Hilton Hotel, Anchorage

Chart Room, 15th Floor

April 9, 2001

0900-1700 hours

1. Introductions

1. Welcome by Dave Benton (Interim Chair)
2. Select Rapporteur
3. Opening Remarks Balsiger
4. Opening Remarks Rue
5. Opening Remarks Schrock

2. Board Membership Presentations

1. Individual NPRB members to discuss their vision, mission and goals for the NPRB.

3. Statutory Requirements

1. Review and Update of the NPRB Legislation Hines
2. Status of Funds

4. Discussion of Institutional Structure of the NPRB

1. Mission and Goals
2. Administration, Staffing and Operations
3. Subsidiary Structures
4. Models
 1. Presentation of EVOS Model McCammon
 2. Presentation of University of Alaska North Pacific Marine Research Program.....V. Alexander
 3. Presentation of Other Structures Hines

5. Discuss Next Steps

1. Process of Developing NPRB Administrative Structure
 1. Appoint sub-committee to develop proposal.
2. Interim Administrative Process
 1. Identify interim support staff.
 2. Appoint sub-committee to address 2001 administrative issues.

6. Other Business

7. Adjourn

Attachment B

List of Participants First Organizational Meeting of the North Pacific Research Board April 9, 2001 Anchorage, Alaska

Representatives and Nominees to the Board

Dave Benton, Chairman
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
(907) 586-4674
586-4675 fax

Frank Rue, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802
(907) 465-4100
465-2332 fax
Frank_Rue@fishgame.state.ak.us

Tylan Schrock, Director
Alaska SeaLife Center
301 Railway Avenue
Seward, AK 99664
(907) 224-6349
224-6360 fax
tylan_schrock@alaskasealife.org

Bill Seitz
U.S. Geological Survey
Department of the Interior
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 786-3385
786-3636 fax
william_seitz@usgs.gov

Gary Tomas
Prince William Sound Science Center
P.O. Box 705
Cordova, AK 99574
(907) 424-5800
424-5820 fax
loon@pwssc.gen.ak.us



Walter Parker
U.S. Arctic Research Commission
3724 Campbell Airstrip Road
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 333-5189
333-5153 fax
wbparker@gci.net

Trevor McCabe
At-Sea Processors Association
431 West 7th, #103
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 276-8252
276-8282 fax
tmccabe@atsea.org

Stetson Tinkham
U.S. Department of State
OES/OMC
Washington, D.C. 20520-6810
(202) 647-3941
736-7350 fax
tinkhamsx@state.gov

Jim Balsiger, Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99802-1668
(907) 586-7221
586-7249 fax
jim.balsiger@noaa.gov

Jev Shelton
1670 Evergreen Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-2242
526-2247 fax
jev@ptialaska.net

Captain Vince O'Shea
17th District U.S. Coast Guard
P.O. Box 25517
Juneau, AK 99802
(907) 586-2226
586-2216 fax
JO'Shea@cgalaska.uscg.mil



Dr. Phil Mundy, Science Coordinator
EVOS Trustee Council
645 G Street, #401
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 278-8012
276-7178 fax
phil_mundy@oilspill.state.ak.us

Other Participants

Jude Henzler
Bering Sea Fishermen's Association
725 Christensen Drive
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 279-6519
258-6688 fax
bsfz@alaska.net

John Calder
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Building:SSMC3
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282
(301) 713-2518
713-1967 fax
John.Calder@noaa.gov

Doug Mutter
U.S. Department of the Interior
1689 C Street, Room. 119
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-5011
271-4102 fax
douglas.mutter@ios.doi.gov

Stephen Fried
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 786-3824
786-3898 fax
Stephen_Fried@fws.gov

Bill Hines
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 21668
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-7224
586-7249 fax
william.hines@noaa.gov

Vera Alexander
Dean/Professor, Fisheries & Ocean Sciences
University of Fairbanks
Fairbanks, AK 99775
(907) 474-6824
474-7386 fax
vera@ims.uaf.edu

Don Calkins
Alaska SeaLife Center
P.O. Box 1329
Seward, AK 99664
(800) 224-2525
(907) 224-6360
don_calkins@alaskasealife.org

Loh-Lee Low
National Marine Fisheries Services
Alaska Fisheries Science Center
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Building 4
Seattle, WA 98115-6349
(206) 526-4190
526-6723 fax
loh-lee.low@noaa.gov

Molly McCammon
EVOS Trustee Council
645 G Street, #401
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 278-8012
276-7178 fax
molly_mccammon@oilspill.state.ak.us

Ron McCoy
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
1689 C Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-5485
271-4102 fax
ron_mccoy@doi.gov

Tom Gemmell
United Fishermen of Alaska
211 4th Street, Suite 112
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-2820
463-2545 fax
ufa1@ufa-fish.org

Shannon Atkinson
Alaska SeaLife Center
P.O. Box 1329
Seward, AK 99664
(800) 224-2525
(907) 224-6360
shannon_atkinson@alaskasealife.org

Stosh Anderson
Box 310
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-3673
486-4938 fax
stosh_2@hotmail.com

Heather McCarty
At-Sea Processors Association
379 Seward, #3
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-4260
86-4261 fax
rising@ptialaska.net

Marilyn Heiman
550 West 7th, Suite 1100
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-7450
269-7461 fax
marilyn_heiman@gov.state.ak.us

Judy Gottlieb
National Park Service
2525 Gambell Street
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 265-2520
257-2533 fax
judy_gottlieb@nps.gov

Chris Oliver, Acting Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
(907) 271-2809
271-2817 fax
Chris.Oliver@noaa.gov

Jay Stinson
Pelagic Resource
(907) 486-6933
486-6943 fax
pelagic@ptialaska.net

Will Barber
1200 I Street, #313
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 277-0929
bbarber99@yahoo.com