

# 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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## **North Pacific Research Board Teleconference Meeting Summary March 1, 2002**

### **1. Introduction**

The Board teleconference convened at 9 a.m. and adjourned at approximately noon, on March 1, 2002. Interim Chairman David Benton presided until about 11 a.m., and then Dr. Jim Balsiger served as chairman for the rest of the meeting.

All NPRB members were present except for Steve Ramberg and Stetson Tinkham. Additional attendees included Pete Jones (NMFS), Bob Hicks (ASLC), Dave Johnson (NOS), and Molly McCammon (EVOS). The meeting was staffed by Clarence Pautzke and Paula Banks.

### **2. Overview of Available Funding**

Funding for the Board administration and research was described. The Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund (EIRF) will provide about \$1,995,000 for research in 2002 and about \$9,500,000 for research in 2003. The North Pacific Marine Research Institute (NPMRI) will provide about \$1,800,000 for research, demonstration, and education projects for 2002. There is about \$784,000 available for administration for the 21 months of January 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003.

### **3. Recommendations for NPMRI Funds**

The NPRB Executive Committee (Committee) had recommended that the NPMRI funding of \$1,800,000 for research, education and demonstration projects be allocated as follows: \$1,000,000 for research, \$500,000 for demonstration projects, and \$300,000 for education projects. The Board approved this basic allocation of funds.

Concerning the \$1,000,000 for research, the Board then considered the committee's recommendations to fund five North Pacific Marine Research Program projects needing an additional year of funding totaling \$571,630. The Board decided to set aside that amount for those projects, but to review the details of the projects at the coming March 21-22, 2002, meeting before making a final decision on project funding. If the Board chooses not to fund all projects, or to fund at reduced levels, then the remainder of the \$571,630 may be added to the \$428,370 of NPMRI research funds that will be made available to the Request for Proposals for 2002.

The Board then briefly discussed the education and demonstration projects proposed by the Alaska SeaLife Center. The Board recommended postponing deliberation on the specific proposals until March 21-22, and will send individual comments to the ASLC by email before then. An issue that will need to be addressed is the duration of support that the Board is expected to give to the demonstration and education projects.

#### **4. Recommendations for EIRF Funds**

The Board reviewed five potential science planning and coordination projects suggested by the Committee, totaling \$1,136,500. They include a searchable GIS research database, National Academy of Sciences review of research needs, a science planning component, support for a State of Alaska oceans and watersheds symposium in June 2002, and membership in the Consortium for Ocean Research and Education. The Board approved the basic allocation of \$1,136,500 to the projects, and the remaining \$858,500 of EIRF funds to the RFP for 2002, but will thoroughly review and discuss the individual projects on March 21-22 before final approval. At that meeting, the Board will discuss not only the specific projects, but which types of projects should be characterized as research or administration.

#### **5. Request for Proposals for 2002 Research**

The Board reviewed a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for research in 2002, and decided to release approximately \$1.5 million for the RFP. Several changes to the RFP, particularly concerning priorities for research, were offered and will be incorporated in the RFP. The Board will review the redrafted RFP by March 5. It will be released by March 8. Projects may last up to three years, and no limit will be placed on any single proposal, except as limited by available funds. The Board also intends that there be individual technical reviews of proposals, in addition to a secondary review by a panel of experts, before the Board evaluates the proposals at a meeting tentatively planned for May 8-9, 2002. It is the intention of the Board to have the review and approval process completed in time for research to be able to commence June 1, 2002.

#### **6. EIRF Grant Request for 2002-2003**

The Board reviewed a draft grant request for 2002-2003, and approved it for submission once it is revised to incorporate revisions to the RFP for 2002, made at this meeting.

#### **7. Science and Research Planning for 2003**

The Board briefly reviewed a tentative planning schedule for the remainder of this year. Further discussion will be scheduled for the March 21-22, 2002 meeting. At that meeting, the Board also will discuss how all members of the Board may be meaningfully involved in the decision processes of the Board.

The Board is scheduled to meet next in Anchorage, Alaska, beginning at 8 a.m., Thursday, March 21, and ending at noon, Friday, March 22, 2002. The next meeting after that is tentatively scheduled for May 8-9, 2002.