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December 6, 2004

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

From: Erik Merrill, ISRP and ISAB Coordinator, and Steve Waste, ISAB Ex Officio

Subject: Term Renewals for Dr. William Liss on ISRP and Drs. Susan Hanna and Robert Bilby on ISAB

Proposed Action

Council staff asks that the Council approve the second terms of Drs. Susan Hanna and Robert Bilby for the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) and Dr. William Liss for the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) through September 30, 2007.

Background

ISAB member appointments and term renewals are decided by the Council chair, the science director of NOAA-Fisheries Northwest Fisheries Science Center (in consultation with the NOAA Fisheries regional administrator), and a representative of the Columbia River Indian Tribes (at this time the executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission). The Council alone makes ISRP membership decisions. ISAB and ISRP members are eligible for two three-year terms with adjustments for continuity. Drs. Hanna and Bilby were appointed to their first ISAB terms in October 2001, and Dr. Liss was appointed to the ISRP in June 2001. They have been active, effective, and extremely valuable members.

Dr. Hanna is a professor of agriculture and resource economics at Oregon State University and has extensive experience with Northwest and international fisheries. She is the only ISAB member to also serve on the ISRP and the Independent Economic Advisory Board, which is testament to her ability to provide thoughtful review of biological and economic issues to inform policy decisions.

Dr. Bilby is an ecologist at Weyerhaeuser Company and an expert in riparian ecology. He has been lead and section author for several ISAB reports and provides valuable advice on the role of habitat in recovery and the methods used to measure the contribution of recovery actions.

Dr. Liss is a professor of fisheries at Oregon State University and has been a member of Columbia River Basin independent science groups since 1989. His advice has been instrumental in focusing fish and wildlife management and planning on biological diversity and ecological principles.

Renewing their terms is especially important to provide continuity and preserve institutional history on the ISAB and ISRP because eight of the eleven ISAB membership positions and nine of the eleven ISRP positions are slated for new members in 2005 and 2006. The ISAB/ISRP ex officios and coordinators are currently working on developing a list of potential nominees for new members to the ISAB and ISRP that will be vetted by the National Research Council selection panel to create a recommended pool of candidates. The Council, CRITFC, and NOAA Fisheries will then draw from this pool to make final ISAB appointments, and the Council to make ISRP appointments. Appointment of new members is scheduled to begin in May 2005.