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September 8, 2021

### **DECISION MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Erik Merrill, Independent Science Manager

**SUBJECT:** ISRP Appointments Decision

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Council staff asks that the Council:

- appoint Tom Turner to the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) for a first term from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024
- renew Kurt Fausch's ISRP appointment for a second term through September 30, 2024

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

The eleven-member ISRP and its Peer Review Groups provide scientific review of Fish and Wildlife Program proposals and their results, improving program implementation and ensuring accountability. In developing these appointments, 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 scientific review and fish and wildlife management in the Columbia River Basin (see table of ISRP members and terms below).

## **BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

The ISRP operates on an annual budget of \$500,000, 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 decision.

## **BACKGROUND**

ISRP members are eligible to serve two consecutive three-year terms with adjustments in term duration to ensure continuity. Turner and Fausch have been evaluated and recommended by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine for their scientific credentials (see the National Academies' [2014](#) and [2011](#) memos). They meet the required scientific qualifications for Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) and ISRP membership and do not have any conflicts of interest that would jeopardize the ISRP's independence. They have expertise needed to ensure the ISRP is an effective multi-disciplinary group that addresses the Fish and Wildlife Program's many scientific issues informing mitigation, restoration, recovery, and research. They have both completed full-term service on the ISAB, providing valuable scientific advice and gaining important experience.

All qualified ISRP and ISAB members are appointed without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, gender identify (including gender expression), sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, genetic information, or military or veteran status.

### ***Appointment Recommendation***

[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 also worked for the National Science Foundation on population and community ecology issues. During his service on the ISAB, he has led reviews and provided insights on predation management evaluation, life cycle models, artificial production strategies, and the use of genetic information in monitoring efforts. His expertise and experience will be especially valuable in ISRP reviews of artificial production programs for anadromous and resident species, population ecology and genetics monitoring, and predator suppression projects.

[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 has been an influential and productive member of the ISAB and ISRP, 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, and habitat restoration strategies for Upper Columbia spring Chinook. On the ISRP, he has been a prolific and constructive reviewer of projects

during the Category Reviews. His ISRP appointment renewal 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.

The appointment of Turner would fill the ISRP member position opening when Desiree Tullos completes her second term on September 30, 2021. Deliberations are underway to fill Turner's and two other members' positions opening on the Independent Scientific Advisory Board. Council staff plans to discuss those appointments with the Council in the next few months.

**Table. ISRP Members and Terms**

<b>ISRP Member</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Expertise</b>	<b>Term</b>
<i>Desiree Tullos</i>	<i>Oregon State University</i>	<i>Ecohydraulics, river engineering, and restoration</i>	<i>2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> Complete</i>
Stan Gregory	Oregon State University, emeritus	Fisheries, ecology, and habitat	2023, 2 <sup>nd</sup>
<i>Kurt Fausch</i>	<i>Colorado State University, emeritus</i>	<i>Fisheries - population and stream ecology</i>	<i>2021, 1<sup>st</sup> Renewal</i>
Thomas Quinn	University of Washington	Fisheries - salmonid ecology, behavior, and artificial propagation	2022, 1 <sup>st</sup>
Richard Carmichael	Consultant, formerly with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Fisheries, management, research, and recovery science	2022, 1 <sup>st</sup>
Kurt Fresh	Consultant, formerly with National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington	Fisheries, ocean, and salmonid ecology	2022, 1 <sup>st</sup>
Josh Korman	Ecometric Research, Consultant, Vancouver, Canada	Biometrics and modeling	2022, 1 <sup>st</sup>
Patrick Connolly	Consultant, formerly with United States Geological Survey, Washington	Fisheries, ecology, and habitat	2022, 1 <sup>st</sup>
Alisa Wade	United States Geological Survey's North Central Climate Adaptation Science Center, Montana	Conservation science, planning, and spatial modeling	2023, 1 <sup>st</sup>
Dana Infante	Michigan State University	River and landscape ecology and modeling	2023, 1 <sup>st</sup>
Kenneth Rose	University of Maryland	Biometrics and modeling	2023, 1 <sup>st</sup>