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**TO:** Jennifer Anders, Chair, Northwest Power and Conservation Council  
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**FROM:** Gregory Symmes, Executive Director, Division on Earth and Life Studies 

**DATE:** February 1, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Evaluation of Nominees to the ISAB and ISRP 2019

At the request of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC), the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) is pleased to suggest nominees for potential appointment to the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) and Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP).

To help evaluate nominees, Dr. David Policansky, Scholar in the Division on Earth and Life Studies, sought the advice of independent experts Dr. Nancy Huntly, Dr. Pete Bisson, and Dr. Susan Hanna, former ISAB and ISRP members. The NASEM is submitting a list of 33 scientists from which ISAB and ISRP members can usefully be appointed. These suggested nominees should augment the list of nominees recommended in [2014](#), [2011](#), [2008](#) and [2005](#)<sup>1</sup> from which ISAB and ISRP members were appointed and many well-qualified nominees remain for future appointment consideration.

The NASEM understands that the NPCC appoints ISRP members, while the NPCC, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Columbia River Indian Tribes appoint ISAB members. Rather than submit nominees for the ISRP and ISAB in separate memos, we continue to judge that the selection process for ISAB and ISRP members should be closely coordinated to help maintain the strong collaborative

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<sup>1</sup> The previous NAS letters can be found at [www.nwcouncil.org/fish-and-wildlife/independent-review-groups/independent-scientific-review-panel-isrp/isrp-members](http://www.nwcouncil.org/fish-and-wildlife/independent-review-groups/independent-scientific-review-panel-isrp/isrp-members).

relationship the ISAB and ISRP have formed over the past two decades. For this reason, we have provided a single list of scientists, indicating their qualifications for both advisory groups.

The ISAB and ISRP governing documents call for membership to include expertise in the following areas: anadromous and resident fish ecology, statistics, modeling, wildlife ecology, genetics, fisheries, fish passage/bioengineering, fish husbandry, ocean and estuary ecology, geomorphology, and socio-economics. Pacific Northwest scientists with expertise in Columbia River anadromous fish and non-anadromous fish must be included. Previous NASEM selections emphasized the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach, and, in fact, the ISAB and ISRP’s multi-disciplinary composition has been critical to the groups’ ability to successfully cover the wide spectrum of scientific issues, programs, and proposals assigned to the groups for review. The NASEM continues to stress the importance of the social sciences, ethnic and gender diversity in membership; the importance of large system drivers such as climate change; and sharing expertise with other broad-scale ecosystem recovery efforts, such as those for the Everglades, Great Lakes, and the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. For example, the current list of nominees includes a strong set of scientists with Great Lakes fisheries experience.

The recommended list is provided in the table below organized alphabetically. The evaluations were based on biographical and bibliographic information concerning all the persons who were nominated. Overall, the nominees submitted for consideration were highly qualified. When coupled with the 2014, 2011, 2008, and 2005 lists, the areas of expertise required on the groups should be adequately covered for the next several rounds of appointments. All recommended candidates are suitable for service as Scientific Peer Review Group members to the ISRP, selected on an ad hoc basis for specific reviews. We note that several of the nominees have current or potential conflicts of interest that would need to be evaluated by the organizations responsible for appointing members to the advisory groups in the member selection process.

The NASEM is pleased to have been of service in this matter.

**Table of Recommended ISAB and ISRP Candidates**

| Nominee            | Affiliation   | Expertise  | ISAB | ISRP |
|--------------------|---|--|------|------|
| Courtney Carothers | University of Alaska, Fairbanks                         | Environmental anthropologist, marine and fisheries systems | x    | x    |
| David Close        | Big River Scientific LLC, Pendleton, Oregon, consultant | Fisheries, lamprey and genetics                            |      | x    |
| Thomas Cooney      | National Marine Fisheries Service, retired, Washington  | Fisheries, ecology and recovery science                    | x    | x    |
| Nancy Davis        | Washington Department of Ecology                        | Fisheries, ocean and salmonid ecology                      |      | x    |
| Michael Deas       | Watercourse Engineering, Inc., Davis, CA, consultant    | Hydrology and ecosystem modeling                           | x    | x    |

| Nominee            | Affiliation  | Expertise  | ISAB | ISRP |
|--------------------|--|--|------|------|
| John Dettmers      | Great Lakes Fish Commission,<br>Ann Arbor, Michigan      | Fisheries, predation and non-natives                       | x    | x    |
| Daniel Edge        | Oregon State University                                  | Wildlife ecology   | x    | x    |
| Kurt Fresh         | National Marine Fisheries Service, retired, Washington   | Fisheries, ocean and salmonid ecology                      | x    | x    |
| Robert Garrott     | Montana State University                                 | Wildlife ecology   | x    | x    |
| Charles Hawkins    | Utah State University                                    | Fisheries, ecology and habitat                             | x    | x    |
| Mark Hudy          | United States Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia        | Fisheries, ecology and habitat                             | x    | x    |
| Dana Infante       | Michigan State University                                | Ecosystem modeling, decision support                       | x    | x    |
| James Irvine       | Department of Fisheries and Ocean, Canada, Nanaimo       | Fisheries, ocean and salmonid ecology                      | x    | x    |
| Nicholas Johnson   | United States Geological Survey, Millersburg, Michigan   | Fisheries, lamprey   |      | x    |
| Josh Korman        | Ecometric Research, Consultant, Vancouver, Canada        | Biometrics and modeling                                    | x    | x    |
| Gordon Luikart     | University of Montana, Flathead Lake Biological Station  | Population genetics  | x    | x    |
| Jay Lund           | University of California, Davis                          | Hydrology and ecosystem modeling                           | x    | x    |
| Thomas McMahon     | Montana State University                                 | Fisheries, ecology and habitat                             | x    | x    |
| Thomas Miller      | University of Maryland, Chesapeake Biological Lab        | Fisheries, estuary ecology, statistics, population biology | x    | x    |
| Yolanda Morbey     | Western University, Ontario, Canada                      | Fisheries, avian and salmonid ecology                      | x    | x    |
| Gordon Reeves      | United States Forest Service, retired, Oregon            | Fisheries, ecology and habitat                             | x    | x    |
| Daniel Roby        | Oregon State University                                  | Wildlife ecology   | x    | x    |
| Howard Schaller    | United States Fish and Wildlife Service, retired, Oregon | Fisheries, modeling, passage, lamprey, chum salmon         | x    | x    |
| Paul Seelbach      | University of Michigan                                   | Habitat, freshwater and estuary                            | x    | x    |
| Dana Weigel Sheedy | Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation   | Ecology, wildlife genetics, habitat restoration            |      | x    |
| Charles Simenstad  | University of Washington, emeritus                       | Fisheries, estuary ecology                                 | x    | x    |
| Alan Springer      | University of Alaska, emeritus                           | Fisheries, ocean and salmonid ecology                      |      | x    |
| William Taylor     | Michigan State University                                | Fisheries, freshwater fish ecology                         | x    | x    |

| Nominee             | Affiliation   | Expertise   | ISAB | ISRP |
|---------------------|---|---|------|------|
| Christian Torgersen | United States Geological Survey, Seattle, Washington                                    | Fisheries, ecology and habitat                                | x    | x    |
| Alisa Wade          | University of Montana   | Geosciences   |      | x    |
| Thomas Wainwright   | Oregon State University, Affiliate Facility; National Marine Fisheries Service, retired | Fisheries, ocean and salmonid ecology                         | x    | x    |
| Rose Wallick        | United States Geological Survey, Corvallis, Oregon                                      | Hydrology and geomorphology                                   | x    | x    |
| Sang-Seon Yun       | Independent consultant, Washington  | Fisheries, physiology and migratory behavior, lamprey biology |      | x    |

Scientific Peer Review Group: The NASEM also suggests that Michael Siefke, Great Lakes Fish Commission, is highly qualified to assist the ISRP on evaluations of lamprey projects as a Peer Review Group member, should his expertise be needed.