



About NPRB

The North Pacific Research Board was created by Congress in 1997 to recommend marine research initiatives to the US Secretary of Commerce, who is charged with making final funding decisions.

Enabling Legislation

In September 1997, Senators Ted Stevens, Frank Murkowski and John McCain proposed an amendment (S. 1231) to the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (H.R. 2107) to create a fund that would eventually lead to an appropriation for the North Pacific Marine Research Initiative monies. This fund, entitled the "Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund," was inserted into H.R. 2107 as Title IV after several amendments.

The bill was approved November 4, 1997 and signed into law by President Clinton on November 14, 1997 (P.L. 105-83, and codified as 43 U.S.C. §1474d), thus creating the EIRF and the North Pacific Research Board.

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Our Funding Source

The Board's research funds are based on the interest earned by the Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund (EIRF), created by Congress and derived from **the Dinkum Sands case**.

Each year, 20 percent of the interest is made available to the Secretary without further appropriation to carry out marine research activities. The enabling legislation calls for EIRF funds to be used to:

"...conduct research activities on or relating to the fisheries or marine ecosystems in the north Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean (including any lesser related bodies of water)... [with]...priority on cooperative research efforts designed to address pressing fishery management or marine ecosystem information needs."

Proposal Requests

The Board annually establishes written criteria for the submission of grant requests through a competitive process and for deciding upon the award of grants. The Board receives advice from various **panels and committees**, and recommends grants based on the merits of the request and the extent to which the proposed research meets the priorities established by the Board.

The Secretary, through his designee, the Alaska Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, reviews all grants recommended by the Board. If the Secretary decides not to approve a project recommended by the Board, then the Secretary must explain his reasons in writing. The amount recommended to be used for such grants will be available only for other grants recommended by the Board.

Board Members

The Board has 20 members hailing mainly from Alaska, Washington and Oregon. Its staff and home office are located in Anchorage, Alaska.

Executive Committee

David Benton (Chair)

Marine Conservation Alliance

431 N Franklin St, Suite 305 | Juneau, AK 99801 | 907 523 0731

Eric Olson (Vice Chair)

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306 | Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

tel 907 271 2809 | Fax 907 271 2817

Douglas DeMaster

Science and Research Director, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center

7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bldg 4 | Seattle, WA 98115

tel 206 526 4000 | fax 206 526 4004

Alternate: **Peter Hagen**

tel 907 789 6096 | fax 907 789 6608

Patti Nelson

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

PO Box 115526 | Juneau, AK 99811-5526

tel 907 465-6105

Tylan Schrock

Alaska SeaLife Center

301 Railway Ave | Seward, AK 99664

tel 907 224 6349 | fax 907 224 6360

Other Members

Nancy Bird

Oil Spill Recovery Institute

PO Box 705 | Cordova, AK 99574

tel 907 424 6800, ext 225 | fax 907 424 5820

CAPT Mike Cerne

17th District US Coast Guard

PO Box 25517 | Juneau, AK 99802

tel 907 463 2223 | fax 907 463 2216

Dorothy Childers

Alaska Marine Conservation Council

PO Box 101145 | Anchorage, AK 99510

tel 907 277 5357 | fax 907 277 5975

Office of Naval Research

875 N Randolph St | Arlington, VA 22203-1073

tel 703 696 4590 | fax 703 696 3390

Michele Eder

Attorney at Law LLC

4 SW High St | PO Box 1530 | Newport, OR 97365

tel 541 265 EDER | fax 541 265 6633

Alternate: Lawson Brigham

tel 907 271 4577 | fax 907 271 4578

John Gauvin

Groundfish Forum, Inc.

4241 21st Avenue W., Suite 302 | Seattle, WA 98199

tel 206 213-5270 | fax 206 213 5272

Justin Grubich

Office of Oceans Affairs, US Dept of State

2201 C St NW, Room 5806 | Washington, DC 20520

tel 202 647 3883 | fax 202 736 9099

Leslie Holland-Bartels

US Geological Survey

1011 E Tudor Rd | Anchorage, AK 99501

tel 907 786 3385 | fax 907 786 3636

Howard Horton

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

Oregon State University | Corvallis, OR 97331

tel 541 737 1974

John Iani

Van Ness Feldman

719 Second Ave, Suite 1150 | Seattle, WA 98104

tel 206 829 1812 | fax 206 623 4986

Paul MacGregor

Mundt MacGregor LLP

999 Third Ave, Suite 4200 | Seattle, WA 98104

tel 206 624 5950 | fax 206 5469

Steve MacLean

The Nature Conservancy

715 L Street, Suite 100 | Anchorage, AK 99501

tel 907 276-3133

Gerry Merrigan

Prowler Fisheries

PO Box 1989 | Petersburg, AK 99833

tel 907 772 4835 | fax 907 772 9385

Pamela Pope

BP Exploration Alaska

PO Box 196612 | Anchorage, AK 99519

tel 907 762 1644 | fax 907 564 5011

Denis Wiesenburg

UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences

PO Box 757220 | Fairbanks, AK 99775

tel 907 474 7210 | fax 907 474 7204