

Report from Dan Hull on the North Pacific Research Board meeting, September 18-19, Anchorage.

With the Council's approval earlier this April, I attended and Chaired the fall NPRB meeting as the NPFMC representative. The NPRB agenda for this meeting focused primarily on the development of the 2019 Core Program Request for Proposals (RFP) for \$4.0 million in marine research funding; selection of Outreach proposals associated with 2018 RFP funding decisions from the May 2018 meeting; and further development of strategic planning and program evaluation activities to guide the organization into the future. The Board also heard updates on various research projects and programs that are underway or in the synthesis stage of completion. Materials for the open public session of the meeting are available upon request, and the 2019 RFP will be posted on the NPRB website (<https://www.nprb.org/core-program/request-for-proposals/>) when it is finalized. Additional details about the NPRB mission and programs, membership and staff, SOPPs and other information can also be found on the website.

Beginning with this 2019 Core Program RFP, NPRB will no longer have a single proposal submission deadline of early December and a single proposal selection meeting that takes place in early May. Instead, NPRB has changed to a 'rolling submissions' process that allows proposers to submit proposals at any time during the calendar year, to be eligible for either a May or September funding decision by the Board. The structure of the Core Program RFP and the proposal and review selection process will otherwise remain much the same. For more details about the 'rolling submissions' process, please visit the NPRB website and see the 2019 RFP when it is posted, which is expected to be no later than October 1.

Federal grants available to NPRB from the Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund (EIRF) have been declining in recent years due to lower interest rates on treasury notes. Combined with reduced federal funding for marine research by NOAA/NMFS and other agencies, the demands on NPRB as a funding source have increased. The Board and staff of the NPRB are exploring a variety of ways to continue to fulfill its mission to address pressing fishery management issues and to improve our understanding of ecosystem processes in the North Pacific in the most efficient and effective manner.

Matt Robinson, BBEDC, attended his first meeting as the designated Fishing Industry representative on the Executive Committee and Board, replacing Jan Jacobs. Thank you for your 3 years of service Jan, and welcome aboard Matt! David Witherell also attended as an observer to gain a better understanding of current NPRB issues in order to assist the new NPFMC representative to be selected following the October Council meeting. The NPFMC Chairman or his/her designee serves on the Executive Committee and the Board of NPRB; the NPRB Chair and Vice-Chair are selected by the Board at the spring meeting held in early May. To assist in the transition, I would be happy to answer any questions the new Council representative to the NPRB may have.