“A Science Plan for the North Pacific Research Board”
Fairbanks Site Visit FAQ

What are the National Academies?
For advice on the scientific issues that frequently pervade policy decisions, the nation's leaders often turn to the institution that was specially created for this purpose: the National Academy of Sciences and its sister organizations – the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine, and the National Research Council. The National Academies are nonprofit organizations that provide a public service by working outside the framework of government to ensure independent advice on matters of science, technology, and medicine. They enlist committees of the nation's top scientists, engineers, and other experts – all of whom volunteer their time to study specific concerns. The results of their deliberations have inspired some of America's most significant and lasting efforts to improve the health, education, and welfare of the population. The Academy's service to government has become so essential that Congress and the White House have issued legislation and executive orders over the years that reaffirm its unique role.

What is the North Pacific Research Board?
The North Pacific Research Board (Board) was created by Congress in 1997 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.” The Board’s research funds are based on the interest earned by the Environmental Improvement and Restoration Fund (EIRF), also created by Congress and derived from the Dinkum Sands case. The Board’s mission is to develop a comprehensive science program of the highest caliber to enhance understanding of the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean ecosystems.
and fisheries. It will conduct its work through science planning, prioritization of pressing fishery management and ecosystem information needs, coordination and cooperation among research programs, competitive selection of research projects, increased information availability, and public involvement.

**What are the National Academies doing for the North Pacific Research Board?**
The National Academies has created a 12-member committee to assist the NPRB in developing a science plan that (1) is comprehensive and long range (10-20 years), (2) identifies major research themes, with emphasis on marine resource management issues, (3) is flexible, dynamic, and able to adapt to new research and monitoring findings, (4) is responsive to the vision, mission and goals of the NPRB and addresses the elements of a science plan identified as important by the NPRB, (5) builds on past and ongoing research programs of the Federal government, the State of Alaska, universities, and other relevant entities, (6) has a high probability of achieving the goals and objectives of the NPRB and maintaining awareness of the need to sustain a variety of marine resources and (7) is consistent with NPRB enabling legislation.

**Who is on the National Academies committee?**
The 12 members bring expertise in a variety of disciplines, and they hail from four different countries:

- **Lynda Shapiro, Chair**, University of Oregon, Charleston
- **Kevin Arrigo**, Stanford University, California
- **Don Bowen**, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Nova Scotia, Canada
- **Rognvaldur Hannesson**, Norges Handelshoy skole, The Norwegian School of Economics and Business, Norway
- **Steven Hare**, International Pacific Halibut Commission, Seattle, Washington
- **David Karl**, University of Hawaii, Honolulu
- **Brenda Konar**, University of Alaska, Fairbanks
- **Robie Macdonald**, Institute of Ocean Sciences, British Columbia, Canada
- **Wieslaw Maslowski**, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California
- **Julian McCreary**, University of Hawaii, Honolulu
- **Caleb Pungowiyi**, Robert Aqqaluk Newlin, Sr. Memorial Trust, Kotzebue, Alaska
- **Vladimir Radchenko**, Sakhalin Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, RUSSIA
Why is the committee coming to your community?
The Academies’ committee is traveling to various Alaskan communities to listen to local concerns, learn about local experiences, and understand local research needs. The objective is to discuss current and future research needs for your community specifically, and the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean [mainly Beaufort and Chukchi Seas] in general, particularly as it pertains to critical marine resource management issues.

What does the committee want to hear about?
We want you to give us your personal opinions on the current and emerging research needs for your community. Your comments will be critical in defining important funding areas for the NPRB. The quality of our report, and the future funding direction of the NPRB, will be influenced by your comments. In addition to speaking with you, if you wish to provide a hardcopy list of your concerns and research needs, please bring the list with you to our meeting. You can structure your thoughts around the following questions:

1. What are your biggest concerns/What are the scientific research questions?
2. What information is needed to address these concerns?
3. What information can you contribute/What research is currently ongoing?
4. Any other information you would like us to know?

Where else is the committee visiting?
The full slate of visits includes:

March 31: Kodiak
April 23: Barrow
May 14: Kotzebue
May 28: Bethel
May 30: Seattle

April 22: Fairbanks
April 25: Juneau
May 16: Dillingham
May 29: Anchorage (TBC)