

Title: BEST-BSIERP “Advisory Group”

Background: In recognition of the ambitious goals of the cooperative NSF-NPRB BEST-BSIERP “Bering Sea Project”, the NPRB Board called for the formation of an advisory group. This advisory group will function as an external body to support the Bering Sea Project goals by critically reviewing progress and providing suggestions for improvement, and also to be a liaison between the Board, Science and Advisory Panels, and the Science Advisory Board (SAB) of the Bering Sea Project.

Membership: The original conception of the “Advisory Group” was that it should be made up of Science Panel members. During Board, Science Panel, Advisory Panel, and Ecosystem Modeling Committee (EMC) meetings in 2008, it was decided that the AG should consist of three Science Panel members, two Advisory Panel members, and one EMC member.

Goal: One of the biggest challenges of the Bering Sea Project is to integrate and synthesize scientific information from the bottom to the top of the Bering Sea ecosystem, including atmosphere-ocean coupling and trophic interactions among the plankton, benthos, fishes, seabirds, marine mammals and humans. A further challenge is to predict how this productive ecosystem may be altered as a result of climate change. The goal of this Advisory Group, a group external to the BEST-BSIERP funded scientists, is to provide advice to the SAB and report to the Board on progress made in regards to synthesis and integration activities within the program, as outlined in the terms of reference below.

Terms of Reference:

1. Attend the annual Bering Sea Project Principal Investigator Meeting.
2. Meet with the Bering Sea Project SAB, preferably at the Principal Investigator Meeting.
3. Receive summaries and analysis from the SAB on the progress of research projects, key findings and the status of synthesis and integration activities within the Bering Sea Project.
4. Evaluate the progress of synthesis / integration activities, discuss obstacles and challenges, and make recommendations to the SAB and Bering Sea Project program management for their consideration.
5. Provide a written summary of this annual meeting to the SAB, specifically including statements on the status of synthesis / integration activities and recommendations to the SAB, the NPRB Science and Advisory Panels, Program Management and the NPRB Board