

SEA LAMPREY RESEARCH BOARD

of the

Great Lakes Fishery Commission

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Approved 5 June, 2008

NAME

Sea Lamprey Research Board

PURPOSES

The Board:

- formulates an annual program of research entitled “Sea Lamprey Research Program” around thematic areas and recommends this program to the Commission.
- identifies areas of research to support the information needs essential to achievement of the Commission’s sea lamprey vision statement and milestones.
- develops sea lamprey research priorities considering new ideas, emerging research, and input to the Board from Task Groups of the Sea Lamprey Integration Committee (SLIC).
- identifies broad areas of thematic research that includes research priorities and that addresses major information needs.
- solicits peer reviews of sea lamprey research proposals submitted to its research program.
- reviews proposed long-term and short-term research and technical assistance plans for the Commission’s internal research programs for relevance to Commission’s strategic vision. Work plan reviews will be provided for USGS Hammond Bay Biological Station (HBBS), USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center (UMESC), and the PERM scientists at Michigan State University and the University of Guelph.
- recommends a technical assistance program that will support the information needs of the sea lamprey control agents.
- holds meetings to review research pre-proposals, to formulate recommendations to the Commission based on peer-reviewed research, to identify new research theme areas, and for other purposes as deemed necessary by the Board, SLIC, or the Commission.

- reports at SLIC's spring and fall meetings regarding its proposed research plan, progress, achievements, emerging issues, and information needs.
- ensures dissemination of research results to all sea lamprey control staff and coordinates the transfer of science to the management of sea lamprey.

AREA OF CONCERN

For deliberations of the Working Group, the area of concern is as defined in the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries:

"Lake Ontario (including the St. Lawrence River from Lake Ontario to the 45th parallel of latitude), Lake Erie, Lake Huron (including Lake St. Clair), Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and their connecting waters..." and the area of concern "shall also apply to the tributaries of each of the above waters to the extent necessary to investigate any stock of fish of common concern, the taking or habitat of which is confined predominantly to the Convention Area."

BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Core Group – The core group is composed of eight or more members, including a Chair, the SLIC Chair, the BOTE Chair, and five or more external scientific disciplinary experts representing the breadth of expertise required to develop research program recommendations. Core group members shall not be Partnership in Ecosystem Research and Management (PERM) faculty, HBBS staff, or members of other SLIC committees or task forces. The external researchers will be selected from among those who are scientists with demonstrated strength in peer-reviewed research. Core-group members are responsible for formulating and recommending a program of sea lamprey research to be delivered by PERM faculty, HBBS staff, and other researchers.

Members-at-Large – The members-at-large are composed of seven members. Membership is comprised of the directors of HBBS and the UMESC sea lamprey research units and five theme area experts, consisting of a subset of SLIC task force members and the Commission's tenure-track PERM professors at Michigan State University and the University of Guelph. Members-at-large discuss the science merits of research pre-proposals, proposals, and peer reviews, and how proposed projects relate to the research themes and priorities of SLIC's task forces. Members-at-large also may participate in securing peer reviews of proposals and providing advice to the core group.

Nomination – The chair and other members are nominated by the Commission's Science Director. Members must agree to follow the code of ethics established for the Board.

Appointment and terms – The Commission appoints all members and the chair. Members are appointed for two-year terms beginning after the Interim (December) Meeting in even-numbered years. Prospective members are advised that appointments will involve a major commitment of time and effort. The chair is to be available to advise commissioners during the Commission's annual meeting.

DECISIONS

Decisions shall be made by a consensus. When consensus cannot be achieved, the majority opinion shall be the recommendation and the concerns of all members shall be described in the Board's report to the Commission.

ROLE OF SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat:

- provides guidance regarding research direction with respect to the convention and the Commission's strategic vision.
- may participate as members.
- assists or leads development of research theme areas.
- ensures that Commission contractual arrangements and policies are followed.
- provides liaison between the Board, SLIC, and the Commission and its cooperators.
- prepares and distributes meeting agendas, reports, and briefing materials and is responsible for meeting arrangements and the Board's website.

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Purpose – To support and conduct research that will provide the information needed to fully implement integrated management of sea lampreys consistent with the Commission's strategic vision, including the development of novel, effective strategies for their control.

Theme-area definition – Most projects supported by the Board's research program are organized under broad theme areas that describe a topic important for achievement of the Commission's sea lamprey vision statement and milestones. These theme areas establish key research questions and hypotheses that become the focus of specific projects. Theme areas are often developed in part through workshops and are broad enough to justify and support the research of several investigators. Descriptions of research themes are included in documents that provide a review of the relevant literature, describe research questions or hypotheses pertinent to the Great Lakes, and in a call for proposals.

Special categories of research also are supported and include projects that do not fall under any current theme area and those proposed by new investigators. This provides the opportunity for researchers with ideas not represented in the theme areas to access Commission funding. New-investigator research funding is offered to encourage new researchers to focus their programs on critical information needs of sea lamprey control. New researchers are those who have in the past three years been hired by a university or governmental agency in the Great Lakes basin and previously have not been awarded a Commission project of more than \$15,000 USD.

Networking – In addition to the conduct of research, the Board will sponsor an annual meeting for the presentation of research progress reports and pre-proposals of research. Principal investigators of Commission-supported projects are expected to participate.

Theme-area leaders are expected to help organize these meetings. SLIC task force chairs will be expected to work with theme leaders to present research priorities and status for their program areas. Attendance at these plenary sessions includes principal investigators, SLIC task force chairs, theme leaders, PERM faculty, staff from HBBS, representatives from the sea lamprey control agents, and others.

Theme-area development – The development and leadership for theme areas are provided by members of the Board. Theme areas may be developed by any Board member but are most commonly developed by those who are also members of SLIC task forces, by PERM professors, and by scientists at HBBS and UMESC. When a SLIC task force is devoted to the topic of a theme area, the research leader will work with the SLIC task force to develop the research concepts and supporting white paper. Any researcher, however, may propose new theme areas.

Pilot projects – The Board administers a program to provide rapid support for pilot research projects designed to explore new hypotheses and concepts and to acquire preliminary data to guide the development of full research proposals. Pilot projects proposals can be submitted at any time, must be less than U.S.\$10,000, will be acted upon at both the March and October Board meetings, and Board recommendations will be forwarded immediately to the executive secretary of the Commission for funding decision.

Schedule for research proposals – The Board evaluates research projects via a seven-step process: 1) request for pre-proposals, 2) pre-proposal submission, 3) oral presentation of research, 4) full proposal submission, 5) peer review, 6) Board review and recommendation, and 7) Commission approval. The time frame for these steps is as follows:

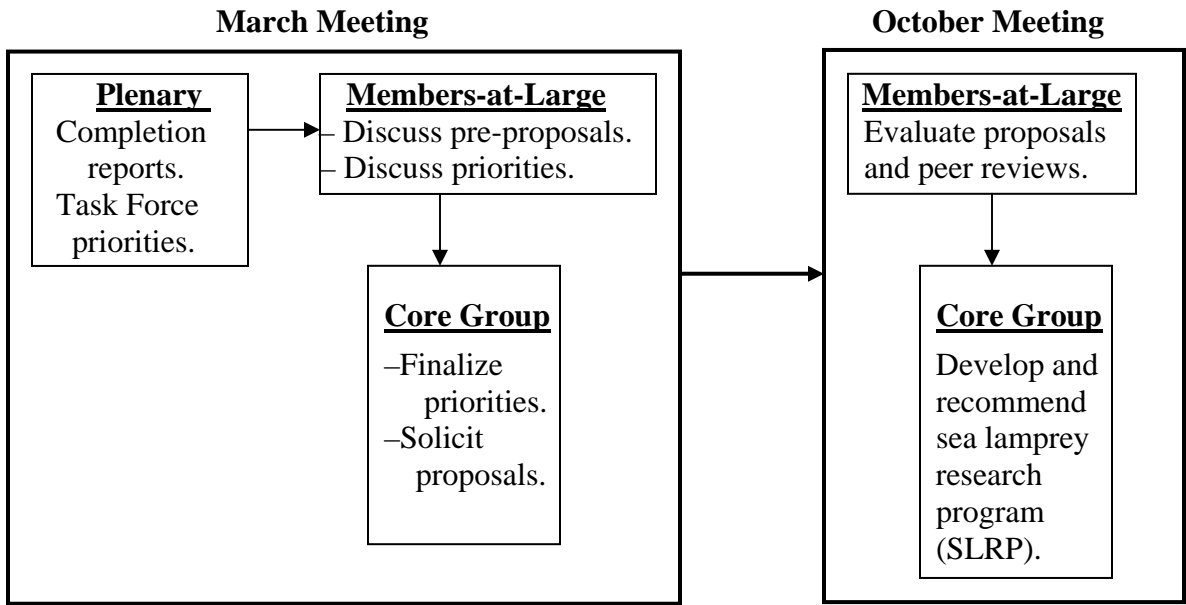
Any time	Principal investigators discuss potential project submissions with the sea lamprey manager, the Commission science director, the board chair, or theme-area leaders.
Mid-October	Board issues request for pre-proposals.
Mid-December	Principal investigators submit pre-proposals.
Early March	Principal investigators present (10 min) their proposed research to the Board (by invitation only).
Mid-March	Principal investigators who are successful in the pre-proposal process are invited to submit a full proposal.
Mid-June	Full proposals are due from investigators.
July – September	Board arranges for peer review.
October	Board recommends proposals for funding to the Commission, as well as presents its recommendations to SLIC.
Early December	Commission decides which proposals to fund.
Mid December	Board notifies principal investigators of outcome.

Recommendation of Sea Lamprey Research Program – Research projects recommended by the Board for funding are to encourage the integrated management of sea lamprey, as directed by the Convention and affirmed in the Commission’s Strategic Vision. Of particular importance is research that is in support of the Commission’s Sea Lamprey Vision Statement and with the research priorities established by the SLIC and its task forces. Research projects supported by the Commission also must be consistent with Fish Community Objectives and with the intent of the Joint Strategic Plan.

MEETING SCHEDULE

March meeting – The purpose of the winter March meeting is to allow (1) for oral presentations of pre-proposals, (2) progress reports of on-going research, and (3) decisions around which pre-proposals should be advanced as full proposals.

October meeting – The purpose of the October meeting is to (1) discuss peer reviews of full proposals, (2) decide upon a program of research to recommend for funding to the Commission, and (3) discuss potential new research directions. This meeting also will discuss new research priorities, review progress within existing theme areas, and identify critical research areas to emphasize in the next request for pre-proposals.



TRAVEL EXPENSES

The Commission may, upon request, reimburse the member or the member's agency as appropriate.