

**State of the Salmon (SOS) Program
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY TEAM**

Terms of Reference

Raison D'être

1. Provide independent, objective advice to the State of the Salmon Program about the scope and scientific content of its ongoing work plan and proposed approaches for accomplishing it.
2. Provide critical review and collaboration on specific issues to help create and improve the scientific credibility and value of SOS topical synthesis papers, knowledge system components and other work products. Collaboration could include co-authorship of documents and publications where opportunities and team member interests intersect.
3. Provide advice to the SOS Program about opportunities and effective approaches for integrating key SOS knowledge and work products into improved resource management around the Pacific Rim.
4. Share information on emerging scientific results and hypotheses that could have important consequence to improving salmonid resource and ecosystem knowledge, research, evaluation, and management toward the long-term goal of conserving, maintaining and restoring resource abundance, bio-complexity and productivity.

Membership Attributes

5. The SOS Scientific Advisory Team is intended to be a reasonably small (~15 members) group of individuals characterised by the following attributes:
 - Highly respected subject matter experts spanning the range of salmonid science, e.g., population biology, population dynamics, bio-complexity, freshwater and marine ecosystems, habitat, resource assessment and fisheries management
 - A desire and willingness to constructively contribute to the design, conduct and outcomes of the SOS program;
 - An ability to collaboratively problem solve and work productively in a team setting;
 - Diversity of geographic, culture, species and topical knowledge and expertise that spans the scope and interests of the SOS program; and
 - Not also members of the SOS's own staff, or the staff or governing body members of the Wild Salmon Center or Ecotrust.

Membership Expectations

6. Convene twice per year - optimally timed to meet the needs and competing work demands of the members - with a structured work agenda and supported by relevant briefing papers and background documents.
7. Scientific Advisory Team to adopt its own operating procedures and may appoint a chair if it so desires, or alternatively assign meeting leadership to SOS Director. In either case SOS staff will provide administrative and logistics support for conduct of the Team's work, and collaborate with the Team in its intellectual endeavors.

8. Maintain confidentiality surrounding any sensitive issues, including sharing non-published information of members without their permission and internal operational topics of the SOS program. Approve public summary minutes for each meeting.
9. Members to declare and appropriately manage any potential conflicts of interest surrounding discussions held or recommendations developed by the Team.
10. Members are expected to volunteer their time for the purpose of preparing for and attending Team meetings. However, all reasonable travel costs associated with attending these meetings will be reimbursed (receipts required) by the SOS Program. Reasonable costs generally reflect the most economical trip and local transport options, including economy air fares. Any other specific expense guidance will be issued in advance of meetings.
11. Terms of membership are for two years, with the potential for extension.

Other Considerations

12. The Scientific Advisory Team is not intended to be the only source of scientific expertise that SOS solicits for its work. Specifically contracted and compensated work may be sought on specific topics and/or for projects requiring significant work. Team members could be considered along with other expert sources for such work.
13. While SOS staff and individuals closely aligned with SOS's organizational sponsors will not participate as Team members, they may certainly be invited to attend Team meetings and participate in specific topics where their expertise is deemed to advance the work of the Team.
14. The Team may choose to invite or allow other participants or observers where topics warrant, the cost for doing so to be discussed with the SOS Director in advance. Any observers generally would be expected to cover their own expenses to attend meetings.
15. The formation of the Team is not meant to diminish the SOS Program's intent to engage a variety of experts and interested stakeholders in an advisory capacity, either on an ad hoc or more formal basis, to ensure the credible and successful conduct of the SOS Program's work.
16. The Science Advisory Team is not intended to be a representational body nor are team members expected to serve as representative members of the organizations who employ them. Further, SoS does not intend to attribute any views of team members to their employers. Subject to item No. 8, for the purpose of promoting free an open dialogue, team meetings will follow the Chatham House Rule:

"When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed".