

Public Advisory Group
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

DRAFT AGENDA

Thursday, February 21, 2002
Teleconference

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

10:00	Call to order
10:05	Executive Director's Report
10:30	PAG Charter: Discussion of proposed changes
11:00	Public Comment
11:30	STAC (Science & Technical Advisory Committee): Discussion of proposed selection process and general operations
12:00	Adjourn

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO PAG CHARTER
2/19/02

1. Change name from Public Advisory Group (PAG) to Program Advisory Committee (PAC)
2. Expand scope of PAC's advice to include "planning, evaluation, and conduct of long-term monitoring and research activities"
3. Extend existence of PAC from 9/30/02 to "at least 9/30/06"
4. Increase membership from 17 to 20
5. Change membership from specific assigned seats to appointments that "represent a balanced representation of" certain interests, as follows:

Current PAG (assigned seats)	Proposed PAC (interests to be represented)
Aquaculture	Expand to include mariculture
Commercial fishing	Same
Commercial tourism	Same
Conservation	Same
Environmental	Same
Forest products	Delete
Local government	Same
Native landowner	Expand to include Native government
Recreation users	Same
Science/academic	Replace with science/technical, and specify that the STAC (Science & Technical Advisory Committee) will nominate 1-3 of its members to serve on PAC
Sport hunting & fishing	Same
Subsistence	Same
5 public-at-large	Delete
--	Marine transportation

6. Change number of meetings per year from "no less than four" to "no less than two"

CHARTER
EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Official Designation: Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Program Advisory Committee.
2. Objectives and Scope: In accordance with and pursuant to Paragraph V.A.4 of the Memorandum of Agreement and Consent Decree entered into by the United States of America, through the Department of Justice, and the State of Alaska, through the Attorney General, on August 27, 1991 and approved by the United States District Court for the District of Alaska in settlement of United States of America v. State of Alaska, Civil Action No. A91-081 CV, hereinafter referred to as the MOA, the Program Advisory Committee shall advise the Trustees (State of Alaska Department of Law, State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Department of the Interior) through the Trustee Council with respect to the following matters:

All decisions relating to injury assessment, restoration activities, or other use of natural resource damage recoveries obtained by the Governments, including all decisions regarding:

- a. Planning, evaluation, and allocation of available funds;
 - b. Planning, evaluation, and conduct of injury assessments and restoration activities;
 - c. Planning, evaluation, and conduct of long-term monitoring and research activities;
 - d. Coordination of a, b, and c.
3. Period of Time Necessary for the Committee Activities: By order of the District Court for the District of Alaska, the Program Advisory Committee is to advise the Trustees, appointed to administer the fund established in settlement of United States v. Exxon Corporation, Civil Action No. A91-082, and State of Alaska v. Exxon Corporation, Civil Action No. A91-083, both in the United States District Court for the District of Alaska, in all matters described in Paragraph V.A.1 of the MOA referenced above. Final payment into the fund was September 1, 2001. A four-year period allowing the opportunity for the Trustees to reopen the agreement to possibly receive additional compensation for injuries begins October 2002 and ends September 30, 2006. It is expected that the need for the Program Advisory Committee will continue until at least September 30, 2006. Extension

of the Committee beyond such date is subject to the unanimous written consent of the designated trustees.

4. Official to Whom the Program Advisory Committee Reports: The Program Advisory Committee shall report to the Exxon Valdez Settlement Trustee Council through the Chair of the Program Advisory Committee at Trustee Council meetings. Other members of the Committee may report with the Chair, as appropriate. The Trustee Council's regular agenda shall include a period during which the Program Advisory Committee representative(s) may report on its activities, ask questions of the Trustee Council, and be available for questioning by the Trustee Council. The U.S. Department of the Interior is the designated Federal agency to which the Program Advisory Committee reports to ensure compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, including the responsibility of ensuring the necessary support for the Program Advisory Committee. The Designated Federal Officer is the Alaska Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance's Regional Environmental Assistant, or his designee.
5. Administrative Support: Administrative support for the Program Advisory Committee shall be provided by the Trustee Council's Executive Director. The Executive Director shall prepare an annual budget for the Program Advisory Committee. The budget shall provide the Program Advisory Committee such funds as the Trustee Council deems appropriate for administrative support for the Program Advisory Committee, from the *Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Investment Fund* established as a result of the settlement of United States v. Exxon Corporation and State of Alaska v. Exxon Corporation.
6. Program Advisory Committee Membership, Selection, and Service: The Program Advisory Committee shall consist of 20 members, including a Chair and Vice-Chair.
 - a. Qualifications for Service - Members shall be appointed to represent a balanced representation of the following interests: aquaculture and mariculture; commercial fishing; commercial tourism; conservation; environmental; local government; Native landowner and government; recreation users; science/technical; sport hunting and fishing; subsistence; and marine transportation.

Representatives shall be chosen based on their demonstrated knowledge of the region, peoples, or principal economic and social activities of the area affected by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, roughly the northern Gulf of Alaska, or by demonstrated expertise in public lands and resource management or research as it relates to restoration, as applicable.
 - b. Nomination and Selection - Nominations for membership may be submitted by any source. The Science and Technical Advisory Committee shall nominate at least one but not more than three members to represent science/technical

interests. From these nominations the Trustee Council will recommend membership to the Trustees, and following selection by the Trustees, the Secretary of the Interior appoints those selected by the Trustees.

- c. Minimum Term - Each member may serve two years from the date of appointment. Members are eligible for renomination and reappointment at the close of their terms. The Trustees may remove a member or officer of the Program Advisory Committee for reasons of malfeasance, incompetence, or failure to attend to membership responsibilities.
 - d. Officers - The Program Advisory Committee shall have a Chair and a Vice-Chair elected by the membership.
7. Expenses: Travel, per diem and administrative support shall be borne by the Trustee Council using funds from the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Investment Fund established in settlement of United States v. Exxon Corporation and State of Alaska v. Exxon Corporation. While away from home or regular place of business in performance of business of the Program Advisory Committee, members shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at the applicable government rate.
8. Program Advisory Committee Meetings and Records: The Program Advisory Committee shall meet no less than two times per year.
- a. All Program Advisory Committee meetings will be open to the public. Any member of the public is permitted to file a written statement with the Program Advisory Committee and any member of the public may speak at a Program Advisory Committee meeting.
 - b. Detailed minutes of all meetings, including the time, date and place of the meeting, names of the Program Advisory Committee members and other staff of the Trustee Council present, names of the public who presented oral or written statements, an estimate of the number of other public present, an accurate description of each matter discussed and each matter resolved, if any, by the Program Advisory Committee, shall be prepared and made available to the public through the Executive Director. The Chair shall certify to the accuracy of all minutes of the Program Advisory Committee.
 - c. Meetings of the Program Advisory Committee shall be held at a reasonable time and in a place reasonably accessible to the public. Notice of meetings shall be published in accordance with AS 44.62.310(e), AS 44.62.175 and 41 CFR 101-6.1015(b).

- d. All accounts and records of the activities and transactions of the Program Advisory Committee shall be kept and maintained by the Staff of the Executive Director and, subject to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. section 552, such accounts and records shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Executive Director.
 - e. All rules and procedures governing the proceedings of the Program Advisory Committee must be approved by the Trustee Council.
9. Administrative Authority: The Program Advisory Committee functions are advisory only, and its officers shall have no administrative authority by virtue of their membership. The Trustee Council, through the Executive Director, shall procure all needed space, supplies, equipment, and support for the Program Advisory Committee.
10. Termination Date: The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., requires that the Program Advisory Committee shall terminate four years from the date of filing of this Charter unless the Committee is renewed before that date in accordance with the requirements of that Act.
11. Authority: This Program Advisory Committee is established as mandated by Paragraph V.A.4 of the MOA and shall be located in Alaska. Additional authority for its creation is found in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. subsection 9601 et seq.

Secretary of the Interior

Date Signed: _____

Date Filed: _____

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the renewal of the Charter of the Program Advisory Committee, an advisory committee to make recommendations to and advise the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council in Alaska, is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties mandated by the settlement of United States v. State of Alaska, No. A91-081 CV, and is in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended and supplemented.

Date

Gale Norton

Secretary of the Interior

**PAG Charter
Changes to 2/19/02 Draft**

Add another sentence to Provision #5, Administrative Support, as follows:

The estimated annual operating cost for the Committee is \$55,000 including an estimated .5 staff years.

Change Provision #10, Termination Date, as follows:

... Committee shall terminate two~~four~~ years from the date of filing of this Charter
...

NOTE: Both of these changes are required to conform to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), under which the Program Advisory Committee is established.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trustee Council

FROM: Molly McCammon
Executive Director

DATE: February 19, 2002

RE: Scientific advice

At your December 11, 2001 meeting you reviewed a draft process for developing scientific advice and peer review for the GEM Program. Following that meeting, a working group was established to further develop the details of this process. The working group consisted of the following:

Jeep Rice – NMFS, Auke Bay Lab
Michael Baffrey – USDOJ
Carol Fries – ADNR
Bill Hauser – ADF&G
Stan Senner – Public Advisory Group
Brett Huber – Public Advisory Group
Hal Batchelder – Executive Director, U.S. GLOBEC NEP Program
Rich Marasco – NMFS, Alaska Science Center
Phil Mundy – EVOS
Molly McCammon - EVOS

The working group met twice by teleconference. While the group did not agree on every minor detail, I believe the attached draft represents the consensus of the group regarding the major elements of the scientific advice process. The Public Advisory Group will be briefed on this draft at their meeting February 21, 2002 and their comments provided to you at your February 25, 2002 meeting.

On the basis of the review done by the working group, I recommend that this draft be adopted by the Trustee Council at the February 25 meeting.

To put the proposed process in perspective, I would like to highlight the differences in the current process and staffing and the proposed process and staffing. The proposed scientific advice process builds upon the Trustee Council's successful record of 13 years of peer-reviewed science.

Under the current process, both programmatic and technical peer review and scientific advice are provided by a group of core peer reviewers, and additional specialists as needed, under the leadership of an independently contracted Chief Scientist. The Chief Scientist reports directly to the Trustee Council.

Under GEM, the scientific advice process would be implemented by Trustee Council staff; a committee structure consisting of a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and related subcommittees and work groups; and a periodically convened independent review committee, similar to the National Research Council panel reviewing the draft GEM Program. This advice structure would be administered through the Executive Director.

Similar to the current process, scientific advice provided by the proposed STAC and subcommittees for the GEM Program will be viewed as the "rebuttable presumption" for Trustee Council action. In other words, the Trustee Council may be expected to act positively on their recommendations, unless other information is presented to indicate a different action. Other information could come from the Public Advisory Group, other members of the public, and trustee agency staff.

Since the Trustee Council receives information and guidance from a number of sources, the Executive Director would continue to ensure that all advice and reviews are organized and summarized to assist the Council's decision-making. The Executive Director reports directly to the Trustee Council and has the ultimate responsibility for implementing all the Trustee Council's programs, policies and procedures. That responsibility would remain unchanged.

The Executive Director is currently assisted by the Council's Chief Scientist, the Science Coordinator and other staff.

Bob Spies has served the Trustee Council as chief scientist since 1990. As chief scientist, Bob has provided independent advice to the Trustee Council. Although he works closely with a group of five other "core" peer reviewers, he is still the main source of scientific advice for the restoration program. Bob also is leading a group of experts providing a much-needed synthesis of the scientific results of the Trustee Council's projects during damage assessment and restoration. It is appropriate that, as the Trustee Council's programs change with implementation of GEM in FY03, Bob's title and responsibilities also change.

In the proposed process for GEM, Bob would take the new title of Senior Science Advisor for Oil Spill Effects. In this role, he would continue to lead the synthesis project, as well as provide advice to the Trustee Council on direct oil-spill related injury and recovery, including peer review of related project proposals and reports. He would serve as chair of a new Oil Effects Subcommittee under the STAC.

The current Trustee Council Science Coordinator – Phil Mundy – has served as the Council's staff scientist and the chief – or lead - scientist for GEM since 1999. To better reflect the responsibilities of this position, a new title of Science Director is proposed.

The Science Director would assist the Executive Director by 1) providing scientific leadership for the GEM Program; 2) serving as GEM's primary scientific spokesperson and a non-voting permanent co-chair of the STAC; 3) coordinating the scientific committee structure; and 4) ensuring that the GEM Program is implemented with a high standard of scientific excellence. This role is expected to adapt to the changing needs of the growing GEM program.

Under the current process, each trustee agency has a designated liaison who has the responsibility of coordinating their agency's review of draft documents, policies and proposed action items. The liaison's time is compensated by the Trustee Council, with two months time included in the FY 2002 budget. The roles of the agency liaisons will be reviewed and a recommendation made this summer on whether funding in FY 03 and beyond is warranted.

Gulf of Alaska Ecosystem Monitoring and Research Program

Draft Process for Providing Scientific and Technical Advice and Peer Review *February 19, 2002 Draft*

Addendum to Program Management **(GEM Program Document, Volume I, Chapter 6)**

(References to Volume numbers and chapters refer to the August 2001 Draft of the GEM Program Document, available on <http://www.oilspill.state.ak.us/index.html>)

I. DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

The GEM Program is a long-term monitoring and research program, responsive to the needs of resource management agencies, stakeholders and the public, consistent with the program's mission and goals, and held to a high standard of scientific excellence. The process for providing scientific and technical advice includes 1) advice on the program as a whole; 2) advice at the individual project level; and 3) peer review of all proposals and reports.

The GEM scientific advice process builds upon the Trustee Council's successful record of 13 years of peer-reviewed science. This process will be implemented by staff to the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill Trustee Council; a committee structure consisting of a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and related subcommittees and work groups; and a periodically convened independent review committee (see Figure 6.1 below). Programmatic and technical review largely will be separated. This process will be reviewed and refined over time, as experience with program implementation permits better understanding of the Trustee Council's needs for scientific advice under GEM.

Scientific advice provided by the proposed STAC and subcommittees for the GEM Program will be viewed as the "rebuttable presumption" for Trustee Council action. In other words, the Trustee Council may be expected to act positively on their recommendations, unless other information is presented to indicate a different action. The Trustee Council also relies on advice from the Program Advisory Committee, other members of the public, and trustee agency staff. The Executive Director is expected to take this broad spectrum of advice into account when resolving conflicting issues and developing recommendations for Trustee Council consideration.

A. Staff

Since the Trustee Council receives information and guidance from a number of sources, the Council relies on its Executive Director to ensure that all advice and reviews are organized and summarized to assist the Council's decision-making. The Executive Director reports directly to the Trustee Council and has the ultimate responsibility for implementing all the Trustee Council's programs, policies and procedures.

The Executive Director will be assisted by a Senior Science Advisor for Oil Spill Effects, a Science Director and other staff.

The Senior Science Advisor for Oil Spill Effects will provide advice on direct oil-spill related injury and recovery, including peer review of related project proposals and reports. This position will chair the Oil Effects Subcommittee and report the committee's recommendations to the STAC.

The Science Director will assist the Executive Director by 1) providing scientific leadership for the GEM Program; 2) serving as GEM's primary scientific spokesperson and a non-voting permanent co-chair of the STAC; 3) coordinating the scientific committee structure; and 4) ensuring that the GEM Program is implemented with a high standard of scientific excellence. This role is expected to adapt to the changing needs of the growing GEM program.

B. Committee Structure

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). The STAC is a standing committee that is expected to provide the primary scientific advice to the Executive Director on how well the collection of proposed monitoring and research projects (the Work Plan) and the overall GEM Program meet the mission and goals of the Trustee Council (GEM Program Document Vol. I, Chapter 1) and test the adequacy of the GEM conceptual foundation (see Figure 4.3). As needed and appropriate, the STAC may participate in and/or lead the peer review process of proposals and project reports.

Subcommittees. The subcommittees are standing committees organized to address the "nuts and bolts" of developing and implementing projects responsive to the Council's needs, coordinating among scientists and other interested parties, and helping to organize technical peer review of individual proposals.

Work groups. *Ad hoc* work groups are subcommittees temporarily formed to address specific issues. They have a specific purpose and a limited duration.

C. External Review Committee

Periodically (every five to ten years), the Trustee Council will contract with an external entity, such as the National Research Council, to review the entire GEM Program.

II. ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

A. Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Responsibilities

1. The STAC shall meet as often as needed to provide to the Executive Director broad programmatic advice and guidance on the GEM Work Plan with respect to the GEM Program's mission, goals, conceptual foundation, central hypotheses and questions.
2. The STAC shall recommend to the Executive Director projects for the GEM Work Plan best suited to the mission, goals, conceptual foundation, and central hypothesis. A written record of these recommendations shall be presented to the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) and to the Trustee Council.
3. The STAC co-chairs shall brief the PAC and the Council once a year on the state of the GEM program and on other occasions at the request of the Trustee Council, the Executive Director, or the STAC.
4. The STAC, in conjunction with the subcommittees, shall provide leadership in identifying and developing testable hypotheses relevant to the conceptual foundation and central questions of the GEM Strategic Plan, consistent with the GEM Program's mission and goals and the policies of the Trustee Council.
5. The STAC, using recommendations provided by the subcommittees and other means, shall identify and recommend syntheses, models, process studies, and other research activities for the Invitation to Submit Proposals.
6. The STAC shall meet with subcommittee chairs as needed.
7. At least one, but not more than three, of the STAC members shall also serve on the Program Advisory Committee (former Public Advisory Group). The STAC shall select these members.
8. The STAC shall select the subcommittee members, following a process approved by the Trustee Council. The STAC shall receive reports and briefings from the subcommittee chairs as needed.
9. The STAC shall assist Trustee Council staff in identifying peer reviewers, and may, upon request, conduct peer review on individual responses to the Invitation for Proposals and project reports.
10. Subject to funding restrictions and in consultation with the Executive Director, the STAC may convene special review panels or work groups to evaluate and make recommendations about aspects of the GEM program, or to meet with project investigators and others to fully explore particular projects or issues.

Membership

1. The STAC shall have seven members: six voting members appointed by the Trustee Council with the advice of the independent nominating committee and the Trustee Council's GEM Science Director as the seventh member who serves as permanent non-voting co-chair.
2. The STAC members shall be drawn from the scientific sectors of academic, government, NGO, and private institutions. Together the members shall possess expertise in the habitats, species and environments of the Alaska Coastal Current and offshore, the intertidal and subtidal (nearshore), the watersheds, modeling, resource management, human activities and their potential ecological impacts, and community-based science programs.
3. The STAC members shall be selected for their expertise, broad perspective, long experience and leadership in areas important to the GEM Program.

4. 4.STAC members cannot be principal investigators for presently funded or ongoing GEM projects.
5. The STAC members shall serve terms of four years, renewable once at the option of the Trustee Council, except during the first two years of the program when three members shall serve initial terms of two years, renewable for a full four year term. All renewals for a second term are at the option of the Trustee Council.
6. After serving on the STAC, a person is not eligible to serve again on the STAC for two years, with the exception of a person who was appointed from the list of alternates to complete a partial term. A person appointed as an alternate is eligible to be nominated to an open membership slot to serve a full term, and may, if serving less than two years and at the discretion of the Trustee Council, also be eligible for renewal.
7. In the event of a vacancy prior to the end of a term, the Trustee Council shall appoint a replacement from among the list of alternates. Inactive members may be removed by the Trustee Council from the STAC membership.

Rules of Procedure

1. The STAC shall elect a co-chair by majority vote at least once every two years. The Science Director shall serve as the other co-chair.
2. Matters that cannot be resolved by consensus shall be decided by four affirmative votes of the STAC membership.
3. The STAC shall develop procedures for interfacing with the subcommittees, work groups and the Program Advisory Committee.

B. Subcommittees

Responsibilities

1. Subcommittees shall provide guidance within each habitat type to the STAC and to the Trustee Council staff regarding testable hypotheses and other topics for consideration in future Invitations to Submit Proposals.
2. Subcommittees shall identify implementation strategies and possible locations for measuring monitoring variables that are relevant to the key questions and testable hypotheses.
3. Subcommittees shall, upon request, help organize the peer review on proposals and project reports in their broad habitat types, including recommending appropriate peer reviewers.
4. Initially, the subcommittees shall be organized along the lines of the four primary habitat types: offshore, Alaska Coastal Current, nearshore and watersheds, with additional subcommittees for oil effects and data management. The subcommittee structure may change following further review and discussion (and pending final NRC review).
5. Subject to funding restrictions, subcommittees may convene special review panels from time to time to evaluate and make recommendations about aspects of the GEM

program. At other times, special panels may meet with project investigators and others to fully explore particular topics, problems, or projects.

6. A subcommittee may notify the STAC when it encounters the need for a work group.

Membership

1. Subcommittees are composed of at least 5 and not more than 8 individuals: scientists, resource managers, and/or other experts selected by the STAC primarily for their disciplinary expertise and familiarity with a broad habitat type (watersheds, intertidal and subtidal, ACC, or offshore). Other criteria include institutional and professional affiliations in order to promote collaboration and cooperation.
2. Subcommittee members serve three year renewable terms.
3. Subcommittee members may include principal investigators of GEM projects.
4. Nominees who agreed to serve, but were not selected by the STAC, may serve as peer reviewers and recommend peer reviewers, and are automatically considered as nominees to fill vacancies on subcommittees.

Rules of Procedure

1. Subcommittees shall elect their own chairs, usually in a person's third year on the committee.
2. Matters that cannot be resolved by consensus shall be decided by majority vote of the membership.

C. Work Groups

Responsibilities

1. Work Groups shall recommend to the STAC or a subcommittee courses of action on the task for which the work group has been established. Tasks may include developing strategies to implement specific monitoring and research goals.
2. Work Groups may help organize the peer review on proposals submitted to address the task for which the work group has been established.

Membership

1. Any number of individuals may be appointed to work groups established by the Executive Director at the request of the STAC. Expertise will depend on the issue to be addressed.
2. Members are approved by the Executive Director from nominees submitted by the STAC or subcommittee that identified the need for the work group.
3. Work groups are expected to be issue specific and of a limited duration specified by the Executive Director at its inception.

Rules of Procedure

1. Work groups shall elect a chair by majority vote.
2. Matters that cannot be resolved by consensus shall be decided by majority vote of the membership.

III. SELECTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A. Selection Process for STAC

1. The Executive Director shall issue a public call for nominations to serve on the STAC. The call will identify the types of expertise and the qualifications the Trustee Council desires to see for the nominees. Any person (including oneself) or organization is free to make a nomination.
2. Those nominating a person – or the person being nominated -- will be asked to submit a one-page synopsis of the nominee's qualifications to the Executive Director.
3. At the request of the Executive Director, a Nominating Committee will convene to develop a recommended list of persons fitting STAC membership criteria. The Nominating Committee shall recommend to the Executive Director a nominee for each vacant seat on the STAC, after determining that each is willing to serve on the STAC. Remaining nominees who are willing to serve may become alternates. The list of nominees and alternates shall be forwarded to the Trustee Council by the Executive Director.
4. The Nominating Committee may suggest names of persons not nominated if there are gaps in desired expertise among the nominees provided to it by the process (i.e., nominating committee members may also make their own nominations).

STAC Nominating Committee

Responsibilities

1. The STAC Nominating Committee shall review nominations for the STAC; if necessary, it may solicit additional nominations at its discretion.
2. The nominating committee shall provide the Executive Director a list of preferred and alternate nominees for appointment to the STAC.
3. The Nominating Committee chair shall brief the Trustee Council on its recommendations.

Membership

1. The STAC Nominating Committee shall be composed of seven members who are familiar with the development and operation of regional monitoring programs similar to GEM.
2. Nominating Committee members may not currently be receiving funding from the Trustee Council, nor may they be closely associated with, or dependent on, those who are funded by the Trustee Council. For example, the Nominating Committee

- members may not be funded investigators within the EVOS/GEM program, nor may nominating committee members be the immediate supervisors or supervisees of currently funded investigators, or members of their immediate family.
3. At least five Nominating Committee members shall reside in Alaska. STAC nominees and current STAC members may not serve on the Nominating Committee.
 4. Nominating Committee members shall be selected by the Executive Director in consultation with the Trustee Council. The Executive Director shall also determine the life of the Nominating Committee.

Rules of procedure

1. The Nominating Committee shall elect a chairperson by majority vote to conduct the meetings.
2. The Nominating Committee shall establish a schedule and a process for developing a recommended list of nominees for the STAC that is consistent with applicable state and federal statutes, particularly with regard to Equal Employment Opportunity principles and diversity considerations.
3. The Executive Director shall provide assistance as requested by the Nominating Committee chair.

B. Selection Process for Subcommittee Members

1. The Executive Director shall issue public calls for nominations to the subcommittees. The announcements shall list desirable qualifications and other nominating criteria.
2. The STAC shall review the nominees and make recommendations to the Trustee Council for approval.

C. Selection Process for Work Group Members

1. The Executive Director shall approve work group members upon the recommendation of the STAC and/or subcommittees.

IV. PEER REVIEW

Each project proposal, as well as some annual and all final reports, will be peer-reviewed by appropriate experts who are not competing for funding from the GEM program in the same competition, as a rule, are not also conducting projects funded by the Trustee Council. The external peer review process will provide a rigorous critique of the scientific merits of proposals and reports. The goals of the review process are to ensure that studies sponsored by the Trustee Council 1) adhere to a high standard of scientific excellence; 2) have scientific objectives that are relevant and consistent with the GEM Program's conceptual foundation, central questions, and testable hypotheses; and 3) use valid methods that will allow them to achieve these objectives. The peer review may be either paid or volunteer, or some combination, whichever is most expeditious and appropriate. Reviews and recommendations shall be documented in writing.

The STAC or subcommittees may convene work groups from time to time to evaluate and make recommendations about aspects of the GEM program. These may include special peer review panels that would meet with project investigators and others to fully explore particular topics, problems, or projects.

A framework for peer review shall be developed by Trustee Council staff and include the following:

- A clear statement of the purposes of the peer review
- The role of the peer reviewer
- Guidelines for achieving and maintaining impartiality

The Science Director is responsible to the Executive Director and the Trustee Council for maintaining independence and the appropriate level of expertise for each peer review activity, training of peer reviewers in established procedures, and establishing an honorarium (payment) process for peer reviewers when necessary to accomplish the needed peer review.

Figures follow on two pages

Figure 4.3 Selecting monitoring elements starts with the mission and goals established by the Trustee Council, as expressed in the conceptual foundation, which is regularly updated by new information from a variety of sources. GEM Program Document, Vol. I, Chapter 4, page 38.

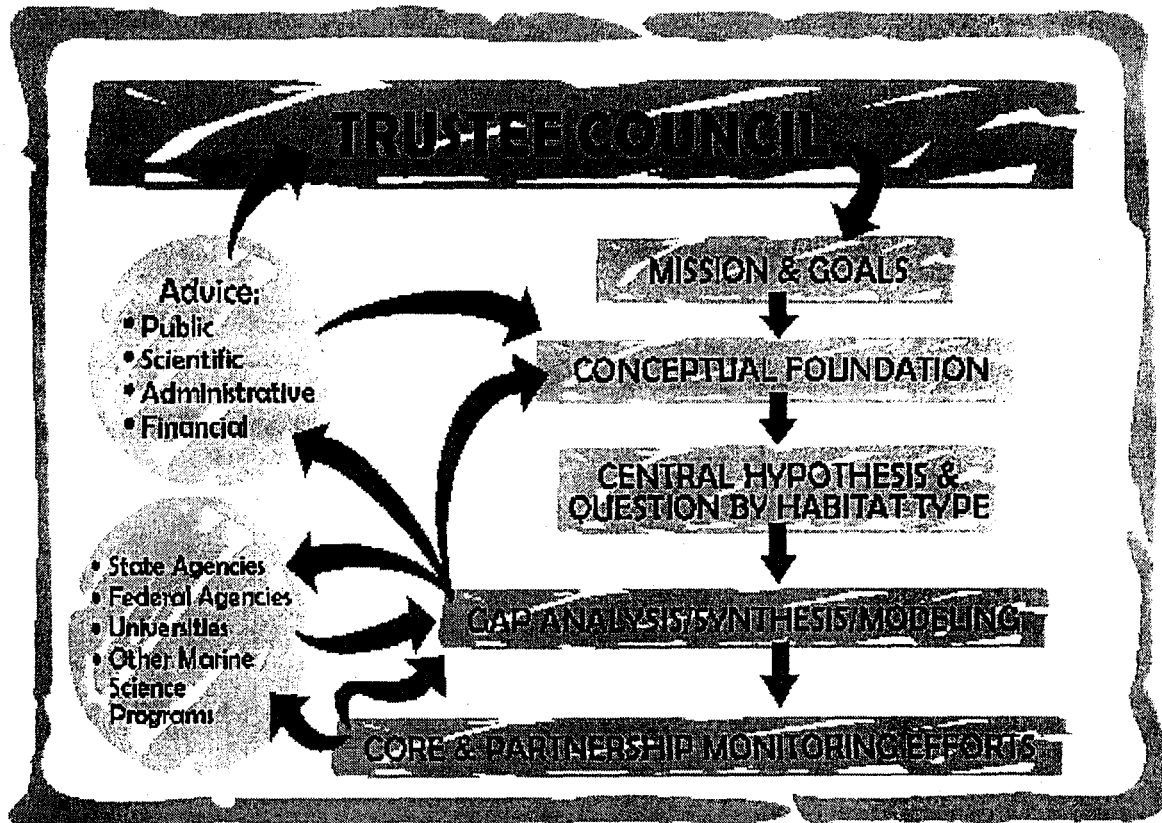


Figure 6.1. The organizational elements involved in GEM implementation. Modified in response to comments from the NRC, after GEM Program Document, Vol. I, Chapter 6, page 66.

