

## 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: NOAA Science Advisory Board

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>		<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>	
Department of Commerce		2024	
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>		<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>	
NOAA Science Advisory Board		2203	
<b>4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
No	06/26/2023	06/26/2025	
<b>8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?</b>	<b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>		<b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>
No			
<b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear</b>	<b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>	<b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b>	
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
<b>11. Establishment Authority</b> Agency Authority			
<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
Secretary's Decision Memorandum	08/15/1997	Continuing	No
<b>15. Description of Committee</b> Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board			
<b>16a. Total Number of Reports</b>	No Reports for this FiscalYear		
<b>17a. Open</b>	<b>17b. Closed</b>	<b>17c. Partially Closed</b>	<b>Other Activities</b>
0	0	0	0
<b>17d. Total</b>			
0			
<b>Meetings and Dates</b>			
No Meetings			
		<b>Current FY</b>	<b>Next FY</b>
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>		\$0.00	\$0.00

<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

NOAA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) assists the agency in maintaining a complete and accurate understanding of scientific issues critical to the agency's missions, from forecasting weather to stewardship of the Nation's fisheries. The SAB is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (aka the NOAA Administrator) on strategies for research, education, and application of science to operations and information services, to understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet the Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs. This purpose, as expressed in the SAB's charter, reflects the missions of the Agency and so better

aligns the SAB with NOAA's needs. SAB activities and advice provide necessary input to ensure that NOAA's science programs are of the highest quality and provide optimal support to resource management and environmental assessment and prediction. The SAB provides specific advice and recommendations on all aspects of NOAA's science programs and activities in areas the Board deems necessary or in response to specific requests by NOAA. The SAB makes these recommendations in the form of oral guidance, written reports, and communication to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. The SAB also conducts its business through the use of standing working groups. There are currently four standing working groups - Environmental Information Services (EISWG); Ecosystem Sciences and Management (ESMWG); Data Archiving and Access Requirements (DAARWG); and Climate (CWG). The Tsunami Science and Technology Advisory Panel (TSTAP) sits under the EISWG

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

Consisting of eminent scientists, engineers, resource managers and educators, the diverse membership of the group assures expertise reflecting the full breadth of NOAA's responsibilities. Members are appointed by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (aka the NOAA Administrator) to serve three year terms, with the possibility of renewing once. Members may serve until their replacements are appointed but do not have to do so. If a member remains on the Board past his/her completion date, language in the latest Charter indicates that this may only be done with approval of the NOAA Administrator and for a period of time

not to exceed one year beyond the current appointment's completion date. This ensures that members have a clear time frame for rotating off the SAB. The term limits ensure that experts are moved on and off the Board in consistent fashion to ensure a diversity of opinions over time. The membership in FY2023 was diverse, including: seven academic researchers and science administrators, one consultant on international and national science matters; one member from non-academic, non-profit organizations; five from industry; and one from state government (this reflects the total membership of 16, including those who resigned or rotated off during the year). The Board membership was composed of five females and eleven males. Maintaining the diversity and professional balance of the Board membership continues to be a priority and a challenge in NOAA's evaluation and selection of new appointees.

#### **20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The NOAA SAB has approximately three in-person meetings per year, budget permitting, and teleconferences in between those. At all meetings, the Board considers topics that are current and relevant to the science and technology issues that are being addressed by researchers, educators, and agencies in conducting advanced atmospheric and oceanic research and in advancing NOAA forecasting and stewardship missions. Four meetings were held in FY2023, one virtual as an unplanned follow-up to the July in person meeting and two in person. The topics for the meetings are solicited from the leadership of NOAA and from the Board members through a formal process. Meeting topics are selected based on needs expressed by either NOAA or by Board

members based on their understanding of critical issues. When meetings are held outside of the Washington DC area, a focus is placed on regionally-important issues. In addition to topical issues, important elements of SAB meetings are updates from SAB working groups and the consideration and approval/ disapproval of their reports. This year, the SAB meetings focused on priority topics developed in FY2022, on working group products and on a request from Congress for the SAB to review weather research priorities.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

NOAA's ability to carry out and continually improve its forecasting and stewardship missions depends on scientific and technological expertise that resides both within and outside the agency. NOAA must have access to the most advanced atmospheric and oceanic research and tap the best ideas for applying scientific breakthroughs to its mission. It must also be forward-looking, able to anticipate needs in coming years, and ensure that the agency is performing and funding research and education that will answer those future requirements. In managing NOAA's research, NOAA leadership must be able to base its decisions on the most recent developments in the broad areas of rapidly changing science and technology that underlie the agency's work. The SAB plays a critical role in affecting NOAA's strategic goals for long- and short-term improvement in environmental forecasting and stewardship by advising NOAA on ever-changing management, stewardship, and regulatory needs and on emerging science and technology.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

Five partially closed meetings were held in FY23. These meetings were partially closed to convene an executive session on NOAA administrative and budget matters.

## 21. Remarks

### Designated Federal Officer

Casey Lynnette Stewart Executive Director, NOAA  
Science Advisory Board

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Allen, Jon	06/04/2021	06/03/2024	Sr Advisor, Sr Academic & Res Program Officer School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ausubel, Jesse	06/09/2021	06/08/2024	Director of the Program for the Human Environment and Senior Research Associate, Rockefeller University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Carpenter, Ilene	06/08/2021	06/07/2024	Earth Sciences Segment Manager, Hewlett Packard Enterprise	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gentemann, Chelle	06/08/2021	06/07/2024	Senior Scientist, Farallon Institute	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Grimes, Ronald	06/16/2021	06/15/2024	President and CEO, Grimes Consulting, LLC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Grossman, Robert	12/06/2020	12/05/2024	Frederick H. Rawson Professor Jim and Karen Frank Director of the Center for Data Intensive Science University of Chicago	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Kreider, John	10/30/2019	10/29/2025	Kreider Consulting LLC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lenhardt, W.	11/20/2020	11/19/2024	Domain Scientist, Earth Data Science RENC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lui, Brooke	06/10/2021	06/09/2024	Professor of Communication and Associate Dean for Academic Standards and Policies, The Graduate School, University of Maryland	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Merritt, Bonnie	06/10/2021	06/09/2024	Professor (ret.), Rutgers University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Perry, Ruth	11/10/2019	11/09/2023	Shell Exploration and Production Company	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pu, Zhaoxia	06/07/2021	06/08/2024	Professor, Department of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Utah	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Storksdieck, Martin	11/26/2020	11/25/2024	Director, STEM Research Center Professor College of Education and School of Public Policy Oregon State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Weatherhead, Elizabeth	11/04/2019	11/03/2023	Jupiter Intelligence	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Weisberg, Steve	06/08/2021	06/07/2024	Executive Director, Southern California Coastal Water Resources Project	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Wu, Anthony	06/09/2021	06/08/2024	Executive	Special
			Director,	Government
Wuebbles, Donald	06/08/2021	06/07/2024	AeroMarine LLC	Employee
			The Harry E. Preble Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Illinois	(SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 17**

### Narrative Description

As the Science Advisory Board advises on all aspects with respect to science at NOAA, by its nature the SAB supports the agency's mission. To strengthen this connection, the SAB charter reflects the Agency's mission statement. The charter states that the first objective of the SAB is to: advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on strategies for research, education, and application of science to operations and information services, so as to better understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet the Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs. As NOAA has adjusted its strategic plan to reflect a One NOAA perspective through better cross-Line Office communication, the SAB charter aligns the advisory board to follow this cross-disciplinary perspective.

### What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if  
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>

Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements

☐

Other

☐

### Outcome Comments

NA

### What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None

☒

Unable to Determine

☐

Under \$100,000

☐

\$100,000 - \$500,000

☐

\$500,001 - \$1,000,000

☐

\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000

☐

\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000

☐

Over \$10,000,000

☐

Cost Savings Other

☐

### Cost Savings Comments

NA

### What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

978

### Number of Recommendations Comments

The SAB produced reports this year through its working groups or review teams. A total of 51 recommendations were received in these reports.

### What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

32%

### % of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Recommendations made by the Science Advisory Board prior to July 2002 continue to be collated and assessed to determine how many have been implemented.

Recommendations by the SAB since July 2002 are being tracked by the SAB staff office

to ensure that the Agency has provided a response. Many of the recommendations are of the nature that will take several years and thousands of dollars to implement. The agency is not always able to implement these fully but has made an effort to at least address these partially and provide explanations for why they are or are not yet fully implemented.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

24%

#### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

As per the previous explanation, full implementation of many of the recommendations would require significant changes to the agency programs and budget. This is not always feasible and so a number of the recommendations are only able to be partially implemented.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

#### **Agency Feedback Comments**

The agency works with the SAB Office to prepare formal responses to any and all recommendations made by the SAB. The agency has one year to provide a response back to the SAB after recommendations are provided to the agency. This response takes the form of a presentation at a public meeting of the SAB and a written report that is posted on the SAB website. A written response for the record is also provided at this time.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### **Action Comments**

Although NOAA has adjusted its science and technology priorities, including internal allocation of resources, the SAB recommendations do not typically address issues that

require regulatory or legislative changes. The SAB does not provide advice on specific grant or contract allocations.

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

Federal Register notices.