

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of Commerce	2025
3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
Ocean Exploration Advisory Board	80491

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	07/26/2016	07/26/2026	

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No		

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
33 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.	03/30/2009	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00

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

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Oceans Exploration Advisory Board (Board): a. advises the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (Under Secretary) on priority areas for survey and discovery; b. assists the program in the development of a 5-year strategic plan for the fields of ocean, marine, and Great Lakes science, exploration, and discovery; c. reviews annually the quality and effectiveness of the proposal review process established under Section 12003(a)(4); and d. provides other assistance and advice as requested by the Under Secretary.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Board currently consists of approximately 12

members including a Chair, designated by the Under Secretary in accordance with Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) requirements. Consideration is given to members that are experts in fields relevant to ocean exploration, including ocean scientists, engineers and technical experts, and experts in education and communications. Membership is open to individuals from academia, government, industry, non-governmental not-for-profit organizations, and other ocean-related institutions. Consideration is also given to members that have national and international reputations, or have degrees or professional qualifications in: physical, chemical, or biological oceanography, social sciences, or ocean engineering, technology, operations, education, and/or communications. Members have scientific credentials and/or relevant experience that enable them to provide expert advice concerning the Boards' roles within the context of NOAA's ocean missions and policies. OTHER BALANCE FACTORS: The categories of professional sector, geographic, gender and ethnic diversity are considered in the selection of Board members but are secondary to the scientific and technical expertise required.

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

The Board formally meets approximately twice per year. The meetings are required to assure that all members are fully informed and are provided the opportunity to contribute.

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

The Board is established by law. It reports to the NOAA Administrator as directed by 33 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.

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

N/A.

21. Remarks

Designated Federal Officer

David Gene Turner DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Ferrini, Vicki	09/30/2023	09/30/2026	Research Scientist Columbia University Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Girguis, Peter	08/01/2022	07/31/2025	Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hand, Kevin	08/01/2022	07/31/2025	Director, Ocean Worlds Lab, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Iaukea, Lesley	04/18/2023	04/17/2026	Professor University of Hawaii	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
King, Eric	09/30/2023	09/30/2026	Senior Director of Operations, Schmidt Ocean Institute	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Le Roux, Veronique	08/01/2022	07/31/2025	Associate Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Manley, Justin	09/30/2023	09/30/2026	Founder and President, Just Innovation Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Millar, David	09/30/2023	09/30/2026	Government Accounts Director, Fugro USA, Inc.	Special Government (SGE) Employee Member
Moline, Mark	08/01/2022	07/31/2025	Director, School of Marine Science and Policy, University of Delaware	Special Government (SGE) Employee Member
Muller-Karger, Frank	08/01/2022	07/31/2025	Professor of Biological Oceanography and Remote Sensing, College of Marine Science, University of South Florida	Special Government (SGE) Employee Member
Prager, Ellen	08/01/2022	07/31/2025	President, Earth2Ocean, Inc	Special Government (SGE) Employee Member
Smart, Clara	09/30/2023	09/30/2026	Ocean Engineer, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory	Special Government (SGE) Employee Member
Taum, Ramsay	09/30/2023	09/30/2026	Director, Pacific Islands Leadership Institute, Hawaii Pacific University	Special Government (SGE) Employee Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 13

Narrative Description

The Board advises the Under Secretary on matters pertaining to ocean exploration including the identification of priority areas that warrant exploration; and the development and enhancement of technologies for exploring the oceans, managing the data and information, and disseminating the results. The Board also provides advice on the relevance of the program with regard to the NOAA Next Generation Strategic Plan and other guiding documents.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

N/A

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

OEAB recommendations could result in efficiencies and cost savings to government, but these are not possible to quantify.

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

88

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Board did not make any recommendations in FY24.

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

30%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

See comment above. The OEAB provides complex analysis and recommendations, many of which must be implemented over time.

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

25%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

See comment above. Recommendations partially implemented generally require time (more than one year) to implement.

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 provides feedback through formal letters from the OEAB chair, through senior agency participation in OEAB meetings, and through discussions between the OEAB chair and the OER director. All OEAB documents and meeting information are available at the OEAB website (oeab.noaa.gov)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NOAA Ocean Exploration has implemented many of the OEAB recommendations that fall

within its span of control. This includes meaningful input the organization's 5-year strategic plan and exploration priorities - for example the current Campaign in the mid-Pacific region - the Board also conducted a Program Review of NOAA Ocean Exploration

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

No

Grant Review Comments

OEAB is charged with an annual review of NOAA Ocean Exploration's grant making process, not for reviewing individual grant applications. The OEAB conducted the FY24 review on 09/217/2024.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

All OEAB documents and meeting information are available at the OEAB website (oeab.noaa.gov)