

## 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

Report Run Date: 04/20/2024 04:33:31 AM

### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Commerce

### 2. Fiscal Year

2024

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

### 3b. GSA Committee No.

80491

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

07/26/2016

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

07/26/2026

### 7. Expected Term Date

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

### 8c. Actual Term Date

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

33 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.

### 13. Effective Date

03/30/2009

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

Other Committee

### 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

<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?**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Oceans Exploration Advisory Board (the 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 consists of approximately ten members including a Chair and Co-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?

### 21. Remarks

#### Designated Federal Officer

David Gene Turner DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Girguis, Peter	08/01/2022	07/31/2025	Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
			Director, Ocean Worlds Lab,	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
			NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hand, Kevin	08/01/2022	07/31/2025	Professor University of Hawaii	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
			Associate Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Le Roux, Veronique	08/01/2022	07/31/2025	Director, School of Marine Science and Policy, University of Delaware	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
			Professor of Biological Oceanography and Remote Sensing, College of Marine Science, University of South Florida	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Moline, Mark	08/01/2022	07/31/2025	President, Earth2Ocean, Inc	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Muller-Karger, Frank	08/01/2022	07/31/2025		Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Prager, Ellen	08/01/2022	07/31/2025		Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 7**

### **Narrative Description**

The purpose of the Board is to advise 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. (Note: the 7/6-7/7 meeting was cancelled.) The Board did have a working session in early August where they reviewed the OER grant process,

### **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

☐

Over \$10,000,000

☐

Cost Savings Other

☐

### **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 OEAB met virtually one time (11/29/2022) in FY23 to conduct its required grant process review. The OEAB met one time in-person (4/25 and 4/26). The NOAA administrator has asked the OEAB to develop strategic recommendations about the future of the Ocean Exploration as a field of study and an operational enterprise. The Board will deliver those recommendations in FY2024.

**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 to 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.

### 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 FY23 review on 11/29/2022.

### 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](http://oeab.noaa.gov))