2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Sea Grant Advisory Board

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of Commerce	2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
National Sea Grant Advisory Board	100

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	08/08/2022	08/08/2024	

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

9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear	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. Commitee Type	14c. Presidential?
33 U.S.C. 1121 et.seq. P.L. 94-461	10/08/1976	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this FiscalYear

17a. Open	17b. Closed	17c. Partially Closed	Other Activities	17d. Total
0	0	0	0	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 Sea Grant Advisory Board (Advisory Board) generally meets in-person twice annually and by conference call/virtual meeting as necessary to consider reports from the Advisory Board Committees. The Advisory Board has responsibility to advise on the performance of the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program, the status of individual Sea Grant programs, and the implementation of the Planning, Implementation and Evaluation (PIE) system.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The current membership is balanced to meet the legislative requirement that "not less than eight of

the voting members of the Advisory Board shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in one or more of the disciplines and fields included in marine science. The other voting members shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in, or representative of, education, marine affairs and resource management, coastal management, extension services, State government, industry, economics, planning, or any other activity which is appropriate to, and important for, any effort to enhance the understanding, assessment, development, management, utilization, or conservation of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources" Additionally, as part of the Advisory Board charter, there is a required balance plan which include information and plans for recruitment and diversity.

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

The National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Advisory Board) meets at least twice annually. All meetings and Sea Grant program site visits are relevant to the Advisory Board's legislatively mandated responsibilities to provide advice to the Secretary of Commerce, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and the Director of the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program on the performance, planning, and operation of the Nation Sea Grant College Program.

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

By legislation, the National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Advisory Board) is required to advise the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program

concerning (A) strategies for utilizing the sea grant college program to address the Nation’s highest priorities regarding the understanding, assessment, development, management, utilization, and conservation of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources (B) the designation of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes and (C) such other matters as the Secretary refers to the Advisory Board for review and advice. The National Sea Grant College Program is a complex program involving more than 300 universities that participate through 34 university-based Sea Grant programs located in all coastal and Great Lakes states, including Guam, Puerto Rico and the Lake Champlain region. As can be seen, the Sea Grant legislation provides a strong role for an independent advisory body composed of experts in marine-related fields. The reason is the mandate given to Sea Grant, namely to develop the commitment and involvement of universities to achieve -- through research, education, and outreach -- greater understanding, assessment, development, utilization, and conservation of the nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The dedicated members of the National Sea Grant Advisory Board provide valued advice on these issues to NOAA and the Department that is critically needed to achieve the mandate and oversee the development of the National Sea Grant College Program. There is no other existing group sufficiently knowledgeable about Sea Grant's mission that could provide, over the long term, the balance and breadth of expert advice that is vitally important to a multifaceted, scientific-based program.

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

N/A

21. Remarks

For fiscal year 2023, the National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Advisory Board) Program Implementation and Evaluation (PIE) Review subcommittee focused its efforts on the development of a report that included a revised allocation policy. An allocation policy is required at the federal level to guide the annual development and implementation of a spend plan for the National Sea Grant College Program through the Director. The Education and Outreach subcommittee discussed and explored the critical but often neglected role of environmental justice in developing and implementing resilience strategies and the ways that the National Sea Grant College Program can promote effective mechanisms to support these approaches, including creating a report for the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program. Additionally, individuals from the Advisory Board continued involvement in selecting Sea Grant Knauss Fellows, and serving as Board liaisons for the Education, Extension and Communication network teams. Costs for the subcommittees are included in the budget for the parent committee.

Designated Federal Officer

Susan A. Holmes Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Betzer, Peter	06/25/2021	06/25/2025	Dean & Professor Marine Science (retired)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Engle, Carole	09/17/2018	09/06/2026	Aquaculture Specialist (retired)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Gibson, Deidre	06/06/2022	06/06/2026	Professor (Marine and Environmental Science)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Grau, Edward	02/07/2016	01/25/2024	Professor of Zoology at the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gray, Judith	10/05/2015	10/05/2023	Retired, NOAA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Helmuth, Brian	10/05/2015	10/05/2023	Professor at the Marine Science Center at Northeastern University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lerner, Darren	01/01/2022	01/01/2024	Sea Grant Association President	Ex Officio Member
Murray, James	01/25/2016	01/25/2025	Retired, NOAA National Sea Grant College Program	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Norosz, Kristine	12/10/2018	12/09/2026	Fisheries (retired)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pennock, Jonathan	07/11/2016	01/01/2027	Director, National Sea Grant College Program and NOAA National Sea Grant Office	Ex Officio Member
Robinson, Larry	01/17/2023	01/17/2028	Florida A&M University President	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Stirling, Deborah	09/17/2018	09/06/2026	Attorney specializing in science, engineering, environment, climate (retired)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Target, Nancy	06/06/2022	06/06/2026	University Provost (retired)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 13

Narrative Description

The National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Advisory Board) is an essential part of NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program. The Advisory Board contributes to NOAA's Mission of Science, Service, and Stewardship in three areas: 1. To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans and coasts; 2. To share that knowledge and information with others; and 3. To conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources. https://seagrant.noaa.gov/about-sea-grant/

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

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	☐
Trust in government	☐
Major policy changes	☐
Advance in scientific research	✓
Effective grant making	✓
Improved service delivery	✓
Increased customer satisfaction	✓
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

While we have not formally analyzed the cost savings associated with this Committee, anecdotal evidence suggests it is very high. This is based on documented changes made by the 34 Sea Grant programs that have resulted from the Advisory Board's reviews of performance and recommendations for improvements.

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

2,100

Number of Recommendations Comments

In FY2023, the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) received 5 recommendations. The Program Implementation and Evaluation (PIE) Review subcommittee produced a report on its review of the National Sea Grant College Program Policy for the Allocation of Funds, FY 2024 and Beyond and included 1 recommendation to accept the revised policy. The recommendation and revised policy in this report was sent to the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program. This policy recommendation should be seen as the best compromise between sustaining excellence across the diverse Sea Grant programs while allowing for adjustments in funding as appropriations change. The Education and Outreach subcommittee discussed and explored the critical but often neglected role of environmental justice in developing and implementing resilience strategies and the ways that the National Sea Grant College Program can promote effective mechanisms to support these approaches, including creating a report for the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program. The report contains 4 recommendations in ways in which the subcommittee considered how the National Sea Grant College Program makes and measures progress on environmental justice and resilience. More information is available on the Board website: https://seagrant.noaa.gov/national-sea-grant-advisory-board/

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

80%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

In FY2023, the National Sea Grant Office (NSGO) continued to move forward in implementing the 4 recommendations in the 2021 Independent Review Panel report: 1) PIER database improvements; 2) PIE policy alignment with OAR program review policy; 3) revisit program allocation policy, and 4) revisit its partnership framework. Improvements

were made to the PIER database. The allocation policy was revisited by the National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Advisory Board), who created a new policy and recommended its implementation to the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program. The allocation policy is currently under review by the National Sea Grant College Program Director with plans for implementation fall 2023 (FY24). The NSGO addressed the recommendations in the Advisory Board's "40% Competitive Research and Education Policy for Base Funding Report" (2022) by creating and implementing the "Competitive Research Allocation Policy". The individual Sea Grant Programs are expected to direct 30 to 50 percent of the omnibus budget (base + merit + match) towards managing rigorous, peer-reviewed research competition(s), as defined by the Sea Grant National Competition Policy, that address stakeholder needs through the creation of new scientific knowledge. https://seagrant.noaa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Competitive-Research-Allocation-Policy_ The NSGO continued to implement the 4 recommendations in the Biennial Report to Congress (2020), which are 1) continue to support the implementation of the Network Vision Plans, 2) continue and amplify efforts to incorporate social and environmental justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in its organization structure and programming, 3) continue to actively seek opportunities and collaborations to leverage Sea Grant's Unique strengths in building coastal community resilience, and 4) make adjustments based on the findings and recommendation of the Independent Review Panel and Board Evaluation Committee. Final findings of implementation will be determined over this coming year by the National Sea Grant Advisory Board Education and Outreach Committee, who created a Quadrennial Report to Congress subcommittee to create the next report to congress (2024), which will address the previous report's recommendations. More information is available on the Board website: https://seagrant.noaa.gov/national-sea-grant-advisory-board/

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?
20%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments
Recommendations from the National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Advisory Board) are advisory in nature, and the majority are implemented; however, the National Sea Grant College Program and individual Sea Grant Programs are not required to implement Advisory Board recommendations if they do not agree with them and/or do not have the current resources to do so. The recommendations from the Advisory Board reports are being implemented through updated guidance and policy. This will be an ongoing process.

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 public and the National Sea Grant Advisory Board (Advisory Board) is briefed by staff of the NOAA National Sea Grant Office at Advisory Board meetings as to the status of the implementation of recommendations. In addition, the Advisory Board receives feedback through meetings of the Advisory Board's Executive Committee with the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (when possible), the NOAA Chief of Staff, the Assistant Administrator for NOAA Research and the Director of the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program and his staff. The Advisory Board is included in a variety of listservs and announcements regarding information about the program and information relevant to the Advisory Board that is sent by the Director. The Director and Designated Federal Officer meet monthly with the Board Executive Committee via conference call.

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

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	☑
Reallocated resources	☐
Issued new regulation	☐
Proposed legislation	☐
Approved grants or other payments	☐
Other	☐

Action Comments

Actions based on the recommendations of the board frequently help in the organization of National Sea Grant College Program Priorities.

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	☑

Online Agency Web Site	☑
Online Committee Web Site	☑
Online GSA FACA Web Site	☑
Publications	☑
Other	☐

Access Comments

National Sea Grant Advisory Board website:
https://seagrant.noaa.gov/national-sea-grant-advisory-board/