

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Hydrographic Services Review Panel

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Commerce

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Hydrographic Services Review
Panel

3b. GSA Committee No.

16608

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
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No 08/25/2023 08/25/2025

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
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No

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
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P.L. 107-372, Section 105	12/19/2002	Continuing	No
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15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program
Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

17b. Closed	17c. Partially Closed	Other Activities	17d. Total
1	0	0	1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
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To learn more about NOAA delivery of products, services and data for safe navigation and port/coastal resilience. This meeting's geographic focus was mainly on California, but also on issues crosscutting nationally. The HSRP heard from NOAA/NOS AA Nicole LeBoeuf, the Directors of NOAA CO-OPS, NGS and OCS, and from a number of stakeholders speaking on precision marine navigation and underkeel clearance, adaptive and resilient ports, surveying and mapping, NOAA's geospatial grants for geodetic workforce development, and other regional concerns. 03/05/2024 - 03/07/2024

Comments were also gathered from members of the public and NOAA partners. The HSRP is an independent body tasked to provide NOAA with independent advice on improving the quality, efficiency, and usefulness of NOAA's navigation-related products, data, and services. The HSRP advises the NOAA Administrator about NOAA navigation (i.e. nautical charts and ENC's), physical oceanographic (i.e. tides & water levels), geospatial, positioning, and coastal and shoreline programs, products, and services.

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current Next	
	FY	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 HSRP was established and directed by P.L. 107-372 to provide advice to the NOAA Administrator on matters and responsibilities set forth in Section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (HSIA) of 1998 and its amendments of 2002 and 2008, and on other appropriate matters as the NOAA Administrator refers to the Panel for review and advice. The Panel is a Federal Advisory Committee that advises the NOAA Administrator on carrying out NOAA's navigation services mission, which is to ensure safe, efficient, and environmentally sound movement of commerce along America's marine transportation system. The HSRP usually holds 2 in-person regionally based meetings a year to hear from stakeholders, gather information, discuss and provide recommendations. This advice is provided to the NOAA Administrator through reports, issue papers, and formal recommendation letters.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

NOAA seeks a balanced subject matter expertise and as specified in the HSIA the expertise is the primary criteria considered in the evaluation process. The voting members of the panel are individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training are especially qualified in one or more of the disciplines and fields relating to hydrographic surveying: tides, currents, geodetic

and geospatial measurement, marine transportation, port administration, vessel pilotage, and coastal or fishery management, and other disciplines as determined appropriate by the NOAA Administrator. NOAA follows a Membership Balance Plan which considers leadership, as well as expertise and geography. Professional sector representation (academia, industry, research, scientific institution, state and local government, tribal interests, consultant, non-governmental organization, etc.), geographic expertise, experience working productively with committees and working groups, and leadership with navigation, observations, and positioning are other criteria that will be considered. The diverse membership of the HSRP assures expertise reflecting the full breadth of the HSRP's responsibilities. Where possible, NOAA will also consider the ethnic, racial, and gender diversity of the United States. There are 19 total with 15 voting and 4 non-voting members. The HSRP Charter states, "The Panel shall consist of fifteen voting members appointed by the Administrator in accordance with the provisions and prohibitions of Section 105 of the Act. Members will be selected on a clear, standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance. The Co-Directors of the Joint Hydrographic Center and two other employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall serve as nonvoting members of the Panel."

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

The HSRP has at least 2 public meetings a year as proscribed by Public Law 107-372 which states, "The panel shall meet on a biannual basis and, at any other time, at the call of the Chairman or upon the request of a majority of the voting

members or of the Secretary." The HSRP reviews current issues and topics of interest requested by the members and NOAA.

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

The HSRP is essential to carry out the responsibilities established under the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998 and its Amendments of 2002 and 2008. The navigation and hydrographic surveying expertise of the HSRP is not performed by any other Department, Federal agency, or other existing committees.

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

N/A

21. Remarks

In addition to 15 voting members, the HSRP legislation appoints 4 non-voting members on the basis of their position, "The Co-Directors of the Joint Hydrographic Center and two other employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall serve as non-voting members of the Panel." Three of the four non-voting members include FTEs/RGEs who serve on an ongoing basis with no end date. RGE Richard Edwing retired in December 2022 and was replaced by RGE Dr. Marian Westley. Members Dave Maune and Anne Kinner rotated off the Panel as of 1/1/2023 and two new HSRP members joined (Eric Peace and MaryPaige Abbott). Three members were reappointed and extended to 2027: Nicole Elko, Deanne Hargrave and Anuj Chopra.

Designated Federal Officer

Benjamin Evans Director, Office of Coast Survey

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Abbott, MaryPaige	01/01/2023	01/01/2027	Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Abdullah, Qassim	01/01/2020	01/01/2028	Woolpert, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Armstrong, Andrew	01/01/2004	08/25/2025	US Government USDOC NOAA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Blackwell, Juliana	01/01/2004	08/25/2025	US Government USDOC NOAA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Chopra, Anuj	01/01/2019	01/01/2027	Risk management; Vice President - Americas, RightShip	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cruz, Alex	01/01/2022	01/01/2026	Maritime pilot	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Duffy, Sean	01/01/2018	01/01/2026	Executive Director, Big River Coalition	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Elko, Nicole	01/01/2020	01/01/2027	Science Director, American Shore and Beach Preservation Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Freeman, Sloan	01/01/2024	01/01/2028	Geodynamics/NV5	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Gee, Lindsay	01/01/2016	01/01/2024	Mapping and Science Coordinator, Ocean Exploration Trust; previously consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hargrave, Deanne	01/01/2019	01/01/2027	Senior Operations Surveyor, Geo Operations, Shell International Exploration & Production	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Holtz, Kimberly	01/01/2024	01/01/2028	Port of Long Beach	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kurtz, Carolyn	01/01/2024	01/01/2028	Tampa Bay Pilots Assn	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mayer, Larry	01/01/2004	08/25/2025	Hydrography, surveying; Co-Director, Center for Coastal Ocean Mapping, UNH	Ex Officio Member
McIntyre, Anne	01/01/2016	01/01/2024	Pilot; Columbia River Pilots	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ozkan-Haller, Tuba	01/01/2022	01/01/2026	academic, Oregon State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Peace, Eric	01/01/2023	01/01/2027	Great Lakes Carriers Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Quintal, Rebecca	01/01/2024	01/01/2028	SEACORP, RI	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Saade, Ed	01/01/2016	01/01/2024	Hydrography, surveying; Group Director Americas, President USA, Fugro	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Thomas, Julie	01/01/2018	01/01/2026	(Ret) Program Manager, Coastal Data Information Program	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Thompson, Gary	01/01/2016	01/01/2024	Chief, NC Geodetic Survey	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Wardwell, Nathan	01/01/2022	01/01/2026	Surveying	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Westley, Marian	01/01/2023	08/25/2025	US Government USDOC NOAA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 23

Narrative Description

The HSRP is legislatively mandated to provide advice to the NOAA Administrator on the responsibilities and authorities set forth in the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (HSIA) 2002, and its Amendments, and other appropriate matters the NOAA Administrator refers to the HSRP for review and advice. The advice and recommendations of the HSRP directly supports NOAA's hydrographic services, geospatial and positioning, and coastal resilience mission. The HSRP's advice and recommendations is used to implement strategic improvements to NOAA's hydrographic survey priorities; storm surge and tidal prediction models; geospatial and positioning, and coastal resilience products, services, and information. NOAA values the advice and recommendations from the HSRP and uses this information to fulfill its mission for understanding and predicting changes in the Earth's environment and to conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet the Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs.

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

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The HSRP provides advice and recommendations to the NOAA Administrator on many mission-related programs. Some of the programs that benefit from HSRP input include Nautical Charting, Hydrographic Services, Water Levels and Currents, Physical Oceanographic Real-Time Systems PORTS®, the National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON), National Spatial Reference System, Height Modernization, U.S. Shoreline Definitions, Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS), Response and Restoration, and Wetlands Restoration, the National Weather Service's marine forecasts. HSRP input ultimately affects the U.S. Marine Transportation System (MTS) and the Nation by providing advice which improves the protection of life and property, efficient and environmentally sound marine transportation, emergency response capabilities, and coastal zone management. Every U.S. citizen relies on the MTS for energy delivery, exports, transportation, cost-effective consumer goods, recreation, and environmental protection.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input 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 Comments**

There are many examples of anecdotal and indirect cost savings from the HSRP recommendations, especially from a navigation services, safety, security and economic perspective. The HSRP has encouraged partnerships, data sharing, and technological advancement with a variety of private sector, university, and other partners. Direct cost savings figures are not available. Indirect cost savings would total in the millions of dollars. HSRP recommendations, if realized within the multi-agency Committee for Marine Transportation Services (CMTS), offer appreciable savings through aggressively mapping the Nation's shorelines and navigationally significant waters; integrating coastal mapping efforts and ensuring federally maintained channels, approaches, and anchorages are surveyed to the highest standard ("the Athos I incident alone cost the ship owner and his insurer over \$165 million... the true value of wildlife lost and port commerce delayed or deferred cannot be calculated..."); modernizing heights and implementing real-time water level and current observing systems in all major commercial ports (\$6.8 - \$9.0 million savings per year in Tampa Bay and \$14.8 - \$18.3 million savings per year (Estimated Annual Benefits of PORTS®)); strengthening NOAA's navigation services emergency response and recovery capabilities ("According to an economic analysis released by the Port, the nine-day closure [during Hurricane Katrina and other 2005 storms] resulted in increases of energy costs to U.S. consumers exceeding \$1 billion); and, disseminating NOAA's hydrographic services data and products to achieve greatest public benefit ("collisions account for 80% of all reportable recreational boating accidents, and 78% of non-reportable accidents, totaling an estimated insurance loss of over \$450 million a year from nearly 100,000 claims. A major cause of claims is "striking a submerged object and groundings..."").

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

361

Number of Recommendations Comments

The type of recommendation varies. For example, some are written as letters to the NOAA Administrator, or within letters making recommendations for policy changes. Others are verbatim or modified versions of recommendations from reports written by the HSRP's Working Groups and which the entire HSRP discusses and provides consensus recommendations. The total above represents the total of those made by the HSRP in letters, issue papers, and reports to the agency. In 2023 HSRP had 7 recommendations including: 1) February 28 - March 2, 2023: in person (and virtual) meeting with 7

recommendations total: 1 recommendation letter with 6 recommendations; 1 statement supporting the National Geospatial Advisory Committee's resolution on Geodesy; 2) September 27-29, 2023: in person (and virtual) meeting with no recommendations letter in FY23. The recommendation letter will be accounted for in FY2024.

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

50%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Approximately 50% of the recommendations have been fully implemented. Of the other recommendations, some are pending, and others were directed, through NOAA, to outside agencies or organizations. The agency is not always able to implement the recommendations for a variety of organizational requirements and issues. Full implementation of many of the recommendations would require significant changes to the agency programs, budget, legislation, organization, thousands of dollars, and years to achieve. This is not always feasible, the recommendations are only able to be partially implemented or not at all. The recommendations may have longer term outcomes that are eventually partially or fully implemented.

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

23%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

There are 34 partially implemented recommendations. As noted above, the agency is not always able to partially implement the recommendations for a variety of organizational requirements and issues. Partial implementation of many of the recommendations would require significant changes to the agency programs, budget, organization, legislation, thousands of dollars, and years to achieve. This is not always feasible and the recommendations are only able to be partially implemented or may have longer term outcomes that are 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 Panel is provided feedback formally and informally. The NOAA Administrator

responds to the Panel recommendation letters with a NOAA response letter. The panel also hears from the DFO, alternate DFO's and program officials. The DFO holds check ins that include feedback with the Panel Chair to improve committee and agency interactions. All correspondence between NOAA and HSRP can be found at the HSRP's public web page, <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/>.

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

Checked if Applies

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

Action Comments

The advice and recommendations from the Panel have helped and provided a catalyst to reinforce partnerships, rethink strategic plans, and drafted reauthorization language in the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, advanced the NOAA Fleet Recapitalization Study, included maritime interests in the Integrated Ocean Observing System program and the Committee for Marine Transportation, and input by NOAA management into NOAA's strategic planning process. Further, advice and recommendations from the Panel also has helped NOAA seek potential collaborative efforts with other Federal partners in the maritime community and deeper understanding of customer and partner requirements.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Publications



Other



Access Comments

NOAA provides a public website for committee information. This includes the NOAA Administrator letters to the HSRP with response to their recommendation letters (see the public meetings web pages): <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/hsrp.html>