

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Science Advisory Board

Tsunami Science and Technology Advisory Panel (TSTAP)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

May 2020

Background:

The Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (the Weather Act) directed the NOAA Administrator to designate an existing working group within the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) to serve as the Tsunami Science and Technology Advisory Panel (TSTAP). The TSTAP will serve as a panel under an existing SAB working group.

Charge:

The purpose of the TSTAP is to provide advice to the NOAA Administrator on matters regarding tsunami science, technology and regional preparedness. In order to accomplish this, the TSTAP will:

- (1) review at least once every four years (beginning 2021) the activities of the Administration and other Federal activities as appropriate, relating to tsunami research, detection, forecasting, warning, mitigation, resiliency and preparation,
- (2) submit findings from the review through the SAB to the NOAA Administrator at least once every four years (beginning 2021) along with recommendations for legislative or administrative action to improve Federal tsunami research, detection, forecasting, warning, mitigation, resiliency and preparation, and
- (3) address such other matters as the NOAA Administrator and/or Science Advisory Board members may request.

Organizational Relationship:

As stated in the Weather Act, the TSTAP will be a panel of an existing SAB standing working group. NOAA and SAB determined the best working group for this purpose is the Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG).

Membership:

The TSTAP shall be composed of members with academic or practical expertise in tsunami science, coastal civil/ocean engineering, geophysics, hydrology/flooding, emergency/disaster management and information/communications services, social sciences, information technology, and/or public education.

The TSTAP will be composed of 7-8 members selected by the NOAA Administrator. At least one member of the SAB will sit on the TSTAP and serve as liaison to that group. The EISWG will also select a member to serve as liaison to the TSTAP. The initial membership will be selected by a process consonant with the SAB Subcommittee Concept of Operations. A small nominations group will be formed consisting of SAB members, EISWG members, and NOAA experts. The list of nominees with justification will be forwarded to the NOAA Administrator for review and ultimate approval. Members of the TSTAP may choose a chair (or co-chairs) from among their number. TSTAP members will each be appointed for one three-year term, renewable for one additional three-year term or for a term length determined by the decision of whether to stand the group down between reports.

Per the Weather Act, the members shall be selected from the academic community or State agencies; no Federal employee may be a member. However, the NOAA Tsunami Program Office will identify an appropriate expert from the US Geological Survey (USGS) to serve as a liaison to the TSTAP.

Reporting:

- As noted in the Charge, once every four years, beginning in 2021, the TSTAP will deliver a report to the SAB through the EISWG. Per the Weather Act, the NOAA Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a copy of the most recent Panel review report.
- In the years in which a report is not submitted to Congress by the NOAA Administrator, the TSTAP shall provide a report on its activities to the SAB at one of the SAB's in-person meetings.