



SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SERVICES WORKING GROUP

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NOAA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

FROM: Brad Colman and Scott Glenn, Co-Chairs, Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG)

SUBJECT: 2022 Tsunami Science & Technology Advisory Panel (TSTAP) Annual Report to the SAB

DATE: March 27, 2023

As the Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) Co-Chairs, we are pleased to provide the TSTAP 2022 Annual Report to the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB). The EISWG has approved this report and it will be presented for SAB approval at the SAB Meeting on April 26, 2023.

The EISWG co-chairs would like to highlight two statements from the report:

Statement #1: *Until an extensive tsunami-specific social science study is completed and fully socialized with stakeholders to obtain agreement on any term change, the TSTAP supports the request in the letter from the five states to retain the "Tsunami Advisory" term and alert level.*

The National Weather Service (NWS) has stated that under its HazSimp process, all Advisory Level terms for all alert products will be eliminated by 2024. That includes the Tsunami Advisory. The premise on which elimination of the Advisory Level term was based on social science studies that were done for weather events (hurricane, winter, and severe) but not tsunami events.

The TSTAP has investigated this decision and concluded that extrapolating weather-related social science to tsunami events is academically inappropriate. Further, the TSTAP was made aware that the Emergency Management Directors of five states (AK, CA, HI, OR, and WA) and the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program Coordinating Committee have submitted letters to NWS Director Ken Graham expressing concerns and asking that the NWS not make this change.

The TSTAP concurs and highlights the need for NOAA to conduct an extensive tsunami-specific social science study, fully socialize it with stakeholders, and obtain agreement on any term change before unilaterally eliminating the Tsunami Advisory term and replacing it with something else that may have unintended consequences and present risk to NOAA and the public.

Statement #2: *The TSTAP recommendations in the 2021 quadrennial report are helping to drive the requirements and plans for TWC harmonization and the NWS Tsunami Program. With tsunamis as one of the top ten priorities of the NWS, TSTAP efforts and recommendations can support this NWS priority.*

As EISWG Co-chairs, we concur with these statements and look forward to the NOAA Response to the TSTAP's Quadrennial Report to describe specific actions that will be implemented by the NWS toward full TWC harmonization.