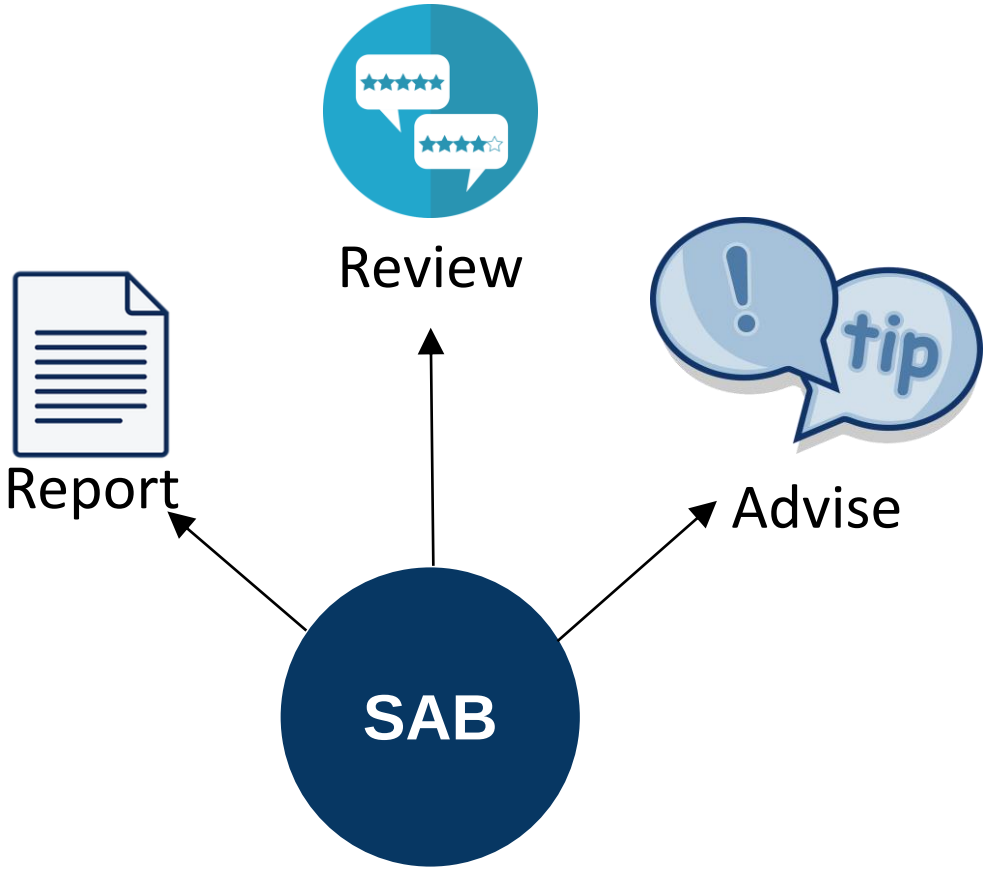
Ecosystem Sciences Management Working Group

Science Advisory Board Overview and ESMWG History

Cynthia J. Decker, Ph.D,
Executive Director, NOAA SAB

Welcome!

Purpose and Background of the SAB



The only NOAA federal advisory committee to advise across all lines, strategic councils, & offices.

- History: created in 1997 by the Under Secretary (J. Baker); first convened in 1998
- Membership: ~15 members; 3-yr term renewable once; nominated by Under Secretary; 3 in-person meetings per year; remote meetings as needed
- SAB Office: Executive Director and 3 part-time staff
- Website: sab.noaa.gov; includes all meeting documents, reports, and information on working groups

Importance of the SAB

- Reports directly to the Under Secretary
- Executive Director works directly with the Chief Scientist & Deputy Under Secretary to identify issues
- Assistant Administrators & Strategic Council Chairs look to the SAB for high-level advice
- All of the above attend the meetings and provide feedback on reports and recommendations

Value Added

- Works to provide strategic guidance on trends, issues and new areas of cutting-edge research that may impact NOAA mission in the future
- Provides advice from external experts, i.e. not the usual suspects
- Validates requirements and needs
- Identifies gaps in programs, expertise, funding

Report

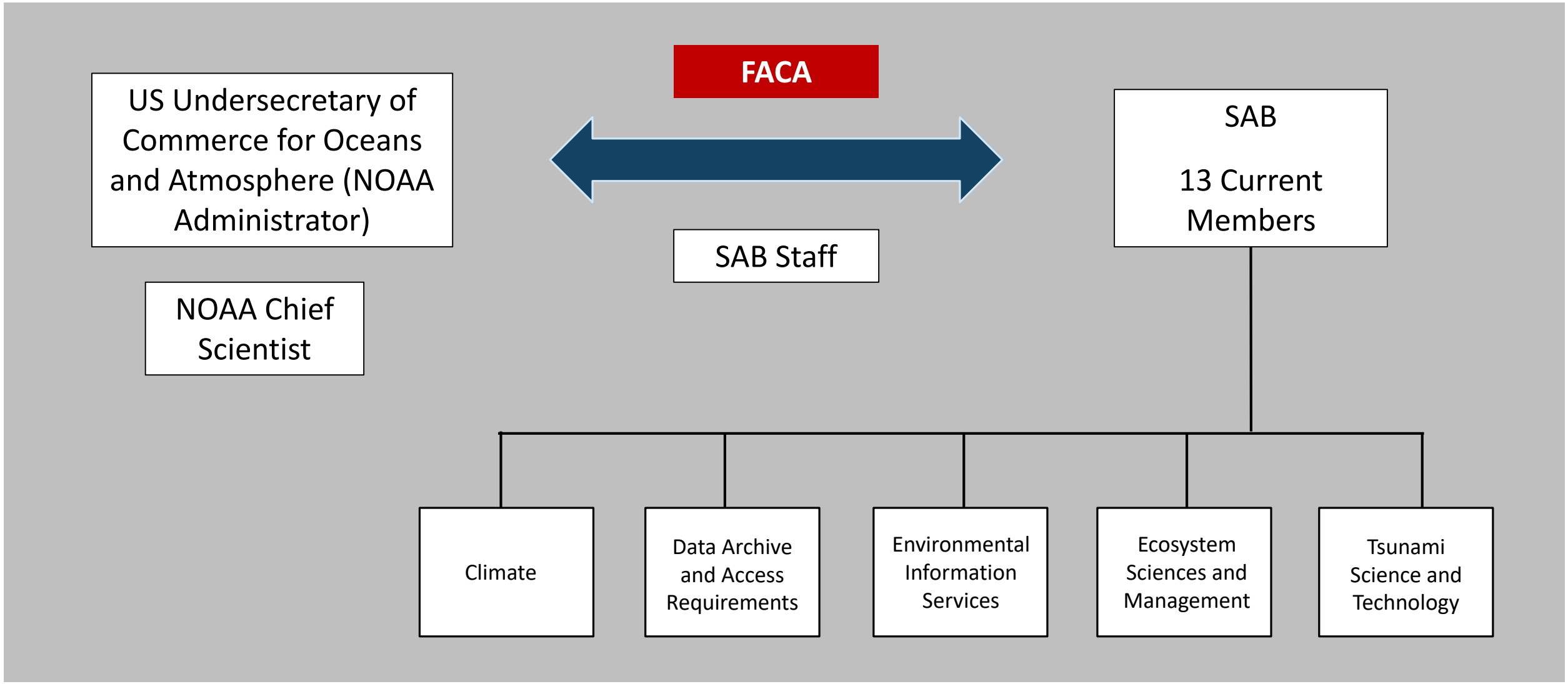
Review

Network of Experts

Advise

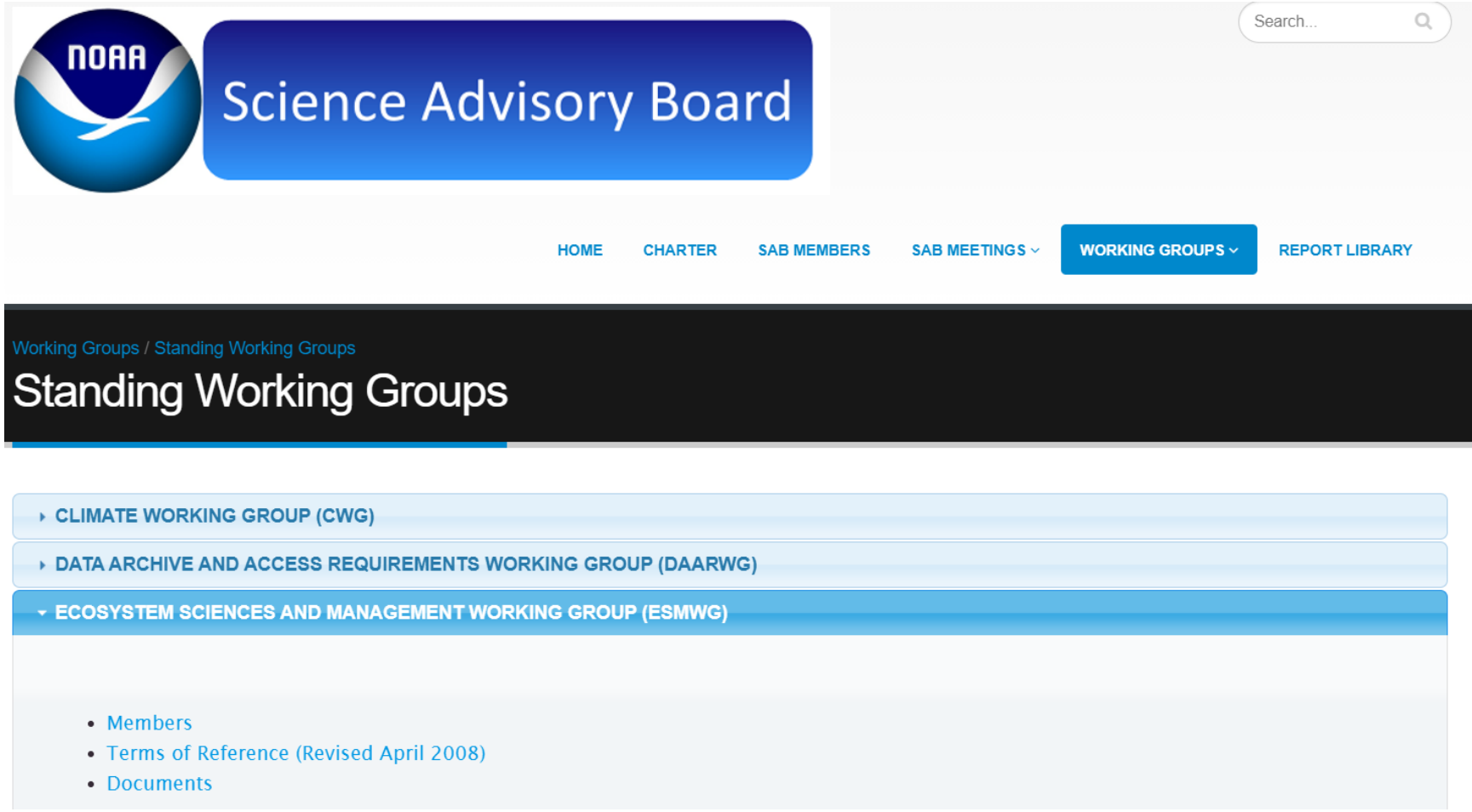
Sounding Board

The SAB in NOAA



SAB Website: sab.noaa.gov

- SAB
  - Members
  - Meeting Details
  - Meeting Documents
- Working Groups
  - Members
  - Reports
  - Terms of Reference
- Report Library



NOAA SAB Working Groups

The NOAA Science Advisory Board is called upon to provide advice to NOAA on a wide variety of topics important to the agency. Because of the breadth of subject matter that the group addresses, they frequently consult with additional experts on specific topics. To that end, there are four standing SAB working groups:

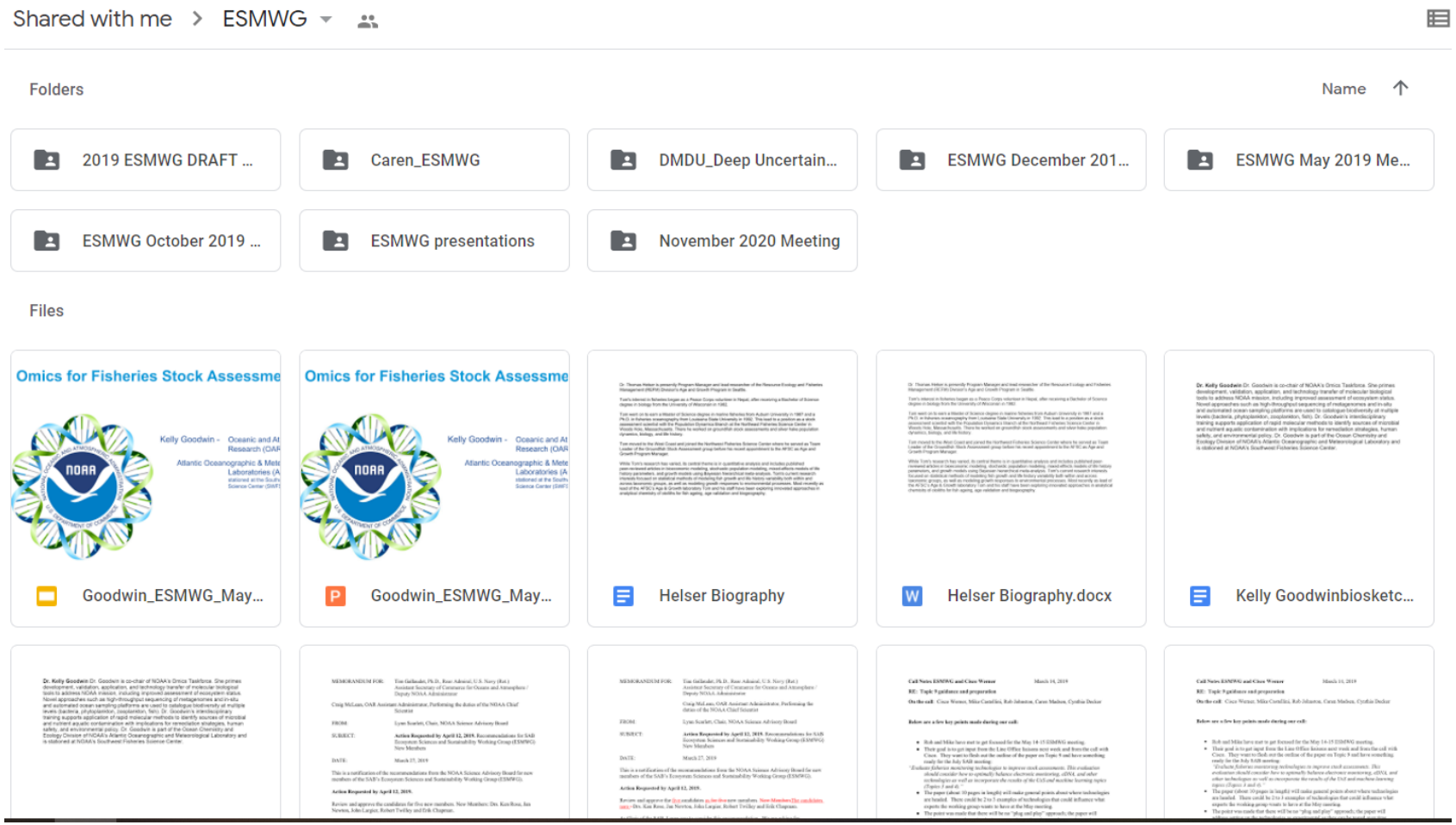
- Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group (ESMWG)
- Climate Working Group (CWG)
- Data Archiving and Access Requirements Working Group (DAARWG)
- Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG)
  - Tsunami Science and Technology Advisory Panel (TSTAP)

How working groups interact with the SAB

- The SAB develops an annual Work Plan.
- Working groups are involved in the Work Plan topic development.
- Working groups typically get assignments for drafting reports on portions of the work plan topics.
- Working groups report back to the SAB periodically, present a final report.
- The SAB accepts a working group report and forwards it to NOAA for a response.
- Final reports are published on the SAB website.

ESMWG Google Drive

- Access granted after become a member
- All ESMWG related documents: membership, reports, meeting documents and minutes
- Allows for joint collaboration on projects



ESMWG Members

CO-CHAIRS

Dr. Jan Newton - University of Washington

Ms. Molly McCammon-Alaska Ocean Observing System

Dr. Lisa Wainger-University of Maryland, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory

MEMBERS

Dr. Lynette Cardoch – Moffat and NIchol

Dr. Erik Chapman - New Hampshire Sea Grant,University of New Hampshire

Mr. Manuel Mejia - Coral Reef Alliance

Dr. Ed Parnell - University of California at San Diego

Dr. Manolo Pizzini - University of Puerto Rico

Dr. Kenneth Rose - University of Maryland

Dr. Robert Twilley - Louisiana State University

Dr. John Vavrinec - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Others involved with the ESMWG

SAB LIAISON

Dr. Jon Allan, University of Michigan

Dr. Steve Weisberg, So. Cal. Coast Water Resources Project

Dr. Denise Reed, University of New Orleans

SAB Office

- **Dr. Cynthia Decker** – NOAA SAB Executive Director
- **Mr. Andrew Peck** – SAB Staff Support

NOAA Liaisons

- **Mr. John Armor (NOS)** – Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
- **Dr. Paul DiGiacomo (NESDIS)** – Chief, Satellite Oceanography and Climatology Division, Center for Satellite Applications and Research
- **Dr. Jonathan Pennock (OAR)**– Director, National Sea Grant Office
- **Dr. Cisco Werner (NMFS)** – Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor

Definition of the ESMWG

From the Term of Reference:

The Ecosystem Sciences and Management Working Group (ESMWG) will provide scientific advice and broad direction to the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) regarding NOAA's ecosystem related programs, in the context of national and international activities. The ESMWG will focus on the broad research, monitoring, and management components of NOAA's ecosystem portfolio, as well as on the underlying observations and data management issues. The ESMWG will assist in establishing plans, assessing progress, and reviewing priorities on a continuing basis.

The role of the ESMWG

As a sanctioned working group of the NOAA SAB, the ESMWG:

- ❑ Advises the SAB on the condition and capabilities of NOAA's ecosystem portfolio and,
- ❑ Submits formal reports to the SAB that identify current issues, deficiencies, recommendations for remedial action, and proposed initiatives.

The ESMWG will:

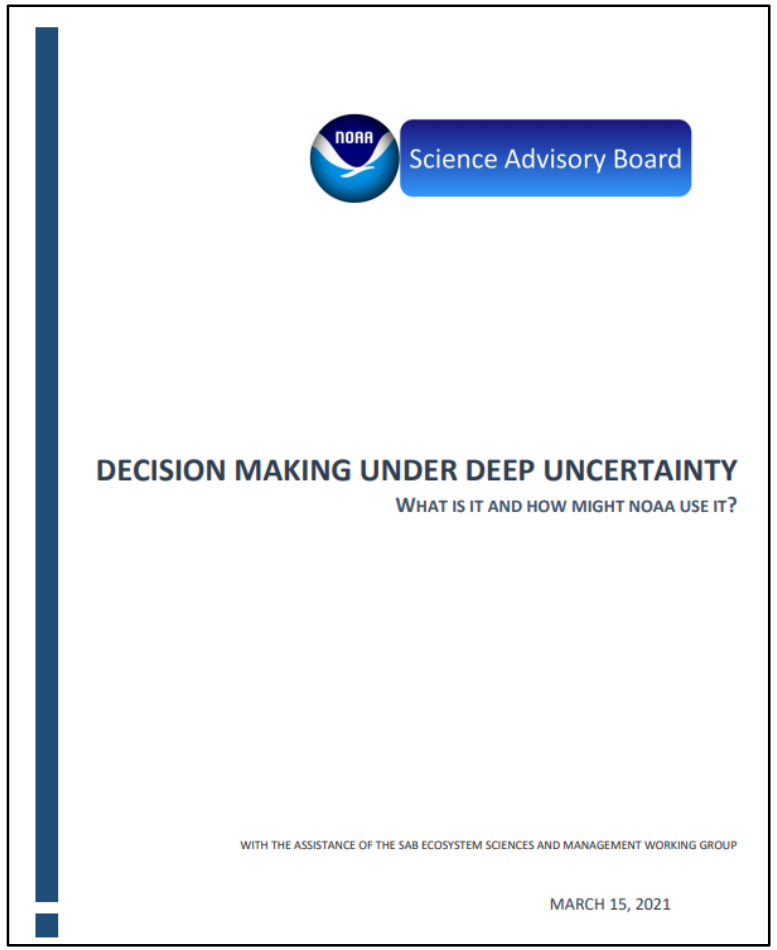
1. Foster ongoing dialogue
2. Enhance communication with external partners and stakeholders, and
3. Provide a sounding board for proposals to enhance the delivery of science supporting ecosystem approaches to management

ESMWG members will

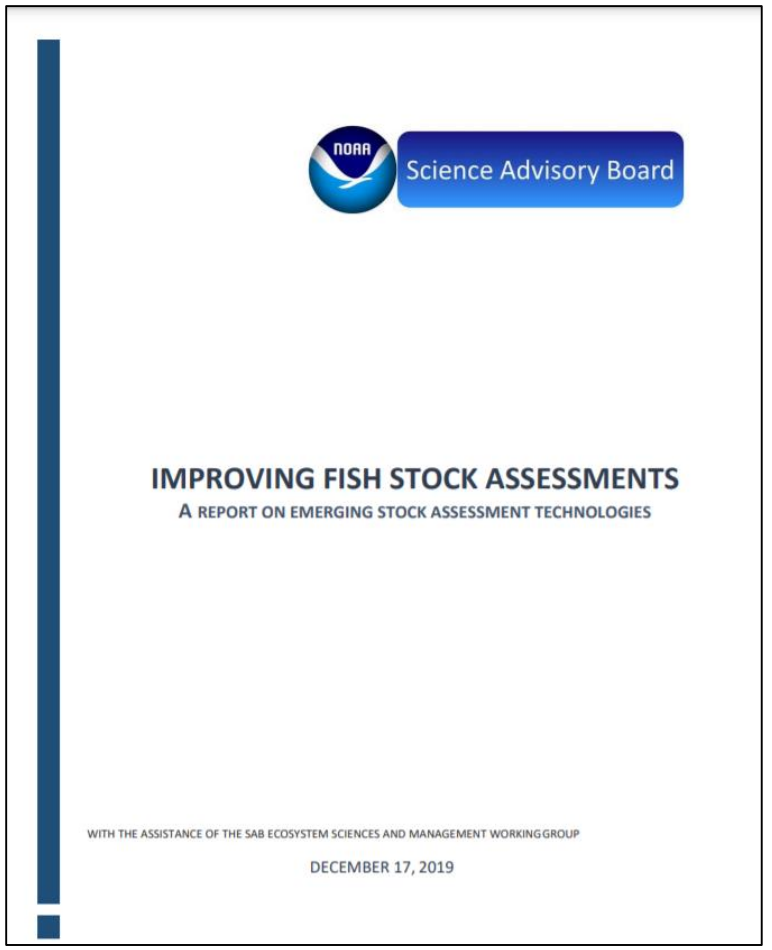
- Be appointed for three-year terms on a rolling and randomized basis with the opportunity for one additional term.
- Provide suggestions of new candidates annually to the NOAA SAB for consideration.
- Convene 2-3 times per year.

Past ESMWG Work

Decision Making Under Deep Uncertainty (2021)



Improving Fish Stock Assessments (2019)



Upcoming ESMWG Work

- Leadership in Coastal Resilience - SAB priority topic
- Rapidly Changing Marine Environments – SAB Priority topic

Questions?