

## **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

### **Science Advisory Board**

### **Tsunami Science and Technology Advisory Panel (TSTAP)**

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE (Revision draft 3, October, 2023)

#### Background:

Title V–*Tsunami Warning, Education, and Research Act (TWERA) of 2017*, appended to *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).

#### 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 TWERA (2017), which was appended to The Weather Act, the TSTAP will be a functional Working Group of the NOAA SAB, and will report to the SAB directly.

#### Membership:

The TSTAP shall be composed of 8 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, and other subject matter experts as the panel or the SAB deems necessary. TSTAP membership appointments will be approved by the NOAA Administrator.

Other than Federal Government liaisons from NOAA and USGS, no member may be an employee of the Federal Government.

The Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) will have a liaison to the TSTAP of their choosing.

TSTAP members will each be appointed for one three-year term, renewable for one additional three-year term. Member terms run until the end of the third calendar year after appointment.

Members appointed later serve a term until the end of the calendar year three years after appointment. For example, a member appointed in 2022 shall serve until the end of 2025 and is eligible to request reappointment for an additional three-year term upon approval of the Co-Chairs.

The maximum number of terms a member may serve is two three-year terms. After that, the member must step off. That member may request reappointment upon Co-Chair approval one or more years after that.

The NOAA National Weather Service Analyze, Forecast, and Support Office or designated Branch or Program within the AFS Office will designate a NOAA Liaison and also identify an appropriate expert from the US Geological Survey (USGS) to serve as a liaison to the TSTAP.

If a member resigns or chooses not to accept an additional three-year term after expiration of the initial term, the TSTAP shall consider potential nominees to recommend to fill the vacancy. The TSTAP may appoint a nominating subgroup or act as a “committee of the whole.” Potential nominees will be carefully vetted by TSTAP members for their background, experience, and the needs of the TSTAP for certain expertise. In addition to the requirements for membership composition as described above, members must live and work in the United States, including its territories. U.S. citizenship is not required.

A list of nominees to fill a vacancy will be reviewed in a closed meeting among the members of the TSTAP and its Federal agency liaisons and SAB Office support staff. When a nominee is selected to recommend for the vacancy, a TSTAP Co-Chair will contact that individual to determine willingness to serve if subsequently asked by the NOAA Administrator to do so.

The name, CV or resume, and a nomination package about the nominee will be prepared by the TSTAP Co-Chairs and submitted to the SAB Office for further vetting, review by the SAB, and forwarding to the NOAA Administrator to recommend appointment. The nominee is not considered a member and may not participate in any TSTAP meetings or business until the

NOAA Administrator makes the official appointment.

Members of the TSTAP will choose its leadership Co-Chairs from among their number.

Co-Chair terms of office: A Co-Chair will be elected at the end of each year and will serve in that role for a two-year term starting in January of the following year. This Co-Chair rotation scheme provides for overlap and continuity. Co-Chairs will jointly set meeting agendas and conduct the business of the TSTAP as they deem appropriate.

If a Co-Chair resigns, the TSTAP shall select from its current membership someone to complete that person's term.

TSTAP members may self-nominate or be nominated by fellow members for the office of Co-Chair. Someone nominated will be asked to accept or decline the nomination. There are no term limits of Co-Chairs.

#### Reporting:

As noted in the Charge, at least once every four years, beginning in 2021, the TSTAP will deliver a report containing recommendations to the SAB. The SAB shall transmit this report to the NOAA Administrator. Per the TWERA component of 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 TSTAP report on findings and recommendations.

In the years in which a findings and recommendations 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. When appropriate, the TSTAP may also write a report on findings from a significant tsunami event impacting the U.S., or a report addressing a critical or timely issue. The SAB shall transmit these reports to the NOAA Administrator.