

Presentation of the results of scientific activities including the analysis, synthesis, compilation, or translation of scientific information and data into formats for the use of NOAA, the Department of Commerce, or the Nation.

Traceability

The ability to discover by going backward over the evidence step by step.

Transparent (Transparency)

Characterized by visibility or accessibility of information (the quality or state of being transparent).

SECTION 4. NOAA PRINCIPLES OF SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY.

.01 NOAA is an organization based upon science, scientific research, and providing and using scientific advice for decision-making. NOAA recognizes a clear distinction between the scientific process and the policy decisions made based on the results of science. NOAA's ability to achieve its strategic vision of "healthy ecosystems, communities, and economies that are resilient in the face of change" relies on transparency, traceability, and scientific integrity at all levels. Transparency, traceability, and integrity are, therefore, core values of our organization and the reason for issuing this Order. The principles described in the paragraphs below constitute NOAA policy.

.02 NOAA scientists are expected to be cognizant of and understand the statutes and any other mandates that guide their work.

.03 NOAA scientists are encouraged to publish data and findings in ways that contribute to the effective transparency and dissemination of NOAA science and that enhance NOAA's reputation for reliable science, including online in open formats and through peer-reviewed, professional, or scholarly journals. Development and dissemination of scientific and technical products must be consistent with NOAA policies and procedures related to peer review, the Open Government Directive (Office of Management and Budget, 2009b), NOAA's information quality guidelines,¹¹ and other legislative and policy mandates.

.04 In response to media interview requests to the Agency about the scientific and technological dimensions of NOAA's work, NOAA will offer knowledgeable spokespersons who can, in an objective, nonpartisan and articulate fashion, describe and explain these dimensions to the media and the American people.

.05 To be open and transparent about their work, and consistent with DAO 219-1 on (Public Communications) and their official duties, NOAA scientists may freely speak to the media and the public about scientific and technical matters based on their official work, including scientific and technical ideas, approaches, findings, and conclusions based on their official work. Additional guidance for employees is available in DAO 219-1.¹² Communication by email or other electronic means in response to inquiries from the media, and concerning scientific or

¹¹ NOAA Information Quality and Peer Review Guidelines are available on the NOAA website at http://www.cio.noaa.gov/Policy_Programs/info_quality.html. Additional peer review guidance will be made available to employees through the NOAA Scientific Integrity Commons website.

¹² DAO 219-1, "Public Communications" (April 30, 2008), http://www.osec.doc.gov/omo/dmp/daos/dao219_1.html.

technical matters based on an employee's official work, are considered to be the same as oral communication and not subject to approval, but are still subject to the restrictions on protected non-public information set forth in DAO 219-1. Social media communications are governed by the Department of Commerce Policy on the Approval and Use of Social Media and Web 2.0,¹³ as well as DAO 219-1.¹⁴

.06 NOAA scientists are free to present viewpoints, for example about policy or management matters, that extend beyond their scientific findings to incorporate their expert or personal opinions, but in doing so they must make clear that they are presenting their individual opinions – not the views of the Department of Commerce or NOAA. In such cases, NOAA personnel may also note their NOAA affiliation as part of their biographical information, provided that their NOAA affiliation is noted as one of several biographical details, or, if the information is being published in a scientific or technical journal, their NOAA affiliation may be listed with an appropriate disclaimer. Appropriate disclaimers for use by NOAA scientists when expressing such opinions will be posted to the Scientific Integrity Commons website.

.07 NOAA recognizes that scientific leadership is critical to advance its mission and the professional development and stature of its scientists and engineers and therefore encourages and supports its researchers to become scientific leaders. NOAA also encourages its scientists, consistent with Federal ethics laws and regulations, to engage with their peers in academic, industry, governmental, and non-governmental organizations by:

- presenting their work at scientific meetings,
- publishing their work in appropriate outlets,
- serving on editorial boards and on scientific and technological expert review panels, and
- actively participating in professional societies and national/international scientific advisory and science assessment bodies.

.08 NOAA supports the election or appointment of its scientists and engineers to fellowships or positions in professional organizations, including as officers and on governing boards, subject to applicable ethics requirements and Department of Commerce policy. According to Department of Commerce policy, NOAA employees may generally serve in their personal capacity as officers and on governing boards of outside organizations or in their official capacity as a government liaison. Service in an official capacity on a governing board or as an officer of an outside organization is subject to restrictions under ethics laws;¹⁵ employees should consult an ethics official before accepting an appointment on behalf of NOAA to such a position.

.09 NOAA supports recognizing the outstanding science conducted by its employees and authorizes its scientists to accrue the professional benefits of any honors and awards for their research and discoveries, subject to applicable law, with the goal of minimizing, to the extent

¹³ Department of Commerce Policy on the Approval and Use of Social Media and Web 2.0 (Oct. 21, 2010), <http://www.osc.doc.gov/webresources/socialmedia>.

¹⁴ The Departmental Administrative Order (DAO) 219-1, "Public Communications," and Department of Commerce Policy on the Approval and Use of Social Media and Web 2.0 do not apply to employees in bargaining units represented by the National Weather Service Employees Organization.

¹⁵ The U.S. Office of Government Ethics has published a proposed rule that would create a government-wide exemption to 18 U.S.C. § 208. See 76 Fed. Reg. 24816 (May 3, 2011). The exemption would permit the appointment of Federal employees to serve on the boards of directors and as officers of nonprofit organizations, including scientific organizations, professional societies, and similar bodies that are actively involved in matters under the jurisdiction of the Department. DOC and NOAA support this proposed rule.