



Strengthening NOAA Science:

So What Does This Actually Mean For NOAA Scientists?

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Presentation Outline

- Dr. Lubchenco's commitment to strengthening NOAA science – Science underpins all that NOAA does!
- Workshop on Strengthening NOAA Science (April 2010) – output, impacts, follow-on
- NOAA's scientific workforce
- Scientific Integrity and Conduct Policy – in progress
- Questions



Strengthening Science Goal

- Strengthening NOAA science is a ***process*** that involves engaging NOAA's scientists and science managers and our external partners in answering four key questions:
 1. What are the grand challenges for NOAA science?
 2. What are the best practices for encouraging, promoting, and protecting healthy science at NOAA?
 3. How can NOAA's science elements be better connected and coordinated across Line Offices and with external partners to support the agency's mission?
 4. How can NOAA implement a process for continual evaluation, enhancement, and celebration of its science?



Strengthening Science Goal

- Ensure that NOAA has a world-class internal scientific workforce (with supporting infrastructure) that is recognized widely for intellectual capacity, creativity, and innovation and that partners seamlessly and routinely with the external scientific community to support NOAA's science, service, and stewardship mission.



Workshop on Strengthening NOAA Science (April 2010)

- 1. What are the most critical science challenges for NOAA over the next 5 to 20 years?**
- 2. What are opportunities and practical steps for improving how NOAA conducts science?**

Strengthening NOAA Science

Findings from the NOAA Science Workshop

April 20-22, 2010



Co-Chairs: Dr. Paul Sandifer and Dr. Randall Dole
Prepared by the NOAA Science Workshop Program Committee



Overarching Grand Challenge: Understanding The Connections

Develop and apply holistic, integrated Earth system approaches to understand the processes that connect changes in the atmosphere, ocean, space, land surface, and cryosphere with ecosystems, organisms, and humans over different scales.

This Grand Science Challenge is central to addressing Dr. Lubchenco's Grand Societal Challenge:
Improve Human Well-Being While Restoring The Planet's Life Support System



Science Workshop - Impacts

- **NGSP incorporated Workshop science challenges & business practice recommendations**
- **Directly influenced the Administrator's Annual Guidance Memo**
- **Reflected in the FY12 and onward budget planning**
- **Set stage for continued participation of NOAA scientists in setting agency science agenda**

The image shows the cover of a document titled "NOAA'S NEXT-GENERATION STRATEGIC PLAN". The text is in a blue, sans-serif font. Below the title, the date "DECEMBER 2010" is printed in a smaller, black font. In the bottom right corner of the document cover, there is a small version of the NOAA logo.

NOAA'S NEXT-GENERATION
STRATEGIC PLAN

DECEMBER 2010





Science Workshop – Follow-Up

- Research Council planning 4 additional science workshops:
 - Climate (OAR Lead)
 - Water Cycle (NWS Lead)
 - Ecosystems (NOS/OAR Lead)
 - NOAA's Impact on Society (Social Science Committee Lead)

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NOAA's Scientific Workforce

- Doubling number of ST/SL positions at NOAA
- Developing science career track

Senior Level



Scientific Integrity & Conduct Policy - Work in Progress

- The NOAA policy is designed to ensure a culture of transparency, integrity, and ethical behavior in NOAA; it will cover all employees – political, career, Federal, contract.
- The NOAA policy states that our core values are transparency, traceability, and integrity.
- NOAA scientists are encouraged and expected to publish their data and findings.
- NOAA scientists are free to speak with the media on scientific and technical matters based on their official work, no prior approval required.
- Internal “Scientific Integrity Commons” website being developed for all scientific integrity, conduct, and ethics training information, FAQs, etc.



So, What Does “Strengthening Science” Mean For NOAA Scientists?

1. NOAA’s science is the most important foundation block for the agency and all it does.
2. NOAA will consult and involve NOAA staff scientists at all levels in discussions of how best to accomplish the agency’s mission – opinions of scientists are highly valued!
3. NOAA expects and encourages scientists to communicate their results freely, without interference.
4. NOAA requires its scientists to meet the highest standards of ethics, scientific quality, leadership, and productivity.
5. NOAA is working to enhance its scientific enterprise by recruiting and retaining the best and brightest and establishing career opportunities and policies that encourage scientists to stay engaged in research, producing the science NOAA needs.



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Questions?