

**Subject:** Re: Junk Science (fwd)

**From:** Tom Delworth <Tom.Delworth@noaa.gov>

**Date:** Mon, 13 Feb 2006 10:04:09 -0500

**To:** Tom Knutson <Tom.Knutson@noaa.gov>

**CC:** Isaac Held <Isaac.Held@noaa.gov>, Tom.Delworth@noaa.gov

Isaac and Tom,

I have written the following as a potential first draft.

Comments? Isaac, if you have a different draft we can work from that.

Thanks.

Tom D

We wish to bring to your attention what we believe to be a serious problem with regard to an important NOAA web site posting. We raise this issue in what we hope is a constructive process to improve the quality and clarity of NOAA's scientific products and information services.

We have recently become aware of the NOAA web site posting "NOAA Attributes Recent Increase in Hurricane Activity to Naturally Occurring Multi-Decadal Climate Variability" (<http://www.magazine.noaa.gov/stories/mag184.htm>). This posting has the appearance of an official NOAA science statement. In our view, this posting has a serious flaw.

The article includes the statement:  
"NOAA research shows that the tropical multi-decadal signal is causing the increased Atlantic hurricane activity since 1995, and is not related to greenhouse warming."

We believe it is incorrect to state absolutely that there is no role for greenhouse warming in the recent changes of hurricane activity. We agree that there is substantial evidence - including our own research - that the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation (AMO) plays a crucial role in explaining the decadal scale swings of hurricane activity. However, to state in absolute terms that greenhouse warming has no role is premature at best. Substantial evidence exists that the oceans - including the tropical Atlantic - are warming as a result of increasing greenhouse gases. To the extent that ocean warming plays a role in modulating hurricane activity, the role of greenhouse warming cannot be excluded. Our scientific opinion is that it is a vital research challenge to better understand the relative roles of natural variability and anthropogenic climate change in modulating hurricane activity. At this point, our best assessment is that both processes play a role, with natural variability playing a very significant role.

It is our recommendation that the above web posting be updated either to (a) reflect a more complete view of the potential factors involved in the decadal scale changes in hurricane activity, or (b) more clearly state that this assessment is a view of a subset of research scientists within NOAA. We also suggest that future postings which appear to the public as official NOAA science statements should either have a broader vetting within the relevant NOAA scientific research community prior to posting, or be more clearly identified as the findings of a subset of NOAA scientists.

**Subject:** Re: Junk Science (fwd)  
**From:** Tom Knutson <Tom.Knutson@noaa.gov>  
**Date:** Mon, 13 Feb 2006 09:48:40 -0500  
**To:** Tom.Delworth@noaa.gov  
**CC:** Isaac Held <Isaac.Held@noaa.gov>

I agree with the sentiment to write something constructive about the scientific differences.

Tom Knutson

Tom.Delworth@noaa.gov wrote:

Isaac,

I agree ... I think it is important that we put in writing - in a constructive manner - what the issues are as we see them.

How would you like to proceed? Would you like to create a first draft? If not I could. Either way is fine with me.

Tom

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Isaac Held <Isaac.Held@noaa.gov>  
**Date:** Saturday, February 11, 2006 3:22 pm  
**Subject:** Junk Science (fwd)

TK anmd TD -- I think it would be a good idea to write a paragraph summarizing our view of this controversy and sending it to Mahoney (and the Admiral) after passing it by Ants, Brian, Maria. It would say that we have recently learned of the NOAA web site, that it does not speak for us, that we would like to see it changed to say that it reflects only the views of those people an NHC that set up this site, or to relect a more balanced view of research in this area. Should we try to involve Morris and Tim as well. This has the potential to really get out of hand, especially with Jerry's quote's below

Isaac

----- Forwarded message -----

**Date:** Fri, 10 Feb 2006 17:24:58 -0500  
**From:** Maria Setzer <Maria.Setzer@noaa.gov>  
**To:** Isaac Held <Isaac.Held@noaa.gov>  
**Subject:** Junk Science

Isaac,

This may interest you if you haven't already seen it (attached).

Maria

--  
Tom Knutson

Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab /NOAA  
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Forrestal Campus, U.S. Rt. 1 N  
Princeton, New Jersey 08542 U.S.A.

phone: +1-609-452-6509  
fax: +1-609-987-5063  
e-mail: Tom.Knutson@noaa.gov  
<http://www.gfdl.noaa.gov/~tk>

Fwd: [Fwd: Message From the Under Secretary -- Encouragement of...

**Subject:** Fwd: [Fwd: Message From the Under Secretary -- Encouragement of Scientific Debate and Transparency Within NOAA]

**From:** Ants.Lleetmaa@noaa.gov

**Date:** Wed, 15 Feb 2006 08:38:18 -0500

**To:** Tom.Delworth@noaa.gov, Isaac.Held@noaa.gov, Tom.Knutson@noaa.gov, Brian.Gross@noaa.gov

I presume that Mary here is indicating that somewhere on the official NOAA Web site which carried the "consensus" statement on hurricanes and climate there will be an editorial note clarifying "consensus"

ants

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**Subject:** [Fwd: Message From the Under Secretary -- Encouragement of Scientific Debate and Transparency Within NOAA]

**From:** Mary Glackin <Mary.Glackin@noaa.gov>

**Date:** Tue, 14 Feb 2006 21:17:00 -0500

**To:** Ants Leetmaa <Ants.Lleetmaa@noaa.gov>, Richard Spinrad <Richard.Spinrad@noaa.gov>, Chet Koblinsky <Chester.J.Koblinsky@noaa.gov>

Stay tuned. The NOAA Web site on "consensus" is supposed to be updated with an "editor's note". It doesn't appear to be there yet.

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Message From the Under Secretary -- Encouragement of Scientific Debate and Transparency Within NOAA

**Date:** Tue, 14 Feb 2006 16:44:57 -0500

**From:** Conrad C. Lautenbacher Jr., USN (Ret.) <Announcement@noaa.gov>

## Message From the Under Secretary

Feb 14, 2006

There have been several print and internet articles recently that have tried to make a case that NOAA scientists are being muzzled. For example, a few recent media reports have (incorrectly) asserted that some NOAA scientists have been discouraged from commenting on the question of whether human caused global warming may be influencing the number or intensity of hurricanes. Let me state in the most direct terms that I am a strong believer in open, peer reviewed science as well as the right and duty of scientists to seek the truth and to provide the best scientific advice possible. When I answer questions on NOAA missions, my answers are formed on the basis of the scientific papers that I have personally read, or have been informed by you in the course of NOAA business.

Peer reviewed science speaks for itself and doesn't need me or anyone else to interpret or modify the results. For those of you who know me personally, you realize that I encourage and actively pursue vigorous debate on all topics, particularly including science related to NOAA's mission. The purpose is to get as close to the truth and the facts as possible. I expect my management team to adhere to this policy of scientific openness as well.

Our media standards also reflect an open policy. We encourage our public affairs staff to keep abreast of media interests. I encourage our scientists to speak freely and openly. Dozens of you every day are talking to the media and providing the results of peer reviewed science across a wide variety of NOAA topics. We ask only that you specify when you are communicating personal views and when you are characterizing your work as part of your specific contribution to NOAA's mission. Also, I ask that you respect, and seek to understand, each other's work within NOAA. We have many disciplines and centers of excellence within NOAA, all contributing substantially to the body of earth science knowledge. Be tolerant of each other as would your colleagues around the nation and

Fwd: [Fwd: Message From the Under Secretary -- Encouragement of...

the world. "One NOAA" should apply to our work as scientists as well as our management structure!



Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator

This message was generated for the Under Secretary of Commerce for  
Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator by the NOAA Information  
Technology Center/Financial and Administrative Computing Division

[Fwd: Message From the Under Secretary -- Encouragement of Scientific.eml

Content-Type: message/rfc822

Content-Encoding: 7bit

**Subject:** NOAA Hurricane article

**From:** Tom Delworth <Tom.Delworth@noaa.gov>

**Date:** Wed, 15 Feb 2006 12:39:55 -0500

**To:** Tom Knutson <Tom.Knutson@noaa.gov>, Morris.Bender@noaa.gov, Timothy Marchok <Timothy.Marchok@noaa.gov>, Isaac Held <Isaac.Held@noaa.gov>

If you go to

<http://www.magazine.noaa.gov/stories/mag184.htm>

you will find near the bottom of the article a newly inserted Editor's note. Look carefully because it is easy to miss.

Tom D

Re: Fwd: [Fwd: Message From the Under Secretary -- Encouragemen...

**Subject:** Re: Fwd: [Fwd: Message From the Under Secretary -- Encouragement of Scientific Debate and Transparency Within NOAA]

**From:** Ants.Leetmaa@noaa.gov

**Date:** Wed, 15 Feb 2006 13:32:02 -0500

**To:** Brian.Gross@noaa.gov

**CC:** Tom.Delworth@noaa.gov, Isaac.Held@noaa.gov, Tom.Knutson@noaa.gov

yes, and highly visible. ants

----- Original Message -----

From: "Brian D. Gross" <Brian.Gross@noaa.gov>

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2006 1:22 pm

Subject: Re: Fwd: [Fwd: Message From the Under Secretary -- Encouragement of Scientific Debate and Transparency Within NOAA]

The Editor's Note is there!  
(<http://www.magazine.noaa.gov/stories/mag184.htm>).

On 2/15/2006 8:38 AM Ants.Leetmaa@noaa.gov said the following:

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and climate there will be an editorial note clarifying "consensus"

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From:

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