




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
CHIEF SCIENTIST  
Washington, D.C. 20230

OCT 31 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record  
FROM:   
Craig N. McLean  
NOAA Acting Chief Scientist  
SUBJECT: FY 2017 Scientific and Research Misconduct Annual Report

NOAA is publishing the following report in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 202-735D: Scientific Integrity, Section 10: Communication, Oversight, Review, and Reporting. During Fiscal Year 2017 (starting on October 1, 2016 and ending September 30, 2017) NOAA received three new allegations of scientific misconduct. The status of those allegations and a 2016 allegation that was in progress as of October 1, 2016 is as follows:

Allegations in Progress

None

Allegations Closed

2016-001– A NOAA employee alleged scientific misconduct by supervisors and leadership with regard to internal review of fundamental research communications at the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Deputy Undersecretary for Operations referred the allegation for inquiry. Based on the inquiry report generated by the Inquiry Review Panel, the appointed Determining Official dismissed the allegation of scientific misconduct and referred personnel claims to the NOAA Workforce Management Office for appropriate action.

2017-001– A NOAA employee alleged scientific misconduct by supervisors with regard to participation in external scientific organizations. The Deputy Undersecretary for Operations delegated the allegation to the NOAA Scientific Integrity Office for action. After assessment, the Scientific Integrity Officer found the allegation to be a personnel issue and therefore not actionable under the scientific integrity policy. The scientific misconduct allegation was dismissed and the claim referred to the NOAA Workforce Management Office for appropriate action.

2017-002– A NOAA employee alleged routine scientific surveys performed by the National Marine Fisheries Service constitute research misconduct. The Deputy Undersecretary for Operations delegated the allegation to the NOAA Scientific Integrity Office for action. After assessment, the NOAA Scientific Integrity Officer found the allegation to be a policy and



management issue not actionable under the scientific integrity policy. The allegation of scientific misconduct was dismissed.

2017-003– In a complaint with multiple allegations, a NOAA employee alleged that the Agency and a number of NOAA employees across the Agency were not complying with federal statutes and regulations with regard to research. The Deputy Undersecretary for Operations delegated the allegations to the NOAA Scientific Integrity Office. After assessment and consultation with the Office of General Counsel, the NOAA Scientific Integrity Officer found the allegations were unsubstantiated and therefore dismissed them.