



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

FROM: Craig McLean
NOAA Chief Scientist, Acting

SUBJECT: FY 2019 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.

This Report covers matters during Fiscal Year 2019 (October 1, 2018 and ending September 30, 2019).

Allegations in Progress from FY2018

2018-009V – A private citizen alleged scientific misconduct and loss of scientific integrity by National Ocean Service (NOS) employees who worked as co-authors of an external publication, and, scientific misconduct and loss of scientific integrity of a National Marine Fisheries (NMFS) employee who served as an editor of the external publication. The case was referred for Inquiry; the Inquiry Team completed its report and sent it to the Determining Official (DO). The DO referred the matter for investigation of one NOS employee in the matter. The Scientific Integrity Officer (SIO) convened an Integrity Review Panel to further investigate this matter.

Allegations Filed in FY2019

2019-001Q – A NMFS employee alleged scientific misconduct and loss of scientific integrity by a subordinate regarding recreational fisheries data collected in support of stock assessments. The case has been referred to Inquiry.

2019-007, 2019-008, 2019-009, 2019-010 Q – Two NOAA employees, an outside organization, and a U.S. Representative alleged scientific misconduct and loss of scientific integrity by two political employees of the agency regarding a communication on the Twitter platform and a subsequent NOAA press release. Given the similarity of the four allegations, they were consolidated and jointly referred to Inquiry/Investigation.

Allegations Closed

None



Consultations

The NOAA Scientific Integrity Officer engaged in eight consultations in 2019, none of which resulted in a formal allegation of scientific misconduct.

