



**National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration**
Science Council

NOAA SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING

October 10th, 2023

10:30 AM to 12:00 PM EST

Google Meet

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Executive

Sarah Kapnick, Chair
Steve Thur, Vice Chair
Saiontoni Sarkar, Exec Sec
Celina Harris, Exec Sec
Isha Renta, Exec Sec

Principal

Sean Corson, NOS
Gary Matlock, OAR
Douglas Howard, NESDIS
Kristen Koch, NMFS
Randall Tebeest, OMAO

Advisory

Tony LaVoi, Chief Data Officer
Hendrik Tolman, Council of NOAA Fellows
Representative
Gary Matlock, Research and Development
Enterprise Committee Chair
Jeremy Weirich, NOAA National Oceanographic
Partnership Program Committee Chair
Cynthia Decker, NOAA Scientific Integrity Liaison
Casey Stewart, NOAA Science Advisory Board Executive
Director
Kelly Wright, Technology Partnership Office Liaison
Alison Krepp, Social Sciences Committee Co-Chair
Frank Indiviglio, NOAA Chief Information Officer
Representative

Other Attendees

Kenneth Vierra, OAR
Emily Larkin, OAR
Joseph Fillingham, OAR
Jebb Stewart, OAR
Victoria Luu, OAR
Jeff Rey, OAR
Ishrat Jabin, OAR
Terence Lynch, OAR
Debbie Sinmao, OFA
Ellie Dambra, HDQ
Rob Redmon, NESDIS
Alexandra Neal, OAR
Andrew Peck, OAR
Daniel Melendez, NWS
Fiona Horsfall, OAR
Jessica Morgan, NESDIS
Laura Newcomb, OAR
Melissa Yencho, NMFS
NWS PCO
Roxie Allison-Holman, OGC
Sarah Davis, OAR
Abigail Arnold, OAR
John Ten Hoeve, OAR
Karen Sender, NMFS
Briana Yancy, OAR
Dwight Gledhill, OAR

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Notify Exec Sec at science.council.execsec@noaa.gov within two weeks of the following meeting if any changes to the minutes are needed.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- None

MINUTES

- Minutes from the September 12th Science Council meeting were **approved**.

ACTION ITEM REVIEW

- The Exec Sec reviewed all current action items. [\[Tab 3\]](#)

BRIEFINGS: Briefing materials are available in the Science Council Meetings 2023 folder on Google Drive.

Interim DOC Policy on Generative AI: [\[Tab 4\]](#) [\[Tab 4.1\]](#) [\[Tab 4.2\]](#)

Discussional

Science Council members should have already received the transmittal letter and Interim policy. This policy is specific about public data only, and this is some space to maneuver with private data. Public data is data that is available to the general public without restriction to the public through NOAA databases, websites, etc. The CIO Council will provide details in Q1 FY24 on how the policy will be executed. Most providers of AI tools (such as ChatGPT) have enterprise tools which can be used for companies that do not want the data used within the models to be provided publicly. Many of these versions are straightforward to use, but require some tuning to be like the publicly available version. If members wish to use these models, this enterprise version is the way to go about.

The CIO Representative indicated that this policy does not cover separate rules that publishing companies may have. Authors should be reviewing publishing rules for journal companies separately.

NWS asked if the distinction between generative AI and other AIs narrowed the policy and how the rulings on what type of AI is being used will be made. It was responded that the definition was developed at the NOAA AI Council meeting earlier this year and has been introduced at the AI executive level, but still some final definitions are being edited with experts.

The Vice Chair raised that NOAA has a lot of “public” data versus “publically available” data. He reminded folks that our public data means anything that would be handed over in a FOIA request and that not all of NOAA data is publicly available because it’s not easy to provide on a web server. He requested that the CIO team in communications with DOC on the policy raise this to the departmental level.

NMFS indicated they would be interested in receiving OAR’s definitions of AI vs generative AI. They also asked if examples are available from other agencies’ of AI policies.

The CIO Representative reminded everyone that the policy is interim and getting to the policy will depend on efforts and the technical landscape. He indicated that the CIO council would be reviewing this quarterly.

OAR suggested that an NAO for NOAA should be developed. The Chair indicated that an NAO is being developed with advice by Dr. Michael Morgan based on previous AI discussions. Rob Redmon added that the NAO is being led by the Center for AI in conjunction with the AI Executive Council. A discussion continued on where the NAO should start (political level or council level) and Rob indicated that while supported at the political level, the NAO is not held by the political office. They are working with the Science Integrity Liaison to ensure that the NAO matures appropriately and will have longevity.

Discussion was held over the label of the interim policy as “privileged”. The CIO Council is working on getting this label removed.

Final comments were made on the matter of data and IP security as important components of risk management around AI and generative models developed by third parties.

Foreign Nationals: Emily Larkin

Discussional

The materials and content from this briefing are subject to confidentiality restrictions. Please reach out to the NOAA Science Council Executive Secretariat at science.council.execsec@noaa.gov for the minutes from this discussion.

Based on discussions during this meeting, a motion was made to vote for the establishment of a Foreign Nationals Working Group. Principals (6 out of 6) voted in favor to establish this working group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next NOAA Science Council meeting is November 7th from 10:30am to 12:30pm ET via Google Meet.

ACTION ITEMS

Date Assigned	Due Date	Subject Line	Assigned To	Status
20220510-01	TBD	Cooperative Research Committee ToR	Group of NOAA Science Council principals and advisory members	The group is following up on the motion proposed by Gary Matlock at the May Science 2022 Council meeting.
20220830	June 2	Science Council ToR	SC/NEP	Approved by NEP, NEC review complete. Received comments from NOS AA. Response to comments sent back. Awaiting response.
20221104-2	TBD	SoS Fact Sheet - Drought	NIDIS	POC working on updating first draft.
20221107	June 15	SoS Fact Sheet - Tornadoes	NSSL/NWS	Review completed. Approved by Vice Chair. To be sent to Chair.
20230414	TBD	MOU/MOA NAO Revision Task Force	NOAA Science Council	ToR draft in review with Science Council leadership.
20230716	July 16	SoS Fact Sheet - NOAA's Greenhouse Gas Activities	OAR CPO	POC working on first draft.
20230705	TBD	SoS Fact Sheet - Emerging Science for Mobile Earth Observations	NOAA Science Council	Review completed. Approved by Vice Chair. To be sent to Chair.
20230914	September 28	Showstopper review of Drought Assessment in a Changing Climate Technical Workshop Report	NOAA Science Council	Closed.
20230915	September 29	Identify Attendees for October Science Council Closed Session	NOAA Science Council principals	Closed.
20230920	TBD	SoS Fact Sheet - Climate Intervention 2-year review and updates	OAR	POC identified.
20230926	October 5	Science Council Action for Showstopper Review of NAS Grant FFO and Priority Topics	NOAA Science Council	Closing Oct. 5.
20231005	October 13	Red Flag Review for NECRI Implementation Plan	NOAA Science Council	Open