



**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
Science Council

**NOAA SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**February 13th, 2024**  
**10:30A-11:45A ET**  
**Google Meet**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ATTENDEES**

<p><i>Executive</i> Sarah Kapnick, Chair Steve Thur, Vice Chair Emily Nocito, Exec Sec Isha Renta, Exec Sec</p> <p><i>Principal</i> Sean Corson, NOS Gary Matlock, OAR Douglas Howard, NESDIS Clay Porch, NMFS Randall Tebeest, OMAO Hendrik Tolman, NWS (alternative)</p> <p><i>Advisory</i> Hendrik Tolman, Council of NOAA Fellows Representative Casey Stewart, NOAA Science Advisory Board Executive Director Kelly Webster, Technology Partnership Office Frank Indiviglio, NOAA Chief Information Office Cynthia Decker, Scientific Integrity Officer Natasha White, Office of Education Liaison</p>	<p><i>Other Attendees</i> Greg Frost, OAR Eric Bayler, NESDIS Kenneth Vierra, OAR Brooke McHansen, NESDIS Shelby Butz, NOS Terence Lynch, OAR Sarah Davis, OAR Ishrat Jabin, OAR Laura Newcomb, OAR Melissa Yencho, NMFS Debbie Sinmao, OFA Jessica Morgan, NESDIS Victoria Moreno, OAR Julie Price, NESDIS Joseph Casola, NESDIS Victoria Luu, OAR James Jenkins, OAR Abigail Arnold, OAR Fional Horsfall, OAR Jennifer Fagan-Fry, OAR Katherine Longmire, OAR Joseph Fillingham, OAR John Cortinas, OAR Raquel Gililand, OAR</p>
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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS**

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

## CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Science Council Chair shared that Dr. Gary Matlock stepped down from his position as RDEC Chair as of December 29th. The chair acknowledged his service and announced the new RDEC Chair which is Laura Newcomb from OAR. This was also Gary Matlock's last Science Council meeting before retiring at the end of February.
- Kristen Koch was acknowledged for her service as NMFS principal, and welcomed Clay Porch.
- Celina Harris was acknowledged for her work as exec sec through her Knauss Fellowship, and welcomed Emily Nocito to the team.

## MINUTES

- Minutes from the January 9th Science Council meeting were **approved**.

## ACTION ITEM REVIEW

- The Exec Sec reviewed all current action items.

**BRIEFINGS:** Briefing materials are available in the 2024 Science Council Meetings folder on Google Drive.

- **NOAA Publications NAO Proposal:** Jennifer Fagan-Fry, Cynthia Decker & Laura Newcomb

10:35 AM – 11:05 AM (30 min)

### *Directional*

Gary introduced the topic emphasizing the need to update policies to reflect where NOAA stands now on publications.

Cynthia discussed the presentation that was focused on a proposal to the council about a publication policy. Currently, LOs publish differently and there are new requirements from OSTP including open science. The current state of publications is usually online only, and scholarly publishing uses preprint servers and gray literature. Two NAOs currently exist (201-32E, 201-32G) that focus on administrative and sci/tech publications, respectively. However, these NAOs are primarily focused on how to get them published i.e. printed physically. Other policies such as NAO 205-17A and the NOAA Framework for Internal Review and Approval of Fundamental Research Communications also exist. However, even with these NAOs and Frameworks, challenges exist: unclear approval process for admin publications as compared to FRC; lack of standardization across LOs; and that current NAOs are outdated. One proposed solution is to create a new NAO that revokes old ones, but keeps the content that is still relevant. As with all NAOs, it would include the scope, definition(s), policy, responsibility, effect on other issuances (e.g., would supersede 201-32E, 201-32G) The ask for Science Council: get feedback early in process; determine what should be included and what guidance can you provide. They have met with the CAO and Chief of Staff, and plan on bringing the full NAO once drafted to the Science Council, NEP, and NEC for review.

The Vice Chair asked about the challenges and obstacles that may occur given the DAO on communications. Cynthia responded that the DAO on public communications is where they had derived the FRC definitions. Additionally, there is another set of communications outlined which they will rely on for those definitions for the NAO [for reference: [https://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/dmp/daos/dao219\\_1.html](https://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/dmp/daos/dao219_1.html)].

NWS supports the idea in general, but posed several questions. The first question regarded whether the NAO would apply to software documentation. Fagan-Fry noted that they had not thought of that specifically, but that it's a good point especially given the OSTP requirements and open science practices. She also noted that it may not fit into this NAO as it may fall under the PARR plan and handbook. NWS also asked if the NAO would cover predatory journals, which Decker noted is already addressed under the NAO on scientific integrity, but could be added into the proposed NAO if it is helpful.

NMFS asked if the thought behind the NAO was to have a single system to document the review and reporting process of scientific information, noting that their own system (RPTS) was difficult to get buy-in and switch to. Decker responded that she acknowledges not all LOs have adopted RPTS. Fagan-Fry added that it would be useful to codify a general approach to administrative publications. NMFS also inquired about if strategic plans would require a higher review under the proposed NAO. Decker responded that they are not proposing anything specific on strategic plans, noting that as long as everyone involved in the strategic plan process is comfortable that should be sufficient.

NOS noted that some LOs have an administrative repository, and asked if they would be nested under those. Fagan-Fry responded that that could be a part of it and that they are making an effort to ensure all pieces of publishing within an LO is captured while working towards a standardization. She went on to note that they want to learn from the LOs. Decker added that they are not trying to create something new but rather get guidance on consistency.

In response to a question in the chat related to the increasing costs of open science publications, Fagan-Fry noted that PARR will address publication costs.

- **Safety and Treatment: Fieldwork Resources for NOAA Science:** Sarah Kapnick, Victoria

Moreno 11:05 AM – 11:30 AM (25 min)

*Informational*

Dr. Kapnick provided background to this presentation, noting that it was in response to email from NASA on their updated fieldwork resources, and their asking of whether NOAA had such a resource. She noted that proposals sent to NASA are required to include a 2 page on how the proposer will address aspects related to environmental protection, safety in the field, working and communicating with tribal and indigenous communities, the cultural and historical heritage of the proposed work area, and access and permitting in the proposed work area [see ROSES-24 for reference]. There are similar practices via EPA and NSF, but Dr. Kapnick wants to know what NOAA is doing internally, and should something be drafted up. Is NOAA doing it internally and do we need to draft something up? She noted three pathways to the Science Council: Do nothing, review internal and external policies and replicate for NOAA, or create a task force to review and provide recommendations on next steps. Dr. Kapnick also noted that Zach Penney will be following up with a similar presentation on improving engagements.

NESDIS noted that in their previous role with USGS, matters related to fieldwork safety are taken very seriously, and that there had been previous safety incidents. He noted that USGS workers in the field do training related to tribal relations, as well as training related to NEPA, which NASA also requires. NESDIS recommended that a policy should be put in place, possibly through tailoring an existing policy to NOAA's specific needs, such as vulnerable workers on ships.

NWS noted that this issue goes beyond just in the field, but rather is an issue in offices and the general culture overall, especially in the Alaskan region.

The Vice Chair stated that they had not previously seen the NASA policies and that it is helpful. He noted that a body convened by the OAR Rep produced recommendations for OAR that focused primarily on SASH issues, noting that some recommendations needed more analysis and others should be addressed at the cross-agency level. He advised that given the breadth of the topic, the scope should be intentional, such as identifying a specific gap or collating existing policies, to ensure progress is being made. Dr. Kapnick agreed with the Vice Chair, noting that the question of pathways towards progress, such as having a task force develop out some policies.

Casola pointed out that guidance on the engagement side, such as how fieldworkers engage with different communities, would also be helpful.

Dr. Kapnick noted that the next steps should be to review what policies NOAA and LOs have and don't have, and identify gap(s) to give to a task force to work on. The Vice Chair agreed, noting that some topics will

warrant further discussions. Dr. Kapnick concluded that this will also prevent a reputational risk, as other groups such as NASA have been writing such policies and making them easily findable.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next NOAA Science Council meeting is March 5th via Google Meet.
- Decker, on behalf of the Scientific Integrity Committee: The committee will be coming to the Science Council as they start to develop best practices on authorship. If Science Council members would send any documents they have related to best practices on authorship and scientific disagreement, that would be helpful. The Committee is also looking at the process for adjudication on SDR.
- Isha announce the 2023 NOAA Science Report will be coming for review by the council in the upcoming weeks

## ACTION ITEMS

**Science Council: This spreadsheet lists all current open action items currently assigned to the Council. Additional information for each entry can be found in the original email assigning this task. If you have any questions, please email [science.council.execsec@noaa.gov](mailto:science.council.execsec@noaa.gov).**

Date Assigned or Action Number	Subject Line	Assigned To	Status
20220510-01	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	Science Council ToR	SC/NEP	Needs NEC comments to be addressed and send back to the NOAA Administrator for approval
20221104-2	SoS Fact Sheet - Drought	NIDIS	POC working on updating first draft.
20230716	SoS Fact Sheet - NOAA's Greenhouse Gas Activities	OAR CPO	Initial review comments were addressed and will be sent for showstopper review.
20230920	SoS Fact Sheet - Climate Intervention 2-year review and updates	OAR	Draft received and ready for initial review.
20240109	2024 Work Plan	Exec Sec	SC responses received. Work Plan document needs to be developed.