



**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
Science Council

**NOAA SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING**

**April 9th, 2024**

**10:30A-12:00PM ET**

**Google Meet**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

<p><i>Executive</i> Sarah Kapnick, Chair Isha Renta, Exec Sec</p> <p><i>Principal</i> Mark Monaco (Alternate), NOS DaNa Carlis (Alternate), OAR Douglas Howard, NESDIS Clay Porch, NMFS Randall Tebeest, OMAO Monica Youngman, NWS</p> <p><i>Advisory</i> Casey Stewart, NOAA Science Advisory Board Executive Director Alison Krepp, Social Sciences Committee Co-Chair Lonnie Gonsalves, LOTMC Chair Richard Bandy (Alternate), Council of NOAA Fellows Representative Frank Indiviglio, NOAA Chief Information Office Cynthia Decker, Scientific Integrity Officer Natasha White, Office of Education Liaison Tony Lavoie, Chief Data Officer Laura Newcomb, RDEC Chair</p>	<p><i>Other Attendees</i> Eric Bayler, NESDIS Brooke McHansen, NESDIS Terence Lynch, OAR Debbie Sinmao, OFA Victoria Moreno, OAR Abigail Arnold, OAR Fiona Horsfall, OAR Joseph Fillingham, OAR Wayne Mackenzie, OAR Becky Lizama, OGC Andrew Peck, OAR Zach Penney, USEC Jim Jenkins, OAR Chris Beaverson, Megan Deehan, OAR Josie Galloway Annette Hollingstead Kimani Kimbrough Michael Kruk Dahlia Maglo Catalina Martinez Daniel Melendez Hannah Odahara Emily Osbourne, OAR Ingris Ramos-Guasp Trevor Riley</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:

- Welcome Monica Youngman as the new NWS representative. Thanks to Steve Smith for his service
- The NOAA Science Report was released on March 26th! Thank you for your input during the review process, to the RDEC and the editorial team for their hard work. The Chair acknowledged she has received positive feedback about the report.

## MINUTES

- Minutes from the March 5th 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.

- **Follow up: NOAA Tribal Policies and a discussion on Indigenous Knowledge (IK):** Zach Penney

### *Discussion*

- Penney summarized the briefing provided on this topic during the March Science Council meeting (see March 2024 meeting minutes).
- The Chair asked to think how NOAA works? How we may want to change in the future?
- A NOAA Library representative shared that they have done a number of research on IK for scientists. They shared that the library has IK literature and invited Penney to join them and review it to find gaps on topics.
  - Penny referenced the Executive Order on Tribal Reforms. They also referenced NOAA's practitioners on IK, specifically from NOS and NMSF.
- NMFS commented on the current sharing of ecological knowledge for fisheries and asked if they are aware of how to incorporate for scientific management? They commented on the tribes looking for more representation into decision making through co-production of knowledge, co-management and co-stewardship. They added that when you want the right people in the room, to bring them early. They also added that tribes lack bandwidth and capacity, but to still give them ownership of their own data.
- CDO shared that there is an issue of knowledge through FOIAs. The NOAA has been approached because we are in a challenging situation. NOAA has been in the seat but if the discussion becomes an agency record, it becomes subject to FOIA. Several solutions are being discussed.
- A Social Science Committee representative commented to focus on the topic and not focus on the sharing. What does co-production look like between NOAA and them? to consider IK that we don't think about the front end.
- Penney commented on the *Spirit of the Salmon* document. That all the IK is in that, that it is a challenge based knowledge and it makes us think on how our relations with the ecosystem needs to be? He also used the killer whale example, and how tribes are upset about that. He suggested thinking about the word this way, what does noaa do with that? And to think differently.
  - Penney added that tribes are not a monolith. That they are all very different across the regions that NOAA operates. They recommend building relationships at the regional level. To learn their local tribe geographically, their core values. think about how noaa works in sanctuaries, fisheries or rivers, and to not have broad consultations but engaging.
- Next steps: create a list of concrete items. Review current policies and find gaps The Chair recommended that based on this discussions, to please reflect on this and identify out tasking to get this policy analysis done.

- **SASH Prevention and Recommendations:** Emily Osborne

10:55 AM – 11:20 AM (25 min) [05]

*Informational/Discussion*

- Osborne presented the topic of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harrasment (SASH) Safety at NOAA, and announced a publication that was released in December on this topic. Osborne went through her presentation and highlighted the goal to promote positive change and shift our cultural conversation. She also mentioned that in 2017 a legislation was passed on NOAA SASH prevention. She also mentioned the goal of putting out a foundation and recommendations through feedback. They hosted 8 listening sessions, polls, surveys and made 17 recommendations to leadership. She then discussed those recommendations.
- The Scientific Integrity Officer representative commented about handling retaliation after someone makes an allegation. In the case the allegation moves forward and it retaliates, she wanted to make sure that was considered in their recommendations to make sure we think about all the options while the investigation is occurring. The victims need to prove the retaliation all over again, which means more counseling and care for the victims.
- NWS asked if there is data or statistics to be able to see the change over time? If we implement these recommendations, it would be good to see if they are working.
  - Osborne responded that in 2017 a legislation was passed where NOAA was required to submit a report to congress which included the number of SASH allegations per LO and where they are in the process. It is available and difficult to find. It doesn't have information on how change in policy has affected the numbers, therefore the recommendation to our workforce... How has the culture changed? Trust is super important to receive this input and NOAA is losing good people in our workforce. OICR was thinking to assess the nature of the cases on an annual basis and have targeted actions for the cases. We also see that many cases are seen unreported - reporting by LO is interesting as some facilities are co-located across LO in the field. She loves the idea on how we can get these policies and training to make the biggest difference.
- OAR commented that at the lab level, there are certain activities that they can implement, but there are aspects of those recommendations that they can't. Where does this reside?-
  - Osborne responded that one of their team members put a lot of great information and cross-roads for the different levels of implementation. As an example she added that at AOML they piloted the fieldwork leader in advance of our aircraft code of conduct. They find that these actions are more impactful if they come from a higher level as they can't make special work conditions, but still need different levels.
  - OAR Chief of Staff added that this effort went above and beyond their request. The new OAR Deputy AA will be key in implementing some of these in OAR.
- The Chair added that it is important for all the leaders in this meeting to make sure there is accountability and put metrics in place.

- **Readiness Levels and Proposed NAO Changes:** Lonnie Gonsalves, LOTMC

11:20 AM – 11:50 AM (30 min) [06] [06.1]

*Informational/Discussion*

- The LOTMC Chair introduced the topic and covered the justifications to the proposed NAO changes. There is a redlined version and clean version of the proposed changes. He also acknowledged the Readiness Level Task Force for their effort.
- LOTMC Exec Sec shared the clean version and over the proposed changes and justifications for each change.
- Science Council Exec Sec explained a good process for review and approval of comments for the council.

- NWS asked about the change on removing the LOTMC section on responsibility. They wanted to know if it was included in another area of the NAO. If not, who has that responsibility? They thought it is a critical part of the transition and maybe there's another place in the NAO where it can be added.
  - The LOTMC Chair mentioned that on one hand the transition plan is used as a concept of what you have to do, but leaders see numbers and are reluctant to sign documents with a budget.
- Next steps: send for review until the next council meeting.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- S&T Synergies Working Group shared their quarterly 2 report.
- Next meeting is May 14th 2024.

#### ACTION ITEMS

Date Assigned or Action Number	Subject Line	Assigned To	Status
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	First draft under development
20230716	SoS Fact Sheet - NOAA's Greenhouse Gas Activities	OAR CPO	Showstopper comments addressed. Awaiting final approval from commenter
20230920	SoS Fact Sheet - Climate Intervention for CDR and SRM	OAR	POC addressing comments from initial review
20240109	2024 Work Plan	Exec Sec	Draft workplan has been developed and will be sent to the council for review
20240329	Address comments of the draft NAO-201-105 (MOU/A)	MOU/MOA Task Force	NAO comments were addressed by exec sec, and substantial comments were sent to co-chairs to be address
20240402	REVIEW Report on Pioneering the Future Advanced Computing Ecosystem (FACE): A Strategic Plan	All	Under review until April 10th
20240402	Review of the Framework For Nucleic Acid Synthesis Screening from NSTC	All	Under review, closes today