



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

April 21, 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

FROM: Rick Spinrad, Ph.D., CMarSci  
NOAA Chief Scientist

SUBJECT: FY 2013- FY 2014 Scientific and Research Misconduct  
Annual Report

In accordance with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrative Order 202-735D: Scientific Integrity, Section 10: Communication, Oversight, Review, and Reporting, NOAA is publishing the following report. During Fiscal Year 2013 and Fiscal Year 2014 (starting on October 1, 2012 and ending September 30, 2014), NOAA received 3 new allegations of scientific misconduct. The statuses of the allegations are as follows:

Cases in Progress

None

Cases Closed

2012-001 – A private entity alleged that related to an oil spill, a NOAA employee falsified scientific finding, failed to objectively consider conflicting findings, prevented conflicting views from being reported to key decision makers, and fabricated findings while failing to provide traceable data. The Deputy Under Secretary of Operations referred the case for inquiry. Based on the inquiry report generated by the appointed Integrity Review Panel, the appointed Determining Official dismissed the allegation.

2012-002 – A private individual alleged that related to an oil spill a NOAA employee falsified scientific findings, failed to objectively consider objectively consider conflicting findings, prevented conflicting views from being reported to key decision makers, and fabricated findings while failing to provide traceable data. The Deputy Under Secretary of Operations referred the case for inquiry. Based on the inquiry report generated by the appointed Integrity Review Panel, the appointed Determining Official dismissed the allegation.

2013-001 – A private entity alleged that a NOAA employee had included fraudulent data in a book published by a university press. This case was dismissed by the Deputy Under Secretary for Operations after an initial assessment.

2014-001 – A private entity alleged that two university scientists intentionally distorted NOAA satellite data in testimony before Congress. This case was dismissed by the Deputy Under Secretary for Operations after an initial assessment.

2014-002 – A NOAA employee alleged guidance was not followed, instructions were untimely, and there were conflicts in review procedures during an internal resource allocation process. This case was dismissed by the Deputy Under Secretary for Operations after an initial assessment.

