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August 10, 2011

Dr. Jane Lubchenco
Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Email Submission: integrity.noaa@noaa.gov

Dear Jane:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific society, we applaud the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for recognizing the importance of protecting the integrity of science by issuing a revised Scientific Integrity Policy. As a result, NOAA is taking a critical step towards strengthening the scientific enterprise and public policy process.

In particular, AAAS commends NOAA for recognizing the value of scientific peer review, the importance of openness in research, and the ability of scientists to communicate with the media. By including all NOAA employees and contractors under the policy, NOAA will encourage a culture of scientific integrity throughout the agency.

We also fully endorse the provision that "supports the election or appointment of its scientists and engineers to fellowships or positions in professional organizations, including as officers and on governing boards." Nearly 20 years ago, the AAAS Board of Directors issued a statement on the importance of allowing federal scientists to actively participate in the leadership of non-profit professional societies, emphasizing that such association "is of significant value to federal employees in terms of personal and professional development and to the federal government in terms of education and training of staff." (http://archives.aaas.org/docs/resolutions.php?doc_id=387). We are pleased that NOAA has included language that will enable scientists to engage in these activities.

We stand ready to work with NOAA to implement these important policies.

Sincerely,

Well done!

Alan I. Leshner 

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