Christopher Vaccaro - NOAA Federal

From:	Christopher Vaccaro - NOAA Federal
Sent:	Monday, September 9, 2019 12:55 PM
To:	Scott Smullen
Subject:	Fwd: ABC News re: NOAA response to Washington Post reporting

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Vann, Matthew** <Matthew.Vann@abc.com>
Date: Mon, Sep 9, 2019 at 12:01 PM
Subject: RE: ABC News re: NOAA response to Washington Post reporting
To: Christopher Vaccaro - NOAA Federal <christopher.vaccaro@noaa.gov>

Thanks much, Chris—

And what about NOAA? Are they weighing in on all of this as the parent agency of NWS?

Does NOAA still stand by the statement it put out on Friday?

MV

From: Christopher Vaccaro - NOAA Federal [mailto:christopher.vaccaro@noaa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2019 11:32 AM
To: Vann, Matthew <Matthew.Vann@abc.com>
Subject: Re: ABC News re: NOAA response to Washington Post reporting

Yes... below (on background coming from me) is the email that Craig sent yesterday to his employees at NOAA Research.

Additionally, from the National Weather Service: "The NWS leadership team stands with the entire National Weather Service workforce and will continue to uphold the scientific integrity of the forecast process as it was skillfully applied by all NWS offices last week to ensure public safety first and foremost." - National Weather Service Spokesperson

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Dear Colleagues,

The fierce storm we know as Hurricane Dorian has concluded its ferocious path through the Bahamas and along the US East Coast. Many of you have contributed to the excellent science that has underpinned the forecasts and current understanding of storms such as this one, which accelerated quite rapidly in intensity. The storm also presented challenges in track which improved with enhanced observations. We know that our collective work, from the scientists in the aircraft penetrating the storm, to the scientists deploying the glider picket line, to the modelers and folks working the physics of the storms, across OAR and in our CI's, and across all NOAA Lines, we are working the problem in order to give the NWS forecasters the best tools we possibly can to keep America and our neighbors safe. Thank you.

During the course of the storm, as I am sure you are aware, there were routine and exceptional expert forecasts, the best possible, issued by the NWS Forecasters. These are remarkable colleagues of ours, who receive our products, use them well, and provide the benefit of their own experience in announcing accurate forecasts accompanied by the distinction of all credible scientists -- they sign their work. As I'm sure you also know, there was a complex issue involving the President commenting on the path of the hurricane. The NWS Forecaster(s) corrected any public misunderstanding in an expert and timely way, as they should. There followed, last Friday, an unsigned press release from "NOAA" that inappropriately and incorrectly contradicted the NWS forecaster. My understanding is that this intervention to contradict the forecaster was not based on science but on external factors including reputation and appearance, or simply put, political. Our NOAA Scientific Integrity Policy and Code of Scientific Conduct make clear that all NOAA employees shall approach all scientific activities with honesty, objectively, and completely, without allegiance to individuals, organizations, or ideology. The content of this press release is very concerning as it compromises the ability of NOAA to convey life-saving information necessary to avoid substantial and specific danger to public health and safety. If the public cannot trust our information, or we debase our forecaster's warnings and products, that specific danger arises.

You know that the value of our science is in the complexity of our understanding, our ability to convey that understanding to a wide audience of users of this information, and to establish and sustain the

public trust in the truth and legitimacy of that information. Unfortunately, the press release of last Friday violated this trust and violated NOAA's policies of scientific integrity. In my role as Assistant Administrator for Research, and as I continue to administratively serve as Acting Chief Scientist, I am pursuing the potential violations of our NOAA Administrative Order on Scientific Integrity. Thankfully, we have such policies that are independently cited as among the best in the federal community, if not the best. Your NOAA and OAR management and leadership team believes in these policies and principles. I have a responsibility to pursue these truths. I will.

Thank you for your continued excellent work, and your trust. Carry on.

Craig

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Craig N. McLean
Assistant Administrator
Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

On Mon, Sep 9, 2019 at 11:31 AM Vann, Matthew <Matthew.Vann@abc.com> wrote:

> Hi Chris,
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> If you could share, that would be great.
>
> Thanks much!
>
> MV
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> 
>
> **Matthew Vann | Producer/Reporter**
>
> ABC News Washington Bureau
>
> 1717 DeSales Street NW, Washington, D.C.

Mobile: (202) 578-8702 | Office: (202) 222-6264

From: Christopher Vaccaro - NOAA Federal [mailto:christopher.vaccaro@noaa.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2019 11:18 AM
To: Vann, Matthew <Matthew.Vann@abc.com>
Subject: Re: ABC News re: NOAA response to Washington Post reporting

Hi Matt-

I just sent some information about this to Matt Hosford at ABC. I can also send to you if you're not connected.

-Chris

On Mon, Sep 9, 2019 at 11:14 AM Vann, Matthew <Matthew.Vann@abc.com> wrote:

> Good Morning, all—
>
> Matthew Vann with ABC Network News in Washington.
>
> Does NOAA have any response to reporting by the Washington Post that it's chief scientists will conduct an investigation to see if the agency violated its own policies and ethics in issuing statements in support of the president's assertion that Dorian would hit Alabama?
>
> Any comment would be much appreciated.
>
> MV
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> 
>
> **Matthew Vann | Producer/Reporter**
>
> ABC News Washington Bureau

1717 DeSales Street NW, Washington, D.C.

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