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From: **Craig McLean** <announcement@noaa.gov>

Date: Tue, May 25, 2021 at 12:43 PM

Subject: The Importance of Improving NOAA's Public Access to Research Results Compliance

To:



**May 25, 2021**

Dear Colleagues:

The research that NOAA produces is of the highest quality and utmost importance in furthering our collective understanding of the planet. Since publications are how we communicate our research, access to them is vital to navigate a changing climate and its challenges. We pride ourselves as a leader in research, but we should also serve as a leader in scholarship; therefore, it is our responsibility to ensure that the products of our research are open, and freely accessible to the scientific research community and general public.

In 2013, a White House [Office of Science and Technology Policy memo](#) and subsequent [Executive Order](#) instructed all federal agencies conducting research to create a plan for making all research results publicly available. In response, [NOAA's Plan for Increasing Public Access to Research Results](#) (NOAA PARR Plan) was implemented in 2015 and requires all NOAA authored and funded publications to be submitted to the [NOAA Institutional Repository](#) (NOAA IR). In November 2019, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined agency compliance with the public access mandate, leading to a report that directed NOAA to implement stronger compliance mechanisms.

Compliance with the OSTP mandate is reported annually by all federal agencies; as of FY2020 NOAA's PARR Compliance Rate was **23%**. The NOAA PARR Plan and the NOAA IR have been enacted and operational since 2015, and it is past time to ensure that NOAA's research results are publicly available to improve our impact and accountability of this important federal science investment. The NOAA Science Council has committed to improving this rate to bring NOAA more in line with other federal science agencies' compliance rates, such as the Department of Energy (74%), U.S. Geological Survey (80%), and National Institute of Health (90%).

In accordance with PARR, each NOAA author that publishes science and Program Manager responsible for funded research is responsible for ensuring compliance. The NOAA Central Library has created a number of resources about PARR compliance and requirements including FAQ pages, infographics, and a monthly webinar series focusing on publishing issues and the NOAA Institutional Repository. I encourage everyone to utilize these resources, including the [upcoming seminar on May 26th](#) that will focus on what and how to submit to the NOAA Institutional Repository, to ensure we are making all of NOAA's research accessible and available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C McLean', written in a cursive style.

Craig McLean  
NOAA Acting Chief Scientist and Science Council Chair