

# Progress and Problems:

*Government Scientists Report on Scientific  
Integrity at Four Agencies*

*[www.ucsusa.org/scientistsurvey](http://www.ucsusa.org/scientistsurvey)*

Appendix C: Comparison with Past UCS  
Surveys

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## Progress and Problems: Government Scientists Report on Scientific Integrity at Four Agencies

### Appendix C: Comparison with Past UCS Surveys

In order to assess trends over time, questions from past UCS-conducted surveys of the FDA, FWS, and NOAA were used when possible. Comparisons below are intended for informational purposes only. Cross-year differences may or may not be statistically significant.

#### NOAA-NMFS Comparison 2005/2015

In 2005, UCS surveyed scientists at NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (UCS 2005a).

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**Currently, I am allowed to publish work in peer-reviewed scientific journals regardless of the level of controversy of the topic.**

	2005		2015	
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	37	1%	55	8%
<b>Agree</b>	101	22%	280	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	243	52%	277	38%
<b>Disagree</b>	75	16%	84	12%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	34	7%	24	3%

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**Within the agency I can openly express my professional opinion about the conservation requirements of species and habitats without fear of retaliation.**

	2005		2015	
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	60	13%	81	11%
<b>Agree</b>	232	50%	350	48%
<b>Undecided</b>	30	7%	162	22%
<b>Disagree</b>	97	21%	111	15%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	38	8%	29	4%

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**I am provided appropriate time and resources to keep up with advances in my profession, such as attending conferences and trainings, and participation in scientific or professional societies.**

	2005		2015	
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	22	5%	40	5%
<b>Agree</b>	157	40%	226	31%
<b>Undecided</b>	11	2%	67	9%
<b>Disagree</b>	161	35%	294	40%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	94	20%	111	15%

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**I have been directed to inappropriately exclude or alter technical information from a NOAA Fisheries scientific document.**

	2005		2015	
<b>Frequently</b>	4	1%	11	2%
<b>Occasionally</b>	41	9%	40	6%
<b>Seldom</b>	56	12%	84	13%
<b>Never</b>	314	68%	351	55%
<b>Not Applicable</b>	34	7%	148	23%

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**Requests from NOAA decision makers to provide incomplete, inaccurate or misleading information to the public, regulated industry, media, or elected/senior government officials.**

	2005		2015	
<b>Frequently</b>	0	0%	12	2%
<b>Occasionally</b>	30	7%	50	8%
<b>Seldom</b>	45	10%	91	14%
<b>Never</b>	344	74%	331	53%

<b>Not Applicable</b>	34	7%	146	23%
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**Over the past few years my personal job satisfaction at NOAA has:**

	<b>2005</b>		<b>2015</b>	
<b>Increased</b>	105	23%	114	15%
<b>Stayed the Same</b>	213	46%	315	43%
<b>Decreased</b>	123	27%	288	39%
<b>Don't Know</b>	19	4%	19	3%

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**My office supervisor will stand behind staff who put forth scientifically defensible positions that may be politically controversial.**

	<b>2005</b>		<b>2015</b>	
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	78	17%	150	20%
<b>Agree</b>	183	40%	336	44%
<b>Undecided</b>	49	11%	195	25%
<b>Disagree</b>	75	16%	64	8%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	67	15%	22	3%

## FWS-Ecological Services Comparison 2005/2015

In 2005, UCS surveyed scientists in the FWS's Ecological Services Program (UCS 2005b).

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**I am provided appropriate time and resources to keep up with advances in my profession, such as attending conferences and trainings, and participation in scientific or professional societies.**

	2005		2015	
Strongly Agree	14	3%	22	8%
Agree	138	33%	95	35%
Undecided	9	2%	19	7%
Disagree	183	44%	90	33%
Strongly Disagree	67	16%	44	16%

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**Currently, I am allowed to publish work in peer-reviewed scientific journals regardless of the level of controversy of the topic.**

	2005		2015	
Strongly Agree	2	1%	22	8%
Agree	82	20%	70	26%
Undecided	223	55%	116	44%
Disagree	69	17%	40	15%
Strongly Disagree	28	7%	17	6%

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**Currently, I am allowed to speak to the public and the news media about my scientific research findings, regardless of the level of controversy of the topic.**

	2005		2015	
Strongly Agree	23	6%	11	4%
Agree	159	39%	45	17%

<b>Undecided</b>	54	13%	84	32%
<b>Disagree</b>	121	29%	78	29%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	53	13%	47	18%

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**Expert advice from scientific advisory committees is heeded and incorporated into agency decisions.**

2005			2015		
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	13	3%	<b>Always</b>	17	6%
<b>Agree</b>	96	23%	<b>Frequently</b>	100	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	80	19%	<b>Occasionally</b>	86	32%
<b>Disagree</b>	140	34%	<b>Seldom</b>	26	10%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	75	18%	<b>Never</b>	2	1%
			<b>Don't Know</b>	39	14%

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**My direct supervisor stands behind scientists who put forth positions that may be controversial.**

	2005		2015	
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	55	13%	73	27%
<b>Agree</b>	178	43%	111	41%
<b>Undecided</b>	54	13%	45	17%
<b>Disagree</b>	60	15%	25	9%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	61	15%	17	6%

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**I have experienced requests from FWS decision makers to provide incomplete, inaccurate or misleading information to the public, regulated industry, media, or elected/senior government officials:**

	2005		2015	
<b>Frequently</b>	6	1%	11	4%
<b>Occasionally</b>	32	8%	37	14%
<b>Seldom</b>	39	10%	46	17%
<b>Never</b>	282	68%	135	51%
<b>Not Applicable</b>	49	12%	35	13%

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**How would you rate morale within your Center/Office/Service?**

	2005		2015	
<b>Excellent</b>	2	1%	12	4%
<b>Good</b>	48	12%	58	21%
<b>Fair</b>	143	35%	86	32%
<b>Poor</b>	126	31%	72	27%
<b>Extremely Poor</b>	81	20%	42	16%
<b>Don't Know</b>	6	1%	NA	NA

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**My current position at the FWS is:**

	2005		2015	
<b>Management</b>	78	19%	58	21%
<b>Non-management</b>	322	81%	212	79%

**FDA Comparison 2006/2011/2015**

In 2006, UCS surveyed scientists at the FDA (UCS 2006).

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**The Center/Office where I work has the resources it needs to meet its role in fulfilling the mission of FDA.**

	2006		2011		2015	
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	33	3%	84	9%	169	10%
<b>Agree</b>	200	21%	348	35%	598	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	88	9%	68	7%	170	10%
<b>Disagree</b>	387	40%	400	40%	470	29%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	268	28%	93	9%	213	13%

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**My direct supervisor stands behind scientists who put forth positions that may be controversial.**

	2006		2011		2015	
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	75	8%	253	27%	294	18%
<b>Agree</b>	299	31%	329	35%	603	36%
<b>Undecided</b>	217	22%	189	20%	528	32%
<b>Disagree</b>	262	27%	133	14%	164	10%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	127	13%	47	5%	80	5%

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**Currently, I can openly express any concerns about the mission-driven work of my agency without fear of retaliation.**

	2006		2011		2015	
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	78	8%	124	13%	172	11%
<b>Agree</b>	384	39%	374	40%	701	43%
<b>Undecided</b>	163	17%	186	20%	364	23%
<b>Disagree</b>	256	26%	178	19%	283	18%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	101	10%	66	7%	97	6%



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**Currently, I am allowed to publish work in peer-reviewed scientific journals regardless of the level of controversy of the topic.**

	<b>2006</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2015</b>	
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	27	3%	69	8%	66	4%
<b>Agree</b>	176	18%	212	23%	361	23%
<b>Undecided</b>	503	52%	443	48%	761	48%
<b>Disagree</b>	174	18%	138	15%	281	18%
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	95	10%	62	7%	124	8%

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**My current position at FDA is:**

	<b>2006</b>		<b>2011</b>		<b>2015</b>	
<b>Management</b>	153	16%	135	16%	169	12%
<b>Non-management</b>	826	84%	690	84%	1225	88%