



AMS Presidential Town Hall Meeting Plenary Luncheon

90th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | NOAA

January 21, 2010



Outline

**The Obama
Administration and
Climate**

**Where NOAA is Headed
on Climate Services**

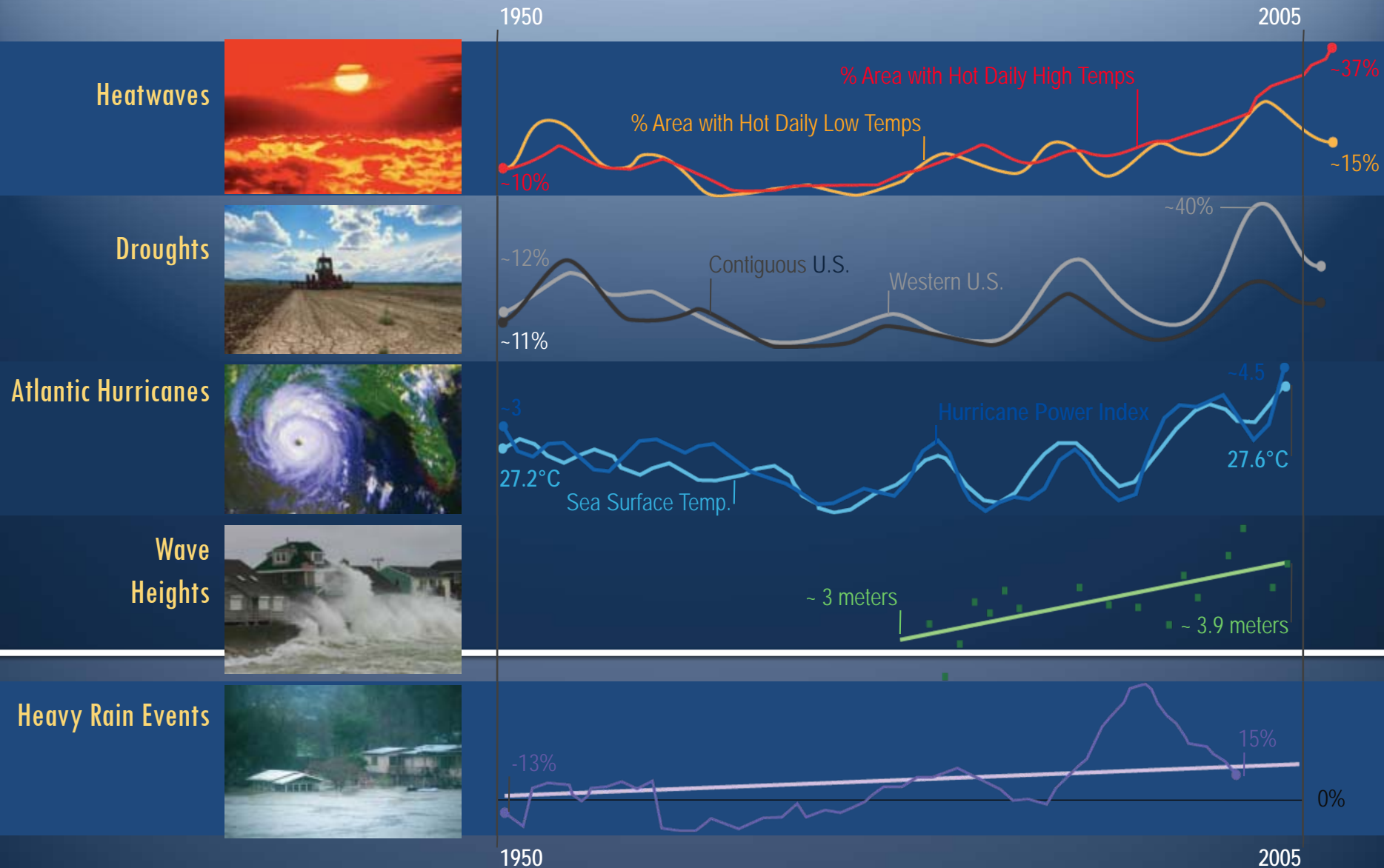
Looking Ahead



Ozonesonde Launch at South Pole



The nation faces real climate challenges



President Obama on Climate

“So we have a choice to make. We can remain one of the world's leading importers of foreign oil, or we can make the investments that would allow us to become the world's leading exporter of Renewable energy. We can let climate change continue to go unchecked, or we can help stop it. . . .” -President Obama, March 19, 2009

‘Energy and Environment’ is one of the cornerstone issues for this Administration.

“I don't think I have to emphasize that climate change is one of the defining challenges of our time. The science is clear and conclusive, and the impacts can no longer be ignored.” – President Obama, Major Economies Forum, Italy, July 2009



Climate is an Administration Priority

Domestic Actions

New vehicle efficiency standards

\$80B in clean energy

More stringent appliance efficiency standards

EPA's endangerment finding

WH Office and Task Force on Energy and Climate Change

EO on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance

Global Climate Change Impacts in the US report

Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force

Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States



A State of Knowledge Report from the
U.S. Global Change Research Program



Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force

- Recommendation for a national adaptation strategy
- Recommendation for integrating climate change resilience and adaptive capacity into agencies
- Coordination of interagency adaptation actions
- Strategies to enhance adaptive capacity of communities

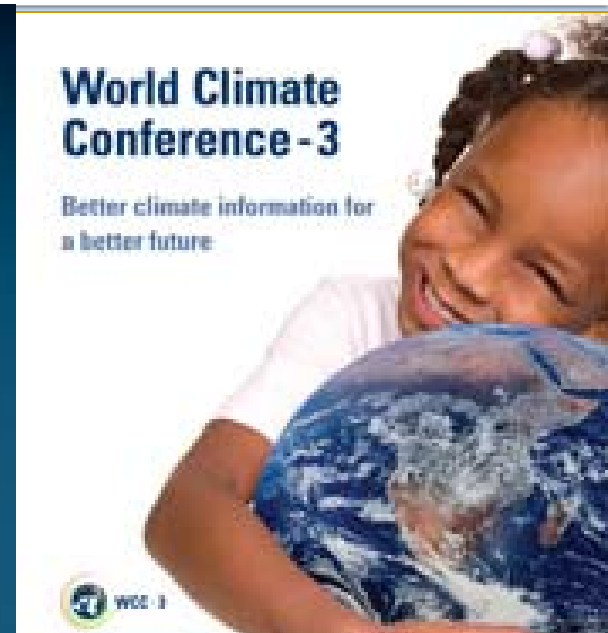
Climate is an Administration Priority

International Actions

Special Envoy for Climate Change

Leadership in the World Climate Conference -3

Major US Participation in COP-15 in Copenhagen



Our nation needs climate services...

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...to provide *authoritative, reliable, timely, and relevant* climate information and services to assist the nation's leaders and citizens in making climate-related decisions that enhance their lives and livelihoods.



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Where NOAA is Headed with Climate Services



NOAA Envisions an Informed Society Anticipating and Responding to Climate and its Impacts

- The number of water restriction days are few and far between because a community uses reliable information about the likelihood of extreme droughts for planning.
- Your home is powered by efficient, reliable renewable energy sources, supported by a suite of short and long-term environmental forecasts such as Wind Surface Forecasts for wind turbines.
- A new private sector industry -- one spawning new jobs and supporting a green economy -- grown up around the core products and information generated by a National Climate Service, much like the establishment of the private sector weather industry grew up around weather services
- Our nation's security is enhanced because reliable climate change information clearly shows areas of vulnerability due to changes in food and water availability, climate-related health issues, coastal sea level rise, and other impacts of climate, and the nation acts upon this information.

Legislative Mandates

Existing statutes give NOAA the Authority in Climate:

- National Climate Program Act of 1978
- Global Change Research Act of 1990*
- National Integrated Drought Information Services Act of 2006
- Hydrographic Services Improvement Act 1998
- National Weather Service Organic Act of 1890
- Marine Mammal Protection Act, Amended 2007
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act, Amended 2000*
- Coastal Zone Management Act, Amended 1996*
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, Amended 1988*
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Amended 2007
- Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000*

** = current attempt to reauthorize*

1978 National Climate Program Act

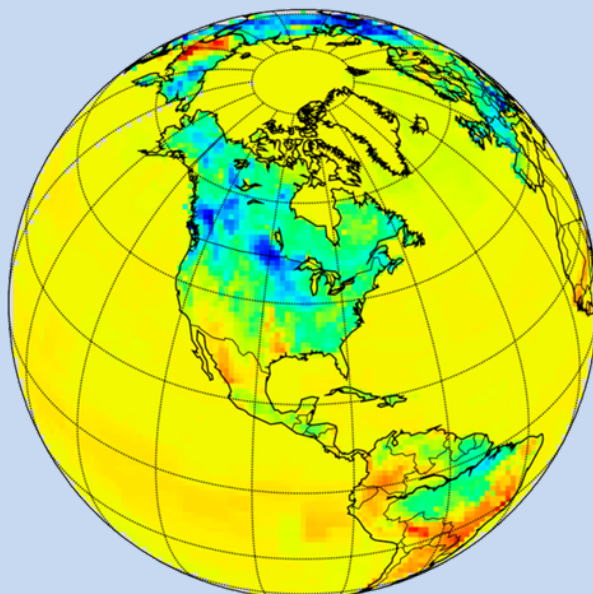
"It is the purpose of the Congress in this Act to establish a national climate program that will assist the Nation and the world to understand and respond to natural and man-induced climate processes and their implications."

"The Secretary shall establish within the Department of Commerce a National Climate Program Office . . ."

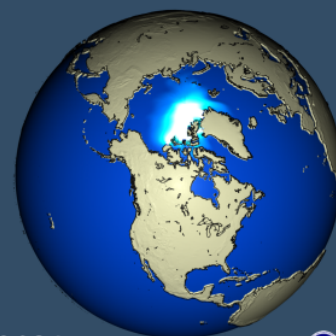
Meeting the Rising Demand for Climate Services

“If America is to avoid the most damaging effects of climate change, we have to first understand it – and that is where the Department of Commerce is instrumental.” - Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke

1. **NOAA’s existing framework is not optimized for climate service delivery.**
2. **To meet climate service demands, NOAA must:**
 - ✔ Connect users to existing climate products and services
 - ✔ Provide understandable, usable and accessible climate information
 - ✔ Actively engage users in service development.
3. **NOAA must maintain leadership in observing, research, modeling and assessments, while delivering climate services**

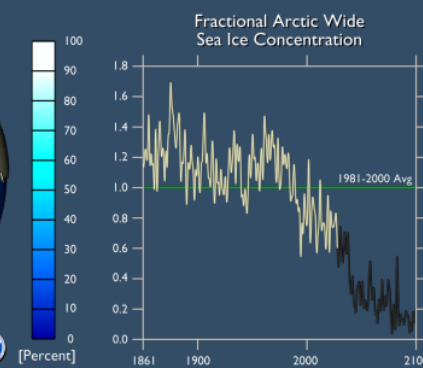


NOAA GFDL CM2.1 Model Simulation: SRES A1B Scenario



2031

Aug Sept Oct Avg Sea Ice Concentration



[Percent]



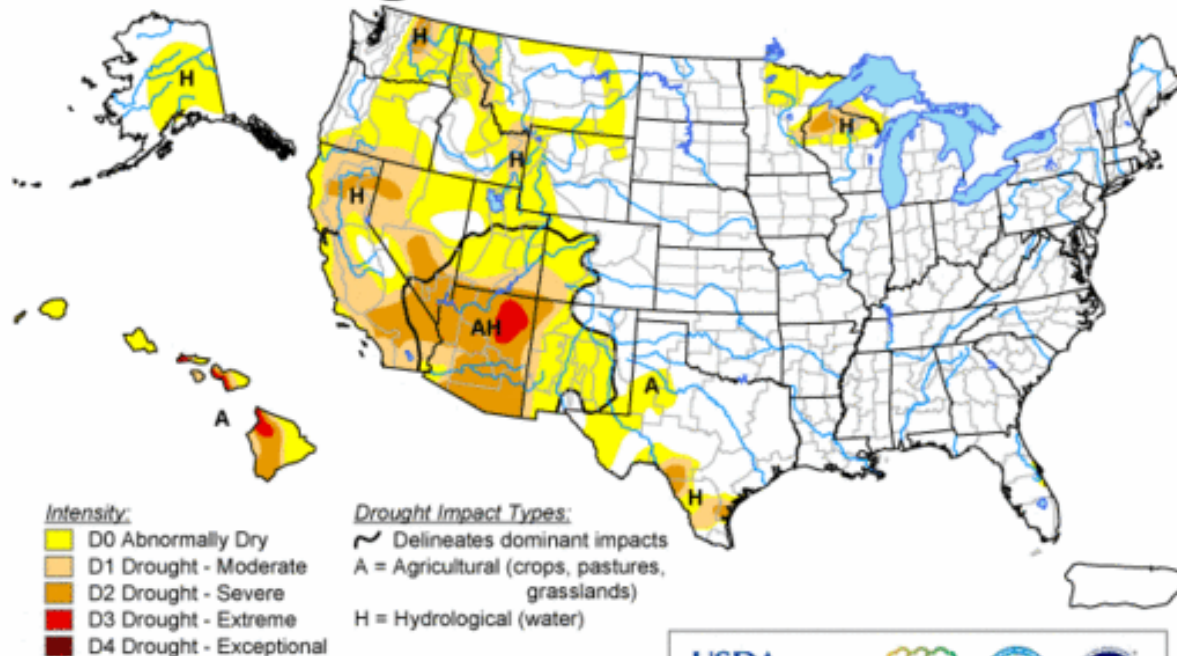
NOAA's Strategic Climate Goals

Continue to *Build, Evaluate and Adapt* NOAA's Core Competencies in Three Key Strategic Areas

1. Delivery of Sustained & Effective Services
2. Promoting Collaborative Partnerships
3. Advancing Climate Science

U.S. Drought Monitor

January 12, 2010
Valid 7 a.m. EST



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, January 14, 2010

Author: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

NOAA's Role in a National Strategy

International:

- *All nations* must commit to developing international climate services, and continue on the progress made at the WCC-3.
- **NOAA** is internationally recognized as advancing the state of climate knowledge, for leadership in GEOSS, and is viewed as critical to developing regional scale impact assessments

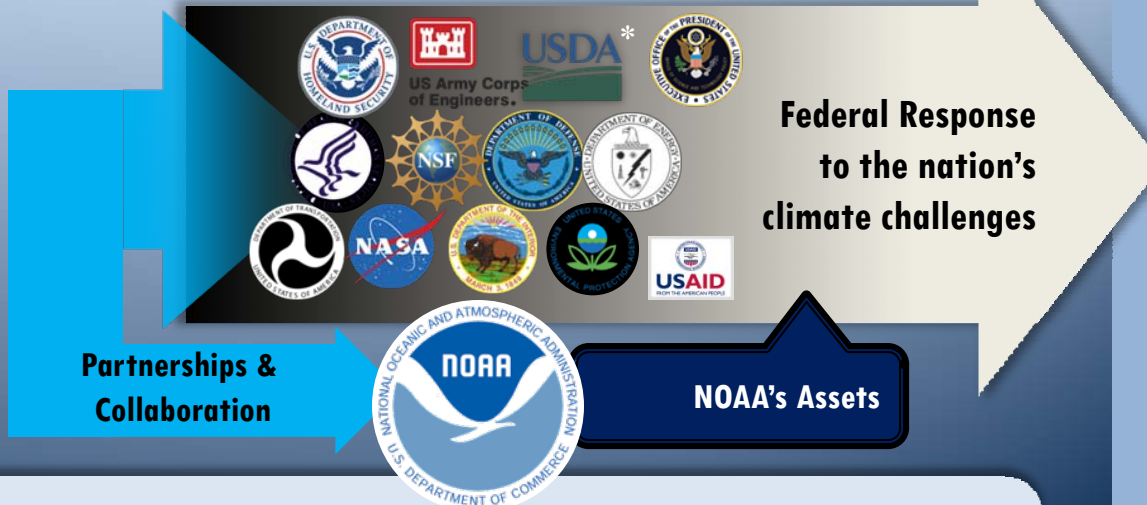
National:

- *All agencies* must consider climate change impacts as it relates to their mission areas, and commit to work within a cooperative and collaborative *interagency strategy*.
- **NOAA provides core capabilities** to national climate services through NOAA's decades of expertise in observing, monitoring, research, modeling, assessments, and existing service delivery structures.

Regional:

- *All agencies* must commit to a *Regional Climate Service Enterprise* to ensure users have the climate information they need.
- **NOAA's regional service capacity**, with over two centuries of experience, is delivering services today through public and private partnerships, and is ready to engage in the national climate service strategy.

NOAA commits to providing critical assets in science and service to a Federal partnership



Information Delivery and Decision Support

NOAA uses its national and regional infrastructure to deliver climate services today

Assessments of Climate Change and Impacts

*NOAA is a leader in national and regional climate impact assessments
Over 70% of Federal IPCC AR4 WG1 authors were from NOAA*

Climate Change Research and Modeling

International award winning models from NOAA of the global climate

Climate Observations and Monitoring

*NOAA operates over 90 observation and monitoring systems
NOAA is mandated to monitor and provide access to climate data and information*

- Security
- Forestry
- Water
- Health
- Infrastructure
- Global
- Land Management
- Oceans
- Energy
- Other

*Representative Organizations & Sectors

Looking ahead...



Coming Soon...

- NOAA's proposal on Climate Services
- NOAA's Climate Portal
- Strategy to Strengthen NOAA Science
- Establishment of the Task Force to develop the Global Framework for Climate Services
- Executive Order on Scientific Integrity