

**Statement of Scott Doney**

**Nominee for Chief Scientist**

**Department of Commerce**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

**Nomination Hearing before the Senate Commerce, Science, and  
Transportation Committee**

**November 30, 2010**

Chairman Rockefeller, Ranking Member Hutchinson, and honorable members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity today to speak with you. I am honored and humbled to be here as President Obama's nominee for Chief Scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. I also would like to acknowledge Secretary Locke and Under Secretary Lubchenco for their gracious support of my nomination.

I would like to thank my family, in particular my wife Andrea who runs her own small engineering firm and my son Grant. My older brother Brett, who has worked for many years as a regional economic developer in Massachusetts, Maine and Montana. And my mother, who is at home in Brunswick, Maine.

I especially want to thank my late great-aunt Lillie, who supported my college education and encouraged me to follow my dream of becoming an oceanographer. With her help, I was able to take a term off from college to participate in an oceanographic research expedition aboard the sail-training vessel *R/V Westward*. This experience crystallized for me a life-long excitement in the sea and its important roles in society.

I am also very grateful to the numerous scientific colleagues who have assisted me over my career, in particular those at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, in Boulder, Colorado, where I worked for over a decade, and in my present faculty position at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

The central focus of my research is the cycling of carbon in its many forms within the ocean and between the ocean, atmosphere and land biosphere. Along the way, I have also been involved in studies of marine and terrestrial ecology, ocean and atmosphere physics, climate, and most recently environmental economics.

I take great pride in teaching and mentoring students and young scientists. I also strive to make science more accessible for the public and decision makers through my writing, lecturing and engagement with stakeholder groups.

My background touches on many aspects of the research being done today at NOAA and on how science feeds into NOAA's roles in stewardship and service. I also work directly with many of the tools that are central to NOAA science: oceanographic field research; numerical models; Earth observing systems; satellite remote sensing; and data assimilation.

I am fortunate to work closely with a number of science groups within NOAA. This includes having served as the joint leader of two oceanographic research expeditions on NOAA ships. Two summers ago, I was part of an external review committee for NOAA's premier science laboratory in Seattle, Washington. I also lead a grass-roots effort to coordinate ocean chemical and ecological research across NSF, NASA and NOAA.

Filling the Chief Scientist position at NOAA would enhance the visibility of research across the agency and highlight the critical role science plays in all aspects of NOAA's mission. The success of NOAA's research enterprise depends critically on recruiting and retaining the best scientists and technicians. An important element is maintaining NOAA's reputation as a place where top-notch scientists can pursue world-class research while solving problems that are directly relevant to our society. Another element is cultivating future scientists through improved science education, which has many wider benefits for communities and businesses as well.

There are also opportunities to better integrate research across NOAA and with its external partners and to more effectively translate science into useful products for decision makers, resource managers, and the public. Timely information about the ocean, atmosphere and marine ecosystems is increasingly important for both individuals and companies, whether it is in the form of improved weather forecasts or assessments of the health of coastal ecosystems and fisheries.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee, if confirmed, I look forward to working with you on ensuring that NOAA is generating and using the highest quality science in a timely fashion.

Thank you for your attention, and I welcome any questions.

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