

Gary Shigenaka - NOAA Federal

From: Gary Shigenaka - NOAA Federal
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2019 8:03 PM
To: Timothy Gallaudet - NOAA Federal
Subject: Re: A plea from the trenches

Dear RADM Gallaudet,

Thank you VERY much for your reply. I certainly did not mean any disrespect to any of our leadership, but I was frankly astonished when news of that press release hit the proverbial streets on Friday. This entire episode has unfolded like a series of nested memes, like one of those Russian dolls, but it was only at the end of the week that they began to get increasingly troubling.

Please know that I have faith in you, especially, to do right by all of your employees, as you have repeatedly demonstrated an interest, involvement, and connection with us over your time in NOAA. And that is deeply appreciated, as you have engaged us in a way that is really unprecedented in the time that I have spent in the agency.

I think most of us, even in the far-flung reaches of the field, understand that these are trying times for anyone in leadership positions in the federal government. And we appreciate the cover that you afford us so that we can continue to do our jobs and serve the interests of the American public. I believe that NOAA and its lines offices continue to be well-regarded among members of the public as well as our colleagues in other agencies, industry, and NGOs. But it is a precious commodity, this standing, and I worry that harm done to it will be difficult to mend and long-lasting.

So, we will soldier on out here and allow you back there to deal with the larger context of things. To that end: good luck and godspeed! And again, thank you.

With even greater respect,

gary shigenaka

On Sun, Sep 8, 2019 at 2:48 AM Timothy Gallaudet - NOAA Federal <timothy.gallaudet@noaa.gov> wrote:

Hi Gary,

I've written you before with genuine appreciation for the fine contributions made by you in OR&R and everyone in NOAA.

<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/minds-behind-orr-meet-marine-biologist-gary-shigenaka>

So please accept Neil's reply as a sincere acknowledgement of a press release we did not approve or support. You know from my multiple messages to you and your colleagues that we respect and stand behind your service and scientific integrity.

With gratitude and respect,

Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., U.S. Navy (ret)
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere/

Deputy NOAA Administrator

> On Sep 8, 2019, at 5:41 PM, Neil Jacobs - NOAA Federal <neil.jacobs@noaa.gov> wrote:

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> Gary,
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> This whole thing is being blown way out of proportion and politicized. The so-called tweet said absolutely no chance of impacts and NHC guidance was calling for 5-30%. The forecast office did the right thing to calm the nerves of citizens. I love NOAA. I am so proud of everything you all do.

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> You have no idea how hard I'm fighting to keep politics out of science. We are an objective science agency, and we won't and never will base any decisions on anything other than science.

>
> -Neil

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>> On Sep 8, 2019, at 12:28 AM, Gary Shigenaka - NOAA Federal <gary.shigenaka@noaa.gov> wrote:

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>> Dear Dr. Jacobs,
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>> I am a 40-year NOAA scientist. Please address this crisis in moral leadership our agency is facing. I think you know very well what an incredible group of dedicated employees you have. Please reassure those of us who serve the public, and do so with commitment and humility that we are not mere pawns in an absurd game. Please do not allow the science and support that we perform on behalf of the American public to be tossed into the trash heap by political expediencies. Please support us and stand with us. Please.

>>
>> With great respect,

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>> gary shigenaka
>> Seattle, WA

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