

: recent media contacts

**Subject:** Re: recent media contacts

**From:** Tom Knutson <Tom.Knutson@noaa.gov>

**Date:** Thu, 08 Sep 2005 16:37:00 -0400

**To:** Kent.Laborde@noaa.gov

**CC:** Jana Goldman <Jana.Goldman@noaa.gov>, Ants Leetmaa <Ants.Lleetmaa@noaa.gov>

Hi Kent,

The basic topics that tend to come up are:

1) what does your research say about hurricanes and global warming?  
I summarize our papers.

2) what do you think is the linkage between hurricanes and global warming? Here I typically also bring in the recent work of Emanuel, which I believe is relevant and topical, although there are uncertainties that need to be examined, per communication with Chris Landsea.

3) Is there any relation between Hurricane Katrina and global warming? Here I emphasize that one should not try to blame a particular storm event on global warming, although global warming may be having at least some influence on storms such as Katrina by gradually changing the statistics of tropical storms towards having greater intensity, per our research results... I also quote the magnitude of storm intensity change we simulate.

Best regards,

Tom Knutson

Kent.Laborde@noaa.gov wrote:

Tom, Thanks for the list. What was the general gist of what you discussed with them? Were the interviews mostly about your papers or were they also dealing with [REDACTED]/Landsea/etc.?

Good to see you this week,  
Kent

----- Original Message -----

From: Tom Knutson <Tom.Knutson@noaa.gov>

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2005 2:10 pm

Subject: recent media contacts

Kent, Jana,

Here is a list of media contacts (interviews) I've had in the past week related to global warming and hurricanes.

[REDACTED] scheduled on-camera but cancelled/postponed

[REDACTED] - next week

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Tom Knutson

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-----  
Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab /NOAA | phone: +1-609-452-6509  
P.O. Box 308 | fax: +1-609-987-5063  
Forrestal Campus, U.S. Rt. 1 N | e-mail:  
Tom.Knutson@noaa.gov Princeton, New Jersey 08542 U.S.A. |  
<http://www.gfdl.noaa.gov/~tk>

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Tom Knutson

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Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab /NOAA | phone: +1-609-452-6509  
P.O. Box 308 | fax: +1-609-987-5063  
Forrestal Campus, U.S. Rt. 1 N | e-mail: Tom.Knutson@noaa.gov  
Princeton, New Jersey 08542 U.S.A. | <http://www.gfdl.noaa.gov/~tk>

Subject: Re: #2

From: Scott Smullen <Scott.Smullen@noaa.gov>

Date: Wed, 21 Sep 2005 14:06:57 -0400

To: CTrinh@DOC.GOV

CC: "Jordan St.John" <Jordan.St.John@noaa.gov>

can i please have a reason?

CTrinh@DOC.GOV wrote:

Scott - let's pass on this one.

Thanks,  
Catherine

\*Scott Smullen <Scott.Smullen@noaa.gov>\*

09/21/2005 12:17 PM

To

ctrinh@doc.gov

cc

"Jordan St.John" <Jordan.St.John@noaa.gov>

Subject

A producer for . has requested to live interview Max Mayfield tonight about items covered in his Senate testimony yesterday.. Focus on his top line comments on: entering increased hurricane era due to natural cycle forcings; vulnerable cities; safety messaging; reliability of forecasting; storms to come this season.

Max would stick to comments related to his already cleared oral testimony. He won't discuss any budget related items.

3/2/2006 12:44 PM

It is , , filming and it will run on A. It is not part of a series. It is for a documentary on extreme weather. The interview should last no longer than 45 minutes to an hour.

CTrinh@DOC.GOV wrote:

>  
> Is this . And for what program? How long would the  
> interview be? >  
>  
>  
> \*Kent Laborde <Kent.Laborde@noaa.gov>\*  
>  
> 10/28/2005 01:29 PM  
>  
> To  
> Catherine Trinh <ctrinh@doc.gov>  
> cc  
> Subject  
> #1 media inquiry on hurricanes and climate  
>  
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>  
> Journalist name & number and/or email: '  
>  
> Interview topic: Causes of extreme weather for : documentary on  
> extreme weather events, such as Katrina.  
> Deadline: October 28  
> NOAA expert and title: Chris Landsea, National Hurricane Center  
> Proposed questions: Role of climate change on hurricanes. Are extreme  
> hurricanes part of a cyclical pattern? Are there viable ways to  
> manipulate hurricanes? Has the role of the meteorologist changed with  
> the onset of extreme hurricanes?  
> Specific answers: Landsea can explain the features of the multi-decadal  
> cycle that create favorable conditions for hurricanes to develop and  
> address why the current range of hurricane modification methods are not  
> feasible.  
> Background: Chris Landsea has fielded numerous media inquiries relating  
> to these topics and is the best source for explaining the multi-decadal  
> cycle, and why it is not climate change.  
>

cleared

**Subject:** cleared  
**From:** Scott Smullen <Scott.Smullen@noaa.gov>  
**Date:** Thu, 22 Sep 2005 11:23:08 -0400  
**To:** Kent Laborde <Kent.Laborde@noaa.gov>  
**CC:** "Jordan St.John" <Jordan.St.John@noaa.gov>

kent - this is cleared, with the caveat that we tell richard to be very careful with how he frames the global warming signal aspect. sensitivities there, as you know.  
thanks ss

-----  
with has asked to talk to someone about sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico and whether temps have risen in the past few years. He understands that the hurricane intensity is attributed to the multi-decadal cycle, but wants to know independent of that discussion whether the Gulf is warmer than in past years/decades.

Our best spokesperson on this is Richard Reynolds at National Climatic Data Center. He is the oceanographer there and expert on oceanic temperatures and trends. He has experience talking with media.

According to Richard, the Gulf is warmer. This is attributed to cyclical warming patterns, but there is also a global warming signal involved. The warming signal shows steady progression, which shows averaged over a decade, the rise in Gulf water temp is less than 1 degree Celsius. However, there is a trend of month-by-month temp increase over the years.

deadline is tomorrow afternoon.

**Subject:** R-3 hurricanes-cause-climate change  
**From:** "Jordan St.John" <Jordan.St.John@noaa.gov>  
**Date:** Fri, 23 Sep 2005 10:56:43 -0400  
**To:** cfuqua <cfuqua@doc.gov>  
**CC:** "Scott.Smullen@noaa.gov" <Scott.Smullen@noaa.gov>

R-3 hurricane-cause-climate change

Chuck,

This is like many of the other. Landsea will talk about the 20-30 natural cycle as the cause and wave off the climate change connection as he has in a score of other interviews like this.

Outlet:

Date/Time: Friday, Sept. 23; early taping to air that evening

Topic: Patterns causing this year's hurricanes and any connection to climate change.

NOAA Representative: Chris Landsea, National Hurricane Center

09/21/2006 2:07 PM

**Subject:** RE: R-3 hurricanes-cause-climate change Vaccaro-Tarp  
**From:** CFuqua@doc.gov  
**Date:** Fri, 23 Sep 2005 11:15:06 -0400  
**To:** Jordan.St.John@noaa.gov, cfuqua@doc.gov  
**CC:** "Scott.Smullen@noaa.gov" <Scott.Smullen@noaa.gov>

okay on this one. Please be careful and make sure Chris is on his toes. Since  
off the menu, I'm a little nervous on this one, but trust he'll hold the course.

went

-----Original Message-----

**From:** "Jordan St.John" <Jordan.St.John@noaa.gov> [mailto:"Jordan St.John"  
<Jordan.St.John@noaa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 23, 2005 10:57 AM  
**To:** cfuqua <cfuqua@doc.gov>  
**Cc:** "Scott.Smullen"  
**Subject:** R-3 hurricanes-cause-climate change

**Subject:** Re: media request for gfdl

**From:** "Jordan St.John" <Jordan.St.John@noaa.gov>

**Date:** Thu, 06 Oct 2005 10:35:30 -0400

**To:** Jana Goldman <Jana.Goldman@noaa.gov>, Scott Smullen <Scott.Smullen@noaa.gov>

Take a pass. We'll deal with media requests but let's not open the door to others.

Jordan

Jana Goldman wrote:

Just spoke to him -- he just wants to better understand the science -- he is not looking to link an individual with a point of view.

jana

Jordan St.John wrote:

Jana,

Can you call back and quiz him on what he's working on. If it sounds a bit untowards, you can always just refer him to Tom's paper and let me make his own characterizations.

Let me know,

Jordan

Jana Goldman wrote:

Tom Knutson, who wrote the 2004 paper about computer models showing a slight increase in hurricane intensity over the next 80 years if CO2 keeps rising, was contacted by from a communications shop, for some information for an op-ed is writing, he says, for the Knutson won't call him back until he hears from me.

Knutson and I are concerned that Knutson's science may be used to advance a policy position.  
jana

3/2/2006 1:07 PM



**Subject:** RE: on request... kent laborde will  
**From:** CFuqua@doc.gov  
**Date:** Tue, 18 Oct 2005 15:41:48 -0400  
**To:** Kent.Laborde@noaa.gov  
**CC:** Scott.Smullen@noaa.gov

kent,  
Landsea can go on, even if together. please make sure Chris is on message and that it is a friendly discussion. I don't want our people in a precarious position or subject to an ugly scene. I'm not completely comfortable with this, but feel its better than him not going on. I need a report on how it goes. Thanks.

Also, the interview you reference was done without our knowledge and I trust that won't happen again. thanks.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kent Laborde <Kent.Laborde@noaa.gov> [mailto:Kent.Laborde@noaa.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 18, 2005 3:32 PM  
**To:** CFuqua@doc.gov  
**Subject:** Re: on request... kent laborde will

E: [Fwd: media request for tonight with Knutson]

**Subject:** RE: [Fwd: media request for tonight with Knutson]

**From:** CFuqua@doc.gov

**Date:** Wed, 19 Oct 2005 11:13:00 -0400

**To:** Kent.Laborde@noaa.gov

why can't we have one of the other guys on then?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kent Laborde <Kent.Laborde@noaa.gov> [mailto:Kent Laborde <Kent.Laborde@noaa.gov>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 19, 2005 11:11 AM

**To:** CFuqua@doc.gov

**Subject:** Re: [Fwd: media request for tonight with Knutson]

He is consistant, but a bit of a different animal. He isn't on the meteorological side. He's purely a numerical modeler. He takes existing data from observation and projects forward. His take is that even with worse case projections of green house gas concentrations, there will be a very small increase in hurricane intensity that won't be realized until almost 100 years from now.

CFuqua@doc.gov wrote:

> what is Knutson's position on global warming vs. decadal cycles? is  
> he consistant with Bell and Landsea?

>

> -----Original Message-----

> \*From:\* Kent Laborde [mailto:Kent Laborde

> ]

> \*Sent:\* Wednesday, October 19, 2005 10:50 AM

> \*To:\* CHUCK FUQUA

> \*Subject:\* [Fwd: media request for tonight with Knutson]

>

> Chuck, Here's a request for tonight. Please see below.

>

> -----  
> \*From:\* Jana Goldman

> \*Date:\* Wed, 19 Oct 2005 09:50:47 -0400

> \*To:\* "Jordan St.John", Scott Smullen

> \*Cc:\* Kent Laborde

> \*Subject:\* media request for tonight with Knutson

>

> Media outlet:

> CNBC - On the Money

> Journalist name & number and/or email:

> Stephanie -- 201-735-3118 (it sounds like she's a booker)

> Interview topic:

> Hurricanes and global warming

> Deadline:

> Show is tonight - 7-8 p,m, -- this also is tentatiye.

E: [Fwd: media request for tonight with Knutson]

- > NOAA expert and title:
- > Tom Knutson, hurricane modeler at Geophysical Fluid Dynamics
- > Laboratory,
- > Princeton, N.J.
- > Proposed questions:
- > is global warming contributing to number/intensity of hurricanes?
- > Specific answers:
- > Knutson is the co-author of a December 2004 paper that indicated IF
- > carbon dioxide continues to rise at its current rate that hurricane
- > intensity can rise about 5 percent over the next 80 years. This has
- > nothing to do with the NUMBER of storms.
- > Background or relevancy, if needed:
- > Knutson has been on this show before
- >