UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Mr. Jeff Ruch
962 Wayne Avenue
Suite 610
Silver Spring MD 20910

Re: FOIA Request DOC-NOAA-2018-000572

Dear Mr. Ruch,

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request which was received by our office on January 24, 2018, in which you requested:

> Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), requests information concerning recent actions to comply with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act by two components of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): the Oceanic & Atmospheric Research (OAR) and the National Ocean Service (NOS). Specifically, we request the following:
>
> 1. The roster for the IACUC members for OAR and NOS;
>
> 2. Minutes of the IACUC meetings for OAR and NOS;
>
> 3. Actions that OAR and NOS have taken to ensure that their in-house animal research is compliant with the Animal Welfare Act; and
>
> 4. Actions that OAR and NOS have taken to ensure that any grant or contract animal research that either fund search is compliant with the Animal Welfare Act.
>
> This request is limited to records created or describing activities, such as IACUC meetings, during the time-period between January 1, 2015 and the present.

After searching our files we were unable to locate any records that are responsive to your request.

Although no records were located during our search, you have the right to appeal a "no document found" response. All appeals should include a statement of the reasons why you believe the FOIA response was not satisfactory. An appeal based on documents in this release must be received within 90 calendar days of the date of this response letter at the following address:

Assistant General Counsel for Litigation, Employment, and Oversight
U.S. Department of Commerce
Office of General Counsel

Room 5875
14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

An appeal may also be sent by e-mail to FOIAAppeals@doc.gov or by FOIAonline at https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home#.

For your appeal to be complete, it must include the following items:

- a copy of the original request,
- our response to your request,
- a statement explaining why the withheld records should be made available, and why the denial of the records was in error.
- "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" must appear on your appeal letter. It should also be written on your envelope, e-mail subject line, or your fax cover sheet.

FOIA appeals posted to the e-mail box, FOIAonline, or Office after normal business hours will be deemed received on the next business day. If the 90th calendar day for submitting an appeal falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal public holiday, an appeal received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, the next business day will be deemed timely.

FOIA grants requesters the right to challenge an agency's final action in federal court. Before doing so, an adjudication of an administrative appeal is ordinarily required.

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), an office created within the National Archives and Records Administration, offers free mediation services to FOIA requesters. They may be contacted in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Email: ogis@nara.gov
Phone: 301-837-1996
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

If you have questions regarding this correspondence please contact Annie Thomson at annie.thomson@noaa.gov or by phone at (301) 734-1106, or the NOAA FOIA Public Liaison Robert Swisher at (301) 628-5755. Please refer to your FOIA request tracking number DOC-NOAA-2018-000453 when contacting us.

Sincerely,

GRAFF.MARK.HYRUM.1514447892

Digitally signed by GRAFF.MARK.HYRUM.1514447892
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=DoD, ou=PKI, ou=OTHER, cn=GRAFF.MARK.HYRUM.1514447892
Date: 2018.03.07 11:58:47 -05'00'

Mark H. Graff
FOIA Officer/Bureau Chief Privacy Officer