



# **NWS Summer Partners Meeting**

**Data Availability  
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**Kevin C. Cooley  
Director, NWS Office of Planning and  
Programming for Service Delivery**



# Agenda

- NWS Data Sharing Philosophy
- Relevant Statute & Policy
- NOAA/NWS Business Model
- Future Considerations
- Discussion

# NWS Data Sharing Philosophy

- Be consistent with statute, including appropriations language
- Be consistent with applicable policy
- Share government data freely within limitations of acquisition agreements or technical capabilities and capacities
- Acquire data (observations, model) when the costs of acquisition are justified by improvements to products or services
- Use and provide data that is quality assured

**Free Exchange of Data Benefits Weather Enterprise -  
The Tide Lifts All Boats**

# Relevant Policy & Statute

- **WRFA (2017):**

- Authorizes NWS to provide impact based decision support products and services
- Authorizes NOAA to evaluate and pursue opportunities to use commercially available data  
“where appropriate, cost-effective, and feasible, obtain commercial weather data from private sector providers”
- Does not require that commercially available data be used in the absence of a sound business case

# Relevant Policy & Statute

- **Annual Budget Acts (Appropriations Law):**
  - May direct that NOAA or the NWS acquire specific commercial data
- **Paperwork Reduction Act/OMB Circular A-130:**
  - In general, information created or collected by the government be available on a free, open and equitable basis
  - Does not apply to data purchased by the government

# Relevant Policy & Statute

- **NAO 216-112 (2007)**
  - ....Open and unrestricted dissemination of high quality publically funded information, as appropriate and within resource constraints, is good policy and is the law
  - NOAA will be equitable in dealings with various classes of entities..... will not provide an information service to one entity unless it can also be provided to other entities

# Relevant Policy & Statute

- **WMO Resolution 40:**
  - Not legally binding, but a valuable framework
  - Member nations provide on a free and unrestricted basis “essential” products and data necessary for the protection of life and property... particularly those basic data and products required to describe and forecast weather and climate
  - Does not apply to data and products that a member is not legally authorized to share.



# NOAA/NWS Business Model

- Our data is free and available at capacities driven by appropriated funding levels
- NOAA Data CRADA provides opportunities for greater access to data and targeted business opportunities for private sector
- We acquire data (observations, model) when the costs of acquisition are justified by improvements to products or services
- We honor restrictions imposed by the providers of commercial data
- We generally do not compete with the private sector in their service to private sector customers



# Future Considerations

- **Increasing demand for data**
- **Open collaboration crucial**
  - Private industry and academia drive major advances
  - Nation can benefit from these innovations
  - With growth in capabilities comes need for increased coordination for decisions
- **Evolving NWS role**
  - Impact based decision support in advance of and during weather events; beyond forecasting
  - Maintain service organization role that enables weather enterprise



# Discussion