

Re: OT: sea level 'rise' hmmm....

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- *From:* Jonathan Kirwan <jkirwan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 16 Jul 2008 20:47:41 GMT
-

On Wed, 16 Jul 2008 12:51:59 -0700, Joerg
<notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Jonathan Kirwan wrote:

On Wed, 16 Jul 2008 09:14:46 -0700, Joerg
<notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

[...]

May I suggest you also write Dr. Steve Nerem?

Only a few days have passed. People have lives. My normal practice is to wait a month, if my question is likely to involve more than a minute or two of their time. I don't know what you wrote (feel free to publish it here), but if you asked for something that might take some care in responding I'd tend to allow a little more time.

Agreed. However, what I do when there is a request I don't have time to handle right now: I send a short email that I've got to run but will get back to the requester in about x weeks. Personally I try to avoid auto-replies but even that would be ok in this case.

Okay.

Let me know what you asked. If I can see what that is and agree with the slant of it, I'd be willing to put it in my own words and find someone else who might be able to answer. You've already started Dr. Nerem on your point, so jumping from two sides within a week would be a bit... excessive. But there are other scientists working in the area and I could probably track one or two down on my own and try that approach.

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Email is on another secure PC, not easy to copy. What I wrote:

Thanked him for the quick reply. Wrote that I clicked all over their interactive map, could not find step increases either, suggested he try the same. Asked him how the graph was calculated.

Okay. I get the gist. Sounds like a reasonable question to me. I'll see what I can do. I'll probably phrase it a little differently, of course. But I'll see if there is someone "down in the mud" on this stuff who can provide some insight.

I could start saying the same as you did above about IPCC scientists and publications, and with what I believe good reason, but right now I won't.

IPCC doesn't do basic research. Its charter is more along the lines of providing an informed digest.

BTW, no answer yet ...

Sorry to hear that. I think the longest I've had to wait is two months. In one case on plate tectonics, I'd tried to contact one of the primary researchers in Seattle. He called me back three weeks later. He'd been in Japan, personally going through records 300 years old, on the subject I'd called about. It was an enjoyable and lively discussion to have... but I had to wait a while for good reasons it turns out. I didn't press him beyond the single contact. No follow up, no pressure. Just the first message. Three weeks later, when he had a moment, he called back to someone he had no idea of. I find this not uncommon.

IMHO when an institute make a rather bold claim that has serious impact on policymakers there should be a backup for information

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requests.

Either the researcher can read his/her email while traveling

or

designates a secretary or someone to monitor it. In industry
you'd have

a serious chat with El Capitan if you didn't put that in place
before a

trip.

Doesn't work like that. Just because a scientist _happens_ to write a
paper that later just _happens_ to have some policy impact doesn't
mean their funding source adds more budget. One could always wish.

Yep, you got a point there.

Thanks,

Jon

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