

## Communicating Science to Decision Makers

People interested in this breakout session are encouraged to write [lockhart@sfu.ca](mailto:lockhart@sfu.ca) to tell him what we ought to be talking about instead of what follows. What issues are relevant to us?

Some questions and some potential but inexpertly selected readings.

### Questions

We only have one hour so perhaps we need to focus our discussion:

- Who is communicating? Which expert [individual scientist or small research group, science society, advocacy group] communicating with which policy maker [boss, government bureaucrat, politician]?
- One-way or two-way communication?
- Do people know of successful communication examples? Did those communicators use specific strategies?
- How can we get trained in a hurry if need be?
- What dangers for individual scientists need to be watched out for?
- We are uncertainty quantification experts. Are we decision making experts?
- How can we elicit from policy makers what sort of questions they would really like answered? Are they the sorts of questions we can answer?
- Are we providing information or trying to influence the decision?

### Readings

- Rutgers Course: <http://ppppolicy.rutgers.edu/mcladmin/files/655-SP17-Herb-20170120-090409.pdf>  
Many links in this pdf.
- Katharine Jacobs, NOAA: [Connecting Science, Policy, and Decision-making: A Handbook for Researchers and Science Agencies:](#)
- Flood risk: Morss, Wilhelmi, Downton, & Grunfest (2005)  
<http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/pdf/10.1175/BAMS-86-11-1593>
- Climate change: Pidgeon and Fischhoff, Nature Climate Change, 2011 |DOI: 10.1038/NCLIMATE1080 available on [my website](#)
- Fischhoff, 2013, PNAS: [The sciences of science communication.](#)