



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



MAR 22 2011

Memorandum

To: Deputy Director of Operations, National Park Service

From: Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks 

Subject: Solicitor's Report regarding Allegations of Scientific Misconduct

I am in receipt of the report prepared by Gavin Frost of the Solicitor's Office and requested by the former Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. The report is in response to a letter from an informant which alleges scientific misconduct by certain National Park Service (NPS) employees related to activities involving the Drakes Bay Oyster Company in the Point Reyes National Seashore (PORE).

The factual record firmly supports the conclusions that there was no criminal violation or scientific misconduct, but that NPS, as an organization and through its employees, made mistakes which may have contributed to an erosion of public confidence. Specifically, several NPS employees mishandled research in the form of photographic images showing the activities of humans, birds, and harbor seals at upper Drakes Estero in PORE.

I am in agreement with the findings of the report and ask that the National Park Service review the report and take all appropriate actions necessary to address the issues identified by the Solicitor's Office.