



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory**  
**Physical Oceanography Division**  
**4301 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami FL 33149-1097**

October 16, 2012

Re: NOAA's Global Drifter Program deployments

In mid-July 2012 NOAA's Global Drifter Program (GDP) was approached by the Haida Salmon Restoration Corporation with an offer to deploy 20 satellite-tracked drifting buoys for the GDP in the North Pacific. This provided the opportunity to seed the region with drifting buoys with barometers to improve weather forecasting efforts; few such observations were being made in the region prior to these deployments. No information was provided to the GDP associating this offer with the discharge of material; it was not until 15 October that we learned of the discharge and the potential association of these deployments with this discharge by the Haida Salmon Restoration Corporation.

The ocean temperature, current measurements, and air pressure measurements from these drifters are necessary to better understand our planet and predict weather and climate. All resulting data are available freely and openly, in concert with NOAA and US government policy. During the period January through September 2012, the GDP coordinated the deployment of 885 drifters worldwide, from dozens of vessels. These voluntary efforts are essential for the global distribution of these essential instruments. All deployments can be viewed at:

<http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod/dac/deployed.html>

The GDP routinely works with dozens of national and international partners to maintain a global array of satellite-tracked drifters at a resolution of approximately 5°x5°, using merchant and research ship routes that encourage even distribution. A list of some of our partners, as well as more information about the program, can be found at

[http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod/dac/gdp\\_objectives.php](http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/phod/dac/gdp_objectives.php)

The GDP does not receive funding to charter ship time for these deployments, but must instead rely on volunteers who freely offer to deploy the instruments for us. Thus, when we were approached by the Haida Salmon Restoration Corporation, we were pleased to take advantage of this deployment opportunity. As noted above, we were not aware of their plans to discharge material, nor of any plans to associate the drifter observations with the discharge.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Claude F. Lumpkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Dr. Claude F. Lumpkin  
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