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16/02/14

Global Warming Did Not Cause The Storms, Says Senior Met Office Expert

Green Fear-Mongers Climate Ambulance Chasing

One of the Met Office's most senior experts yesterday made a dramatic intervention in the climate change debate by insisting there is no link between the storms that have battered Britain and global warming. Mat Collins, a Professor in climate systems at Exeter University, said the storms have been driven by the jet stream - the high-speed current of air that girdles the globe - which has been 'stuck' further south than usual. Professor Collins told The Mail on Sunday: 'There is no evidence that global warming can cause the jet stream to get stuck in the way it has this winter. If this is due to climate change, it is outside our knowledge.' --David Rose, [Mail on Sunday, 16 February 2014](#)

He said that when the IPCC was compiling its Fifth Assessment Report on climate change last year,

it discussed whether warming might affect the jet stream. But, he went on, 'there was very low confidence that climate change has any effect on the jet stream getting stuck'. In the end, the possibility was not even mentioned in the report. --David Rose, [Mail on Sunday, 16 February 2014](#)

With 49 of 50 states in the U.S.A. covered by snow, climate alarmists have been quick to blame the extreme Northern Hemisphere winter on man-made global warming. Sounds like the biggest oxymoron in history and probably is. Worse still, the eco-fearmongers remain totally oblivious, or conveniently unaware as to what the climate experts assured us that a warming climate would bring - milder winter temperatures and less snow. --[Catastrophic Anthropogenic Climate Alarmism, 15 February 2014](#)

If this winter needed a theme song, it might be *Ice Ice Baby*. The Great Lakes are on the cusp of a record for ice cover. The ice cover on the lakes increased from 79.7% to 88.4% just in the past week, putting the region close to the record of almost 95% set in February 1979, according to data compiled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor. The winter of 2013-14 also is shaping up to be one of the five coldest, at least in Michigan's recorded history. --Eric D. Lawrence, [USA Today, 14 February 2014](#)

The article points out that climate models actually predicted the opposite pattern to occur with the jet stream drawn *north*, with *fewer* jet stream dips, and *no change in jet stream blocking*: "These studies suggest that a warming Arctic will draw the jet stream's average track *north*. *Blocking patterns will decrease*. Moreover, the models indicate *no "robust" decrease in the jet stream's speed*, notes Elizabeth Barnes, a climate scientist at Colorado State University in Fort Collins who focuses on the jet stream's behavior and the factors affecting it. To be sure, the models could be wrong, she acknowledges. But when *different teams with different models converge on the same answer*, that inspires more confidence in the result." --[The Hockey Schtick, 10 February 2014](#)

Every few weeks along comes another explanation or contributing factor to the post-1997 global

surface temperature pause. The list of factors is now a long one, which is curious considering that often the pause is dismissed as non-existent. We now have stratospheric water vapour variations, the Sun's low activity, lack of wind in the Pacific, the oceans absorbing more heat, aerosols both from small-scale volcanic eruptions and from burning stoves in India and China, the cyclical patterns in the Pacific or is it the Atlantic, lack of data coverage in the polar regions, and Stadium waves not forgetting the all-purpose, hand-waving explanation that it's down to vague natural climatic variability. And now comes another one. --David Whitehouse, [The Global Warming Policy Foundation](#), 14 February 2014

It has taken six long weeks to uncover the real hidden reasons why, from the West Country to the Thames Valley, the flooding caused by the wettest January on record has led to such an immense national disaster. Only now have the two 'smoking guns' finally come to light which show just how and why all this chaos and misery has resulted directly from a massive system failure in the curious way our country is governed. --Christopher Booker, [The Spectator](#), 15 February 2014

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[The Spectator, 15 February 2014](#)

1) Global Warming Did Not Cause The Storms, Says Senior Met Office Expert

[Mail on Sunday, 16 February 2014](#)

David Rose

One of the Met Office's most senior experts yesterday made a dramatic intervention in the climate change debate by insisting there is no link between the storms that have battered Britain and global warming.

Mat Collins, a Professor in climate systems at Exeter University, said the storms have been driven by the jet stream - the high-speed current of air that girdles the globe - which has been 'stuck' further south than usual.

Professor Collins told The Mail on Sunday: 'There is no evidence that global warming can cause the jet stream to get stuck in the way it has this winter. If this is due to climate change, it is outside our knowledge.'

His statement carries particular significance because he is an internationally acknowledged expert on climate computer models and forecasts, and his university post is jointly funded by the Met Office.

Prof Collins is also a senior adviser - a 'co-ordinating lead author' - for the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). His statement appears to contradict Met Office chief scientist Dame Julia Slingo.



Professor Matthew Collins, IPCC WGI Coordinating Lead Author, University of Exeter

Last weekend, she said 'all the evidence suggests that climate change has a role to play' in the storms.

Prof Collins made clear that he believes it is likely global warming could lead to higher rainfall totals, because a warmer atmosphere can hold more water. But he said this has nothing to do with the storm conveyor belt.

He said that when the IPCC was compiling its Fifth Assessment Report on climate change last year, it discussed whether warming might affect the jet stream. But, he went on, 'there was very low confidence that climate change has any effect on the jet stream getting stuck'. In the end, the possibility was not even mentioned in the report.

Prof Collins declined to comment on his difference of opinion with Dame Julia.



Professor Collins' statement appears to contradict Met Office chief scientist Dame Julia Slingo

Five months ago, in a briefing on the IPCC report to Ministers, Dame Julia conceded the consequence of warming for rainfall 'is not simulated well' by climate models - though they are the basis for most of what she and other scientists say about the effects of climate change.

Last April, after the temperature fell to -11C in Aberdeenshire, the coldest April temperature for more than 100 years, Dame Julia said the cold winter and spring might also be due to global warming, because of ice melting in the Arctic.

Meanwhile, the Met Office has continued to issue questionable long-term forecasts. In mid-November, two weeks before the first of the storms, it predicted persistent high pressure for the winter, which was 'likely to lead to drier-than-normal conditions across the country'.

It added that its models showed the probability of the winter being in the driest of five official categories was 25 per cent. The chances of it being in the wettest category was 15 per cent.

Infamously, in April 2009, the Met Office promised a 'barbecue summer' - which then turned out to be a washout. It forecast the winter of 2010 to 2011 would be mild: it was the coldest for 120 years.

In 2007, the Met Office said that globally, the decade 2004-2014 would see warming of 0.3C. In fact, the world has not got any warmer at all in this period.

At the beginning of 13 of the past 14 years, the Met Office has predicted the following 12 months would be significantly warmer than they have been. This, says the sceptic think-tank the Global Warming Policy Foundation, indicates 'systemic' bias.

2) Deliberately Or Otherwise, Dame Julia Slingo Has Misled The Public

[Bishop Hill, 16 February 2014](#)

Andrew Montford

Almost every scientist who has said anything about the floods has said that there is no way to link them to global warming - Brian Hoskins was fairly clear about this on the Today programme. The latest is Matt Collins from the University of Exeter, [quoted](#) in the Mail on Sunday:

Professor Collins told The Mail on Sunday: 'There is no evidence that global warming can cause the jet stream to get stuck in the way it has this winter. If this is due to climate change, it is outside our knowledge.'

Only Julia Slingo has tried the opposite tack. When asked about a possible link she said

...all the evidence suggests that climate change has a role to play'

This was sneaky. She was asked whether the floods - the ones we are seeing now - are related to climate change. Her answer related to hypothetical future climates.

In the circumstances, her words were very misleading and have been the cause of a considerable media frenzy. To avoid giving the impression that that this was deliberate, she should now make a clear statement of agreement with Prof Collins and explain that her words only related to computer model predictions of future climates.

To do otherwise would look very bad.

3) North America's Coldest Winter In Decades May See Great Lakes Freeze Over

[USA Today, 14 February 2014](#)

Eric D. Lawrence

Freeze pushes Great Lakes ice cover toward '79 record



Most of Lake Erie is now covered by ice, as seen in the satellite image taken on Jan. 9, 2014.

(Source: NASA)

If this winter needed a theme song, it might be *Ice Ice Baby*.

The Great Lakes are on the cusp of a record for ice cover.

"In the last one to two weeks, we've seen rapid accumulations on Lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan," said Jeff Andresen, an associate professor in Michigan State University's geography department who also is the state climatologist.

The ice cover on the lakes increased from 79.7% to 88.4% just in the past week, putting the region close to the record of almost 95% set in February 1979, according to data compiled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor.

The extensive ice cover has had some interesting and positive effects, like shutting off lake-effect snow, making it sunnier in portions of states near the lakes and limiting evaporation, which could help boost lake levels.

And the ice cover could help delay the spring warm-up — good news for farmers as it helps keep certain crops, like fruit trees, dormant longer and less susceptible to freezing early in the growing season — Andresen said.

Conversely, it's bad news for the shipping industry, whose vessels can't go anywhere when the ports are frozen solid.

The winter of 2013-14 also is shaping up to be one of the five coldest, at least in Michigan's recorded history, Andresen said, although it's still early to say for certain.

[Full story](#)

4) Climate Ambulance Chasing

[Catastrophic Anthropogenic Climate Alarmism, 15 February 2014](#)

With [49 of 50 states in the U.S.A. covered by snow](#), climate alarmists have been quick to blame the extreme Northern Hemisphere winter on man-made global warming. Sounds like the biggest oxymoron in history and probably is.



Worse still, the eco-fearmongers remain totally oblivious, or conveniently unaware as to what the climate experts assured us that a warming climate would bring – milder winter temperatures and less snow.

Milder Winters :

2001 15.2.4.1.2.4. Ice Storms

Milder winter temperatures will decrease heavy snowstorms

[IPCC Third Assessment Report – Climate Change 2001](#)

Snowfalls Are Now Just A Thing Of The Past:

The Independent, 20 March 2000

According to Dr David Viner, a senior research scientist at the climatic research unit (CRU) of the University of East Anglia, within a few years winter snowfall will become “a very rare and exciting event”.

“Children just aren’t going to know what snow is,” he said.

[Snowfalls are now just a thing of the past - Environment - The Independent](#)

Is climate change causing the latest outbreak of extreme weather? Roy Spencer explains in simple science how humanity's minuscule role in changing the rate of flow of *energy imbalances* could not yield any discernible effect on weather and that a 'warming' planet would actually decrease likelihood and intensity ...

"The idea that any of the weather we are seeing is in any significant way due to humanity's greenhouse gas emissions verges on irrationality." - Roy Spencer

[How much weather is being caused by climate change? Maybe 1 part in 1,000.](#)

February 14th, 2014 by Roy W. Spencer, Ph. D.

In another silly pseudo-science rambling, the President's science advisor, John Holdren, has recently [stated](#), "Weather practically everywhere is being caused by climate change."

Drought in California. Record snows in the East. It's tempting for many to blame it all on our use of fossil fuels.

What Causes Weather?

Let's start with the basics. Weather is caused by *energy imbalances*, primarily (1) between the solar heated surface of the Earth and the atmosphere above it, and (2) between different geographic regions (e.g. the tropics vs. high latitudes; the warm oceans versus cold continents in winter).

[Full story](#)

Deleted: global warming



5) Climate Models Predicted The Opposite Of What Has Happened This Winter

[The Hockey Schtick](#), 10 February 2014

An article published [in the Christian Science Monitor on 10 February] "[Winter weirdness: Is Arctic warming to blame?](#)" notes "this winter has brought unseasonable warmth to Alaska, frigid temperatures to much of the Eastern US, and more drought to California. The jury is still out on whether a warmer Arctic is behind the extreme weather."

"When persistent weather patterns have brought drought or heat waves or repeated invasions of cold air to usually mild locations in winter, these links to the Arctic have become a go-to explanation among many commentators and policymakers." But is there any credibility to such claims?

The author interviews several climate scientists active in this debate including Dr. Elizabeth Barnes, who has previously [debunked claims that 'Arctic amplification' causes extreme weather](#), as well as [dueling hyper-alarmist Jennifer Francis](#), and others, demonstrating there is trace to no credible scientific evidence supporting such claims.

Of particular note, the article points out that climate models actually predicted the opposite pattern to occur with the jet stream drawn *north*, with *fewer* jet stream dips, and *no change in jet stream blocking*:

“These [modeling] studies suggest that a warming Arctic will draw the jet stream’s average track *north*. *Blocking patterns will decrease*. Moreover, the models indicate *no “robust” decrease in the jet stream’s speed*, notes Elizabeth Barnes, a climate scientist at Colorado State University in Fort Collins who focuses on the jet stream’s behavior and the factors affecting it. To be sure, the models could be wrong, she acknowledges. But when *different teams with different models converge on the same answer*, that inspires more confidence in the result.”

[...] Furthermore, the article notes “Long-term swings in Atlantic sea-surface temperatures, known as the [natural] Atlantic multidecadal oscillation, appear to have the same effect on the jet stream’s meanders and blocking patterns that Arctic warming and sea ice are purported to have.

[Full story](#)

6) David Whitehouse: The Pacific And The Global Warming ‘Pause’

[The Global Warming Policy Foundation, 14 February 2014](#)

Every few weeks along comes another explanation or contributing factor to the post-1997 global surface temperature pause. The list of factors is now a long one, which is curious considering that often the pause is dismissed as non-existent. We now have stratospheric water vapour variations, the Sun’s low activity, lack of wind in the Pacific, the oceans absorbing more heat, aerosols both from small-scale volcanic eruptions and from burning stoves in India and China, the cyclical patterns in the Pacific or is it the Atlantic, lack of data coverage in the polar regions, and Stadium waves not forgetting the all-purpose, hand-waving explanation that it’s down to vague natural climatic variability. The increasing number of explanations for the pause has revealed much about our level of understanding of the climate. The pause is now a well-established phenomenon requiring an explanation, although some [still think it doesn’t exist](#), most scientists do.

And now comes another one. The latest previously unappreciated effect concerns trade winds in the Pacific, this time getting stronger. England et al 2014 writing in [Nature Climate Change](#) contend that the East-West equatorial winds in the Pacific have been unusually strong in the past

two decades and they have pushed warmed surface water towards Asia where it has pooled and diffused its heat into subsurface waters. The effect has been to replace warm surface waters with cooler ones that have a concomitant effect on global temperatures, as long as the exceptional Pacific trade winds persist. A few years ago [we were told](#) that the pause was due to the weakening of Pacific trade winds.

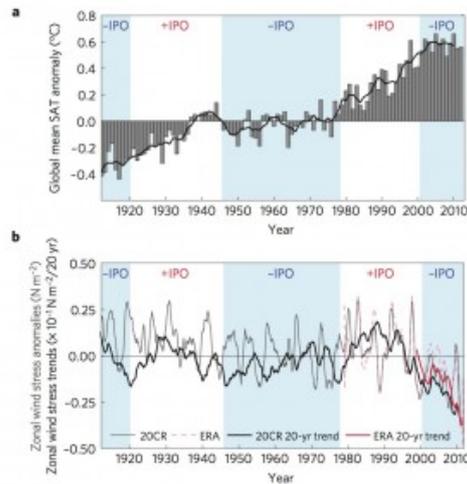


Fig 1 is from England et al 2014 (click on image to enlarge). It shows the well-known surface temperature graph as well as Pacific wind stress and the state of the Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation (IPO), which was only discovered in 1997, coincidentally the start of the pause. It will be noted that -IPO tends to be associated with unchanging global temperatures and +IPO with rising temperatures no matter what the state of the Pacific wind stress. One could argue that the Pacific wind stress has been increasing since 1990 in an “unprecedented” manner, as England et al do. However, one could also argue that there was nothing unprecedented going on until about 2000!

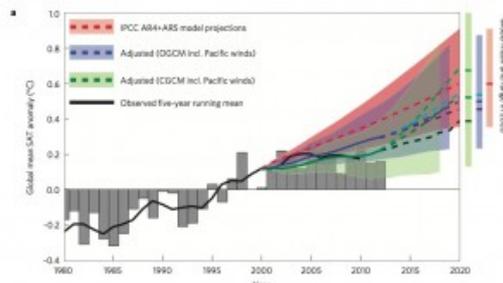
Natural climatic variability, according to this research, is therefore in control of the recent 17-year pause in global surface temperatures. The general implication of this growing realisation is that natural variability must have played a strong role in the warming seen between 1980 - 97. One cannot have one without the other.

The England et al 2014 paper continues a trend seen in many papers in the past few years, that of combining and using in evidence the pre and post anthropogenic eras implicitly taking the 0.8 deg

warming seen in the 'thermometer' era (about post 1880) as support for man-made warming.

One of the problems with the conclusions drawn from the output of England et al's climate models is that their predicted increase in sub-surface ocean temperature between 100m and 300m below sea level is **not born out by the observations**. Another interesting question is, why did the Pacific winds change just after the strongest El Nino seen? Another question is if the rise in global surface temperature seen between 1910 - 40 is also related to the Pacific trade winds.

In any case, the trade winds theory is only a partial explanation for the pause giving a modelled cooling of 0.11 deg C by 2012 whereas it would require 0.2-0.3 deg C to explain the pause completely.



The best thing about this paper is that it leads to a specific prediction: When the Pacific winds desist global temperature should increase rapidly, by about 0.5 deg C in a decade - an unprecedented amount. Fig 2 (click on image to enlarge) shows England et al's predictions that strike me as already running much warmer than the data, but time will tell.

Next Week's News

The Nature Climate Change paper received uncritical coverage from reporters who consider their role is to seek evidence to support a desired view or 'consensus,' and then champion it. They have little interest in the more complex and messy workings of science ignoring inconvenient facts and then oversimplifying and exaggerating. I think some of them could keep the template of their recent articles that explain how this most recent factor "explains" the pause and reuse it again in the near future inserting the next explanation.

And as if on cue, just after the England et al paper was published Geophysical Research Letters produces a [paper](#) suggesting that the Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation is a dominant factor of oceanic influence on climate.

Plus ca change.

Feedback: david.whitehouse@thegwpf.org

7) Christopher Booker: How Green ideology Turned A Deluge Into A Flood

[The Spectator, 15 February 2014](#)

It has taken six long weeks to uncover the real hidden reasons why, from the West Country to the Thames Valley, the flooding caused by the wettest January on record has led to such an immense national disaster. Only now have the two 'smoking guns' finally come to light which show just how and why all this chaos and misery has resulted directly from a massive system failure in the curious way our country is governed.

Because I live in Somerset, I first became aware that something very disturbing was going on back around the new year. As it became clear that the flood waters on the Somerset Levels were beginning to rise dangerously high for the third year running, I set out to find technical experts who could explain just what had gone wrong.

I discovered what I was looking for in the members of a small task force set up by the Royal Bath and West agricultural society, which from the mid-18th century had organised the effective draining of the Levels, after they were first reclaimed from a marshy wilderness by Dutch engineers in the reign of Charles I. These farmers, with long practical experience of working with the local drainage boards, along with an eminent engineer who chairs the Wessex flood defence committee, were in no doubt as to why in recent years the Levels have become subject to abnormally prolonged and destructive flooding.

The problem began, they said, in 1996 when the new Environment Agency took overall responsibility for managing Britain's rivers. These men had been alarmed to see a sharp decline in regular dredging. The rivers have always been crucial to keeping the Levels drained, because they provide the only way to allow flood waters to escape to the sea. Equally worrying was how scores of pumping stations which carry water to the rivers were being neglected. And although the drainage boards were still allowed to operate, their work was now being seriously hampered by a thicket of new EU waste regulations, zealously enforced by the EA. These made it almost

impossible to dispose sensibly of any silt removed from the maze of drainage ditches which are such a prominent feature of the Levels.

But all this got markedly worse after 2002 when the Baroness Young of Old Scone, a Labour peeress, became the agency's new chief executive. Dredging virtually ceased altogether. The rivers began dangerously to silt up. The Baroness, who had previously run the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Natural England, talked obsessively about the need to promote the interests of wildlife. She was famously heard to say that she wanted to see 'a limpet mine put on every pumping station'. The experts I was talking to had no doubt that this apparent wish to put the cause of nature over that of keeping the Levels properly drained was eventually going to create precisely the kind of disaster we are seeing today. Their message as to what needs to be done couldn't have been clearer.

First, they wanted to see a resumption of dredging those choked rivers. Second, they wanted responsibility for managing the Levels to be handed back to those local bodies which kept them effectively drained for generations, without having the EA constantly on their backs.

[Full story](#)

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