

Navigating the Frontier: CMMAP Scientists and the Science-Policy Interface

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The Science-Policy Interface

- Science can inform, but rarely determines, policy decisions
- Science is most influential in policy making when it is seen as
 - ✧ credible
 - ✧ salient
 - ✧ legitimate

The Role of Scientists

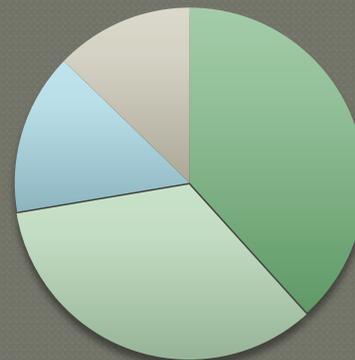
- Need for scientists to participate in the policy process
- Communication skills are important
- Navigating the science-policy frontier can be tricky
- Participation in “boundary organizations” can help minimize risks

Methodology

○ Research Questions:

- How do CMMAP scientists conceptualize the relationship between science/scientists and policy?
- How do CMMAP scientists engage with policy?

○ Survey (N = 49)



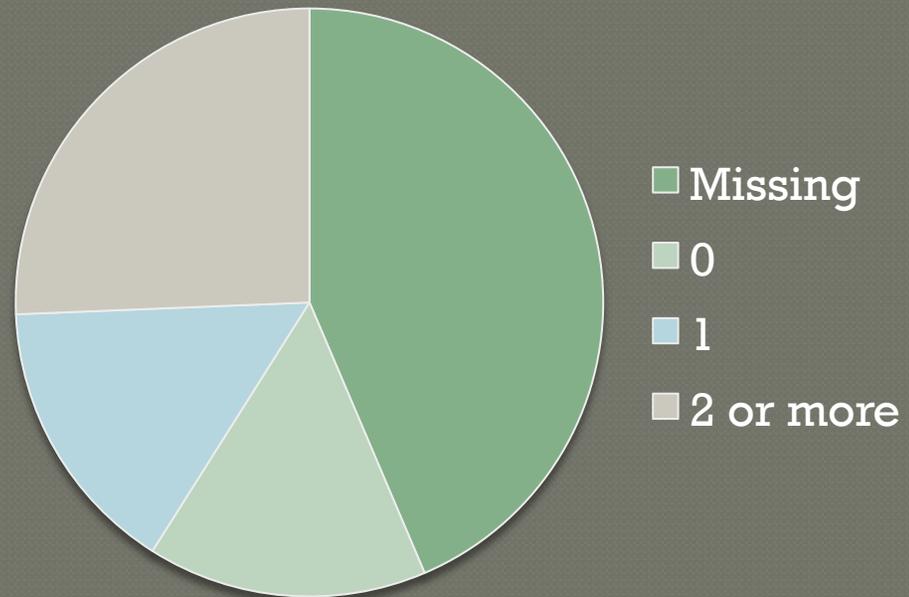
- Research Scientist
- Graduate Student
- Full Professor
- Other

○ 12 semi-structured interviews

Preliminary Findings

- CMMAP scientists see engagement with policy as appropriate, but have low levels of engagement with policy

Engagement with Policy Makers in Past Year



Preliminary Findings

- CMMAP scientists vary in terms of what types of activities are most effective for communicating science for policy

ACTIVITY	% rated as “very effective” or “effective”
Participating in an officially-sanctioned review process (e.g. IPCC)	66%
Testifying to Congress	65%
Meeting with policy makers	64%
Publishing in academic journals	37%

Preliminary Findings

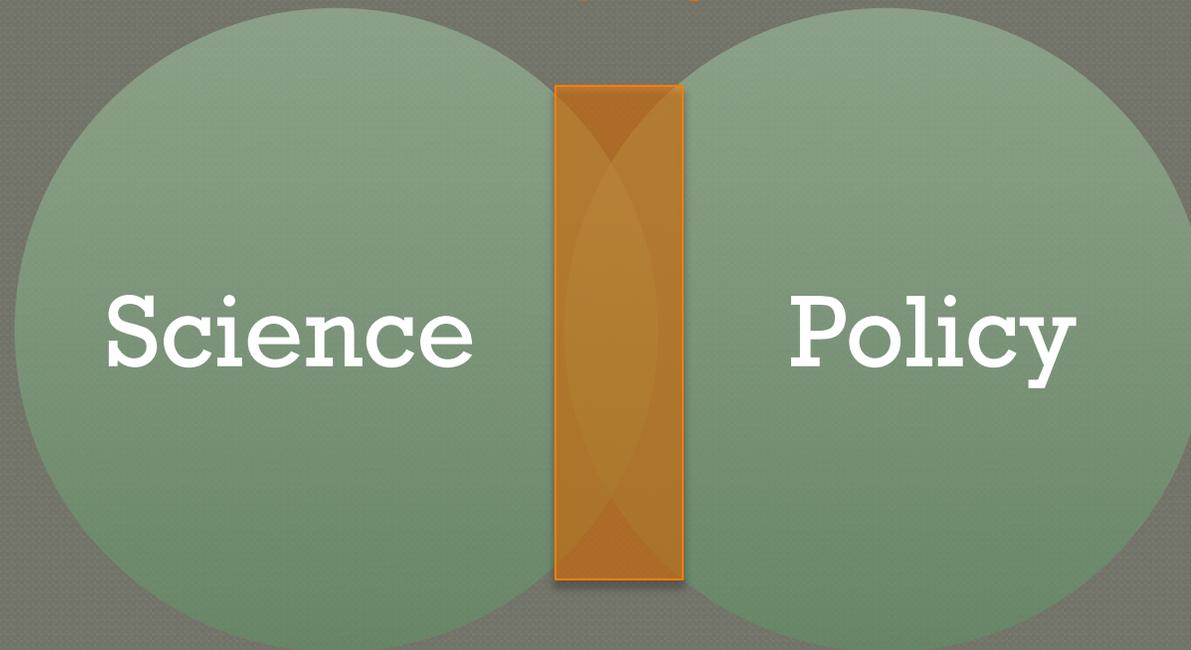
- CMMAP scientists may not fully appreciate the potential risks of interacting with policy

It is appropriate for a scientist to...	% rated as “agree” or “strongly agree”	% rated as “disagree” or “strongly disagree”
Use their status as a scientist, or their specialized expertise, to argue for a cause	69%	8%
Advocate for a particular policy alternative to policy makers	67%	10%
Publicly take sides on a contested political issue	56%	10%
Associate themselves with an advocacy group	38%	23%

Preliminary Findings

- CMMAP scientists believe that groups can play an important role in mediating the science-policy relationship

Boundary Organization



Implications for CMMAP

- Is policy engagement part of being a scientist?
- What training do scientists need to effectively engage in policy?
- In what ways could/should CMMAP help facilitate relationship building between CMMAP scientists and policy makers?