

Marine Scientist Thinks Global Warming All Wet

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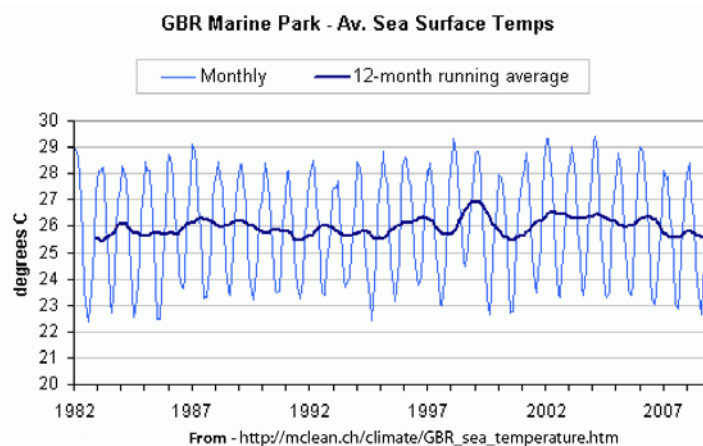
Over the past century atmospheric CO₂ concentration has increased from about three one-hundredths of 1% to four one-hundredths and the average global temperature may have increased by about 0.6°C. However, there is considerable uncertainty in regard to the amount and cause of both amounts. In view of temperature trends over the past millennium, there is nothing extreme or alarming about present conditions. An increase of 0.6° is about the same as moving a hundred Km up the coast or what occurs naturally many mornings while you are eating breakfast and the global climate is not as warm as it was in the middle ages.

The greenhouse warming effect of CO₂ decreases exponentially with increasing concentration. Most of the warming effect being predicted from increased CO₂ comes from a theoretical multiplier effect produced by increased water vapour. However, real world measurements indicate that contrary to AGW theory, changes in evaporation, rain and clouds actually act to reduce rather than increase the effect of greenhouse warming. This work indicates a possible warming of only about 0.5°C for a doubling of the pre-industrial level of CO₂. Any effect of AGW has thus far been so small and uncertain as to be undiscernible amidst the natural variability. Warming has been so equivocal it has provoked some of the world's leading climate researchers to engage in a desperate fraud to bolster their claims

Beyond the dubious evidence that AGW even exists at any meaningful level, there is a vast realm of speculation about its catastrophic consequences. Here, choruses of researchers singing for their supper offer ever more dramatic hymns of doom. Although these prophecies lack any real evidence or assessment of probability, they seem to find great favour with mainstream media. This contest has only been open only to catastrophists. Any consideration of the varied and real beneficial effects of a moderately warmer climate and increased CO₂ is strictly forbidden.

The entire AGW scenario ultimately focuses on a need to impose restrictions on use of fossil fuel. However, the far more certain, imminent and serious problem we face will be to produce enough of it to maintain our economy over the decades it will require to develop and widely adopt other forms of energy.

Meanwhile the Great Barrier Reef is just fine and threatened by nothing. Water temperatures and the frequency of destructive storms are a bit below the long term average.



The coral bleaching events of 1998 and 2002 were nothing unusual. They were simply a result of surface warming due to extended periods of calm weather when normal wave mixing ceases. This often happens in El Niño events.



Extended calm weather results in coral bleaching. -W. Starck photo

Rapid recovery from these and more recent storm damage attests to the healthy vigour of the reef system. Runoff of agrichemicals and fertilisers is at lower levels than those in our own drinking water

and has declined, not increased, over recent decades. Of the over 2500 reefs in the GBR complex, about two dozen are regularly used for tourism and 90% of the reefs rarely or never experience a human presence. The commercial fishing catch is restricted to a level that equates to an average harvest level of 9 Kg/Km²/year when 4000 Kg is considered a conservative estimate of sustainable yield for reef fisheries.

Globally, atmospheric and ocean temperatures as well as sea level rise have all declined over the past decade. Antarctic sea ice extent is at all time highs. Record and near record cold had been recorded in many areas around the world over the past few years, Record extreme high temperatures on all continents save one were between 1881 and 1942. The exception is Antarctica in 1974.

The Climategate affair has now exposed unequivocal evidence of massive fraud in the science behind catastrophic global warming. Although this has undoubtedly damaged the public perception of science, it has also restored recognition of the importance of maintaining a healthy scientific scepticism. In addition, opportunity has been provided for an overdue housecleaning throughout the broader environmental science establishment. Numerous ethically challenged third rate researchers have outed themselves on the climate bandwagon. Their future employ and funding should be considered accordingly. Getting rid of the rot that has infected science is going to be essential to national well being in a likely future of energy constraints and steeply increasing food prices.