

Dave Rado

From: "Carl Wunsch" <cwunsch@ocean.mit.edu>
To: <dave.rado@dsl.pipex.com>
Sent: 10 May 2007 20:19
Subject: Re: Ofcom

Dave,

It's getting harder for me to remember what I said one morning 6 months ago. But I recall that I was trying to explain that warming the ocean was dangerous because it could potentially release so much CO₂. That was used to make the point that most of the CO₂ in the ocean is 'natural' and so not a human caused problem.

The part of the program where I'm discussing models was changed by cutting. I believe that I tried to explain that models were essential to understanding climate change, but that I was doubtful about their predictive skill when run out for long periods into the future. I did also say, as shown, that there was a natural bias toward modeling results that were dramatic rather than ones that seemed to show little or slow change. Again, I thought I was appearing in a program whose goal was to show how complicated climate change is and how all the subtleties are lost.

Finally, and this did not appear at all in the film, I said that there were some threats that were much more concrete and already present than was a new ice age in the UK by shutting off the Gulf Stream. In particular, I mentioned the ongoing threat of sea level rise, and of mega droughts in the US midwest which I said worried me, among other things. None of this got in.

I hope this is of some use. I can elaborate a bit, but I haven't actually seen the raw footage of the interview, and I hope I'm not misspeaking here.

Carl