



NOAA REPORT

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COMING UP

National Hurricane Conference in Houston, Tex.,
April 15-18.

Marine Data Systems MDS '86 international
symposium by Gulf Coast Section, Marine Technology
Society, Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, Apr. 30 - May 2.

GOES-G launch, Thursday, May 1, at Kennedy Space
Flight Center, Fla.

NOAA-G launch, Tuesday, June 3, at Vandenberg
AFB, Calif.

Egypt-US Climate Project:--Plans for a proposed Egypt-US Climate Project in long range forecasting of River Nile flow moved ahead recently as Drs. David Rodenhuis of NOAA and J. Nemic of the World Meteorological Organization met with U.S. AID staff and Egyptian hydrology experts in Cairo to set up a joint planning team. Dr. Rodenhuis, along with Drs. William A. Sprigg and Michael D. Hudlow, will lead initial U.S. planning efforts coordinated from the NOAA Climate Program Office. The climate project will assist Egypt develop better water resource planning techniques, enabling the country's hydrologists to make better long range river forecasts for irrigation projects. American hydrologists will benefit too as they gain increased understanding of drought problems common to both nations.

First License for Remote Sensing Space System:--NOAA issued the first license to operate a private remote sensing space system under Title IV of the Land Remote-sensing Commercialization Act of 1984. The license, issued March 19, went jointly to Itek Optical Systems, Inc., and Aero Service Corporation, both subsidiaries of Litton Industries, to operate the Large Format Camera on future NASA shuttle missions. Itek is responsible for operation of the camera and Aero for data marketing.

The Large Format Camera (each frame encompasses an area of 65,000 square miles) is able to take very high resolution photographs in support of agriculture, oil resource searches, and mapping projects.

Utah Flood Update: NWS hydrologists are nervously watching the Wasatch Front and western portions of the Uinta Mountains in Utah as flooding continues around the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake. Due to heavy March precipitation, the projected peak on the Lake is 4,211 feet the highest level since 1874. The March 15 reading of the Great Salt Lake was 4,210 feet, the highest since 1877. Precipitation across northern Utah continued well above normal during the first half of March. The spring flood potential is still moderate, however.

Computer Upgrade:--The three host computers that make up the Weather Service's Telecommunications Gateway System underwent a successful major upgrade during the period March 17-25. The upgrade project was phased so that service was not disrupted. The upgrade, which doubled the computer cycle speed, increased the system's efficiency, enabling it to perform more tasks than before and required no changes on the part of users.

NOAA's Sea and Air Radio Show: Tapes of this month's Sea and Air radio program have been sent by Public Affairs to 650 radio stations across the country. On the current tape, Jim Belville, an NWS meteorologist, discusses two of spring's most destructive killers, floods and tornadoes, and provides vital information on how they develop, where they strike, and how to protect yourself from them. The Sea and Air consists of five 2-1/2 minute segments on a particular subject. Each month a NOAA expert is interviewed about a different agency topic. Upcoming programs include hurricanes, the Fisheries Service's game fish tagging program, pollution studies over the Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic, the launching of a satellite, lightning, and winter safety, to name a few.

Crunch!--It wasn't a major maritime disaster but any time a ship the size of NOAA's Oceanographer gets loose there's trouble afloat. On March 22, following a stay in drydock for repairs, the Oceo was being moved to a berth by a contract pilot and two shipyard tugs. The tugs lost control of the 303-foot Oceanographer and the ship drifted into a marina where it damaged several small vessels, a houseboat, and the marina dock. No one was hurt, and apparently very little damage was done to the NOAA ship. Repairs to the Oceanographer continue on schedule.

EEO Training Conference Set:--The Office for Civil Rights is sponsoring a NOAA-wide EEO training conference for persons responsible for agency Equal Employment Opportunity efforts. The conference is slated for May 5-7 at the Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza, Rockville, Md. Watch for further details.

Kudos:--The National Geophysical Data Center's three-map set, "Relief of the Surface of the Earth," received best in the thematic map category award at the 46th Annual Meeting of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. Using state of the art computer imaging, photography, and printing, the set shows worldwide elevations. The map set, a joint project of NOAA, the Office of Naval Research, and the U.S. Geological Survey, was cited for "innovative design and effective use of color in providing excellent contrast in what may be the forerunner of a modern generation of marine maps."

"Give Me The Tides...Give Me The Currents," a videotape produced for the Office of Oceanography and Marine Assessment, has been selected by the U.S. Information Agency to represent the nation at the Milan Maritime Film and Television Festival. The 18-minute tape illustrates the importance and application of real-time tides and currents information to ship navigation, commerce, rescue operations, and environmental protection. The tape was produced by Bob Amdur of the Office of Public Affairs.

Fourth-grader Dick Bulow of Holy Trinity school in Bowie, Md., led his class on a tour of the NOAA Ship Mt. Mitchell while the vessel visited Washington the week of March 17 and everyone had a great time. Dick is the son of Katherine M. Bulow, Commerce's Assistant Secretary for Administration. From the school: "The class will never forget the trip." From Dick's teacher, Enid Gast: "The crew went out of their way to make our visit memorable." From Ms Bulow: "The kids (and teachers) had a wonderful visit to the Mt Mitchell. You really laid out the red carpet." The visit was arranged by Earl Rayfield, NOS Office of Marine Operations.

Acid Rain May Affect Salmon Homing Ability:--Salmon find their way back to home streams by a sense of smell imprinted when young. New Hampshire Sea Grant scientists have found evidence that acid rain could be affecting the salmons' ability to distinguish home streams odor. Tests have shown that adult salmon olfaction was impaired when water acidity levels were increased in tanks containing olfactory compounds. When the pH level returned to normal (less acidity), fish behavior was no longer affected.

Too Many NOAA Reports?--The distribution of the "NOAA Report" is limited, in general, to managerial staff with the expectation that it will be passed on to others on the staff. Some offices, however, may be receiving more than their share of the publication. If this is the case in your office, help economize. Arrange to share copies of the "Report" and ask the Office of Public Affairs to take some of your names off the mailing list.

California Almond Crop Hard Hit:--Latest reports indicate that almonds suffered the worst damage among California crops during the devastating series of storms that pounded the west coast in February, according to the Weather Service. Preliminary estimates show a possible 50 percent crop loss to the \$470 million almond industry. Other crops sustaining lesser amounts of damage include apricots, peaches, nectarines, and vegetables. Over 300,000 acres of farmland were flooded in California during the height of the storms.

Page Employees To Relocate:--NOAA's Page Building employees soon will be on the move. GSA has signed a lease for the Universal South Building, 1825 Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D.C. The move is slated to begin on May 4.

Photogenic Volcano Takes A Second Bow:--NOAA satellite photos of Alaska's Cook Inlet volcano, Mt. Augustine, were provided several news outlets last week, including the Associated Press, the national weather TV channel in Atlanta, and CBS Evening News. Mt. Augustine's television debut, however, occurred more than a decade ago. NOAA records reveal that polar-orbiter NOAA-4 captured the first satellite images ever of volcanic activity on February 7, 1976, with scenes of Augustine's lava plumes. NOAA-4 was deactivated in 1978.

Flood Watch Volunteers Honored:--U.S. Senator Arlen Specter was the keynote speaker at the 9th annual Flood Warning Volunteer Appreciation Workshop and Dinner on March 22 near Williamsport, Pa. Approximately 180 people attended the dinner, including the Lycoming County Commissioners, several state senators, and numerous stream and rain gauge observers who volunteer their services to assist the Weather Service's flood warning and forecasting system. The Weather Service presented public service awards to six stream coordinators for Lycoming-Sullivan counties.

NOS Reassignments:--The Ocean Service has announced several reassignments effective March 30. Charles Ehler is Director of the Office of Oceanography and Marine Assessment; John Hayes is Chief of the Physical Oceanography Division, Andrew Robertson is Chief of the Ocean Assessments Division, and Amor Lane's position of record will be transferred to the National Marine Pollution Program Office, with William Conner designated Acting Director. Lane continues as Acting Executive Director to NACOA.

CBS Television Uses NOAA Announcements:--The CBS Television Network reports that it made available for broadcast 63 NOAA public service announcements (PSAs) during 1985. PSAs are produced by Public Affairs to promote public safety during weather emergencies such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and winter storms.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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