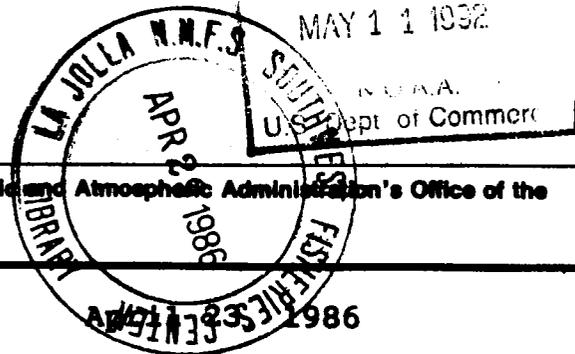




NOAA REPORT



NOAA Report is an administrative document, issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of the Administrator for the information and use of agency personnel.

COMING UP

Marine Data Systems MDS '86 international symposium by Gulf Sections, Marine Technology Society in New Orleans, La., Apr. 30 - May 2.

GOES-G launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., May 1.

NOAA-wide EEO Training Conference in Rockville, Md., May 5 - 7.

Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Tex., May 5 - 8. (Press briefing on Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas, May 6.)

NOAA-G launch from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., June 15. (Launch delayed from June 3.)

Salt Lake Flood Watch:--Precipitation over northern Utah has been occurring at an "incredible" rate, according to Dr. John C. Schaake, Deputy Director of the Weather Service's Office of Hydrology. The Great Salt Lake is expected to rise to the 1873 historic high level of 4211.60 feet. From mid-February to mid-April, northern Utah has received precipitation at 225 percent of normal. The extremely high snowpack has raised the forecast of the Great Salt Lake to equal the record high. In addition, the Weather Service says, if the 1986 runoff pattern is similar to 1984, the Lake could rise to a new record near 4212 feet. The mid-April reading of the Lake was 4210.85 feet.

Media Activity Set for GOES-G Launch:--Administrator Calio will participate in a pre-launch media briefing April 30 in connection with the May 1 launch of GOES-G at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. Also on the day before launch, NOAA and NASA satellite scientists will conduct a workshop for television and print media reporters from eastern states. GOES-G will go through a month of positioning maneuvers and checks by NOAA-NASA engineers, and then will be turned over to NOAA to become GOES-East, watching the weather in the eastern half of the United States from 22,237 miles above the equator over Colombia.

Improvements which should greatly prolong its useful life over that of its predecessor have been built into the satellite, which will give the nation full east-west coverage for the first time in nearly two years.

Record Fish Exports To Japan:--The National Marine Fisheries Service says that the United States exported a record 588 million pounds of fish products, worth \$789.5 million, to Japan in 1985. The figures represent an increase of more than 30 percent in value, and almost 23 percent in quantity over 1984, making it the biggest leap in exports to Japan since the U.S. Fishery Conservation and Management Act, designed to restrict foreign catches within a 200-mile zone, went into effect in 1977. The most important export was frozen salmon from the west coast, totalling 205 million pounds worth \$424 million. Pollock and pollock roe, worth \$105.6 million, and herring and its roe, worth \$93.5 million, were the second and third most important exports.

GOES Survive Mighty Solar Storm:--From February 4-7 two active areas of the sun emitted one or more major flares per day in what Dr. Michael A. Chinnery, Director of the National Geophysical Data Center, terms one of the two largest solar storms in the past 20 years. Shock waves moving from the sun affected interplanetary satellites and moved the earth's magnetosphere boundary inside the orbit of the GOES satellites. NOAA's geostationary satellite weathered the storm with no operational problems, but several commercial and Department of Defense satellites reported major outages. The NESDIS center noted that USSR geostationary satellites were in optimum position to encounter spacecraft charging problems, and information about their responses will be sought by NOAA at future scientific meetings.

A Tree Grows In Seattle:--Long-standing community good will was demonstrated in Seattle, Wash., April 18 as a tree, donated by local citizens, was planted near the auditorium at NOAA's Western Regional Center. The tree, an Incense Cedar, was purchased with funds provided by "Neighbors For NOAA," a group organized in the 1970's to support the agency's efforts to locate the facility at its current Sand Point site.

Moll Heads CASC:--Richard E. Moll has been named acting director of the Central Administrative Support Center in Kansas City. Arlene D. Schley, director of CASC since its establishment, is a special assistant to Commerce Assistant Secretary for Administration Kay Bulow.

Secretaries' Week:--April 20-26 is Secretaries' Week. This year's theme, "Expanding Our World," emphasizes the global perception of the secretary and the changing duties of a secretary in today's automated office. "Commerce secretaries are members of the management team," Commerce Secretary Malcolm

Baldrige said, "Their dedication and professionalism have been essential to achieving our goal of making Commerce the best managed department in government."

Publications Estimates:--Those involved in the publications process will find the Commerce Department's 12-page booklet, "Schedule of Prices," a valuable guide for estimating costs. The booklet is intended to aid Commerce agencies in estimating charges for routine work - including composition, graphics, printing, binding, and related services - requisitioned from the Department including work to be procured from the U.S. Government Printing Office. The booklet is available from Commerce's Publication Services (377-5573).

EEO Conference Lunch Features Russell-McCloud:--Those attending the May 5 luncheon of the EEO Training Conference slated May 5-7 at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in Rockville, Md., will hear Patricia Russell-McCloud, acclaimed attorney and orator. Russell-McCloud, a member of the Supreme Court Bar Association, challenges her audience, motivating each member to act rather than react. Reservations are required by April 30 at the Office for Civil Rights, (377-0684).

NWS Training Center Courses Accredited:--Engineering courses developed and taught by the Weather Services Training Center in Kansas City, Mo., recently passed a rigorous review by the American Council on Education (ACE) Program on Non-Collegiate Sponsored Instruction. The review was conducted by subject matter experts from the university community, under the aegis of ACE. This means the 15 courses in engineering, which originally were evaluated five years ago, continue to carry ACE's prestigious "credit recommendations" for university undergraduate and/or graduate credit. In addition, two new courses, "Automatic Radio Theodolite" and "Microprocessors" were analyzed and given credit. The Training Center, under the direction of Dr. Richard F. Myers, develops and teaches college level courses for meteorologists, meteorological technicians, hydrologists, engineers, electronic technicians, supervisors, and managers of the National Weather Service. It also provides training in any subject for other parts of NOAA and the Department of Commerce, as well as foreign nationals whose governments participate in weather programs with the United States.

Argos Processing Center Slated for U.S.:--The French Space Agency (CNES) has taken the first steps to set up a Washington, D.C.-based Argos Data Processing Center. The Center is to be established pursuant to an agreement between NOAA and the French agency for cooperation in the Argos Data Collection and Location System (DCLS). Argos instruments aboard NOAA polar-orbiting satellites now collect such data as air and sea temperatures, wind and wave data from earth-bound sensors and transmitters placed by CNES on buoys, icebergs, offshore rigs, and ships

around the world. Argos transmitters and sensors also are flown aboard balloons and have been mounted on birds and animals to study their migration habits. Under the agreement, the CNES not only provides the DCLS instruments to be flown on NOAA satellites, but also operates Argos data processing facilities in France and the United States. The Washington Processing Center will be operated by U.S. contractors and funded by CNES.

Oceanographer Performs Rescue Mission:--When Ens. JoAnne Salerno, Officer of the Deck on the NOAA Ship Oceanographer underway to the Galapagos on April 17 (See "Oceo Reactivated," NOAA Report, April 16.) sighted a derelict fishing net which had trapped a sea turtle and dolphin, the vessel logged some unscheduled fishery conservation time. The Oceo's skipper, Capt. Freddie L. Jefferies, ordered the ship stopped and a small boat put over the side to try to help the snared animals. The rescue team managed to untangle both animals and free them unscathed. The dolphin immediately rejoined a nearby school which put on a leaping show of appreciation for those on board. The turtle, somewhat less demonstrative as is a turtle's wont, was last seen solemnly heading for open water.

Arctic Air Sampling:--NOAA scientists flying for the Arctic Gas and Aerosol Sampling Program (ASGAP) completed this week found areas at the 30,000 foot level containing samples of sulfuric acid, sulfur dioxide, and heavy concentration of dust, apparently volcanic in origin and presumably from the recent eruptions of the St. Augustine Island volcano in Alaska. The ASGAP program, headed by ERL's Dr. Russell Schnell, was designed to investigate the air pollution that has been reported in the Arctic since the 1950's. Flights by research aircraft sampled the air over and north of Alaska, Canada, and Greenland. Researchers who conducted their investigations from one of NOAA's WP-3D aircraft stated that the general pollution and haze observed this year was comparable to that detected during a similar study done in 1983. The NOAA scientists noted that haze occurred in layers of varying density and thickness. During one flight, as many as seven layers, extending upward through 25,000 feet above sea level, were observed. During low-level investigations, scientists noted that the observed pollution and haze did not extend downward much below 1,000 feet, making reliable ground detection of concentrations difficult.

Giant Wave Batters Whiting:--The NOAA Ship Whiting was sent reeling by an unusually large wave April 15 when it was caught in a squall at the edge of the Gulf Stream off its home port of Norfolk, Va. The wave knocked out a pilot house window, forcing Cdr. Martin Mulhern, captain of the 163-foot survey ship, to return to the Atlantic Marine Center for repairs to the window and bridge electronics. Repairs were made quickly and the ship was ready for sea again on April 18, but delayed sailing until April 21 because of continued rough weather.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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