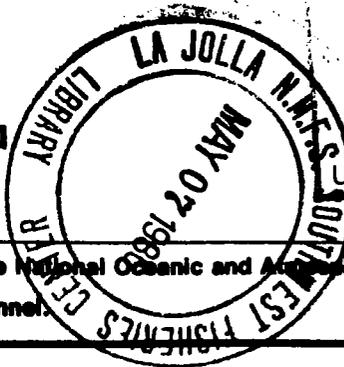




# NOAA REPORT



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N.O.A.  
S. Dept. of Commerce

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April 30, 1986

## COMING UP

Marine Data Systems MDS '86 international symposium by Gulf Sections, Marine Technology Society in New Orleans, La., Apr. 30 - May 2.  
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NOAA Science Seminar Series: "What Can Ecologists Do?"; Dr. Mark Sagoff, WSC 5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., May 2.  
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GOES-G launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., May 1.  
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NOAA-wide EEO Training Conference in Rockville, Md., May 5-7.  
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Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, Tex., May 5-8. (Press briefing on Gulf of Mexico Data Atlas, May 6.)  
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International Whaling Commission Interagency Meeting in Room 5230, HCHB, Washington, D.C., May 16  
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NOAA-G launch from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., June 16.  
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## A Message from Tony Calio:

Recently I had what is referred to around here as "an inside the Beltway experience." I carried President Reagan's FY 87 Budget Request for NOAA to Capitol Hill and presented it to the House Appropriations Committee. We worked hard to get our budget through OMB. Now it is up to Congress. Congressional budget hearings provide an opportunity for the Members to challenge the President's policies and philosophy.

I was fortified by a positive attitude about the basic mission of NOAA and you -- the people who carry it out. I thought you might like to see an excerpt of what I said to the Appropriations Committee:

"...We are all coping with the belt-tightening it takes to reduce spending. In the case of NOAA, that challenge is met by the commitment of our people to do their jobs well. The business of NOAA is safety. The people of NOAA are trained in such specialties as charting or weather or fish management or ocean sciences and services. Because of their commitment to the safety and best interests of our citizens, they make economies to streamline our organization while strengthening our services. The meteorologists, engineers, geologists, marine biologists, and oceanographers, as well as their support staff, know that American citizens need reliable and accurate data. Quality information results in the protection of life and property. Sometimes with reluctance, but always with conviction, NOAA will make reductions in costs to conform with the mandate of the President and the will of the American people. The people at NOAA know they are taxpayers, too."

That was my testimony and I believe it. We have to do more than keep up the good work. I hope I am creating at NOAA an atmosphere in which people are not afraid to risk. In order for us to keep doing what we are trained and inspired to do, we must be ready to adapt to changing conditions. We must be able to set realistic goals and have the determination and enthusiasm to achieve those goals.

We may need new maps, but we have the map-makers' tools. And when you think of what Columbus accomplished with the crude and inaccurate maps he had to navigate by, I would say we are in pretty good shape.

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**Fishermen's 1985 Catch Totals 6.3 Billion Pounds:--U.S.** fishermen landed 6.3 billion pounds of fish and shellfish last year, valued at more than \$2.3 billion, the Marine Fisheries Services reported. Landings fell slightly from the 1984 total of 6.4 billion pounds worth just over \$2.4 billion. Harvests by American fishermen, who landed their catches at ports outside the 50 states or sold their fish at sea in joint venture operations, increased almost 600 million to just over 2.4 billion pounds, valued at \$277 million. Despite this 32-percent catch increase, the value of the fish decreased by \$11 million in value compared with 1984. The record year was 1980, when U.S. landings totalled 6.5 billion pounds.

**March Heat Sets Record:**--Last month was the warmest March for the nation as a whole in at least 56 years, according to Dr. David R. Rodenhuis, who heads the Weather Service's Climate Analysis Center. Climatic records that are sufficiently complete for this kind of comparison go back to 1931, Dr. Rodenhuis says. All areas of the nation experienced above average temperatures except Florida, southernmost Louisiana, and a small area in the central Appalachians. Even Hawaii and parts of southern Alaska averaged warmer than normal temperatures in March, although they are not included in the area weighted average.

**Rainmakers Expose Sediment Transport Mechanism:**--New Hampshire researchers, supported by a NOAA Sea Grant, have created artificial rainstorms in the laboratory and on the shore to prove that waves and tidal currents are not the only natural mechanisms moving sediments in shallow estuaries. Vortex rings, pulses created by raindrops entering the water column, were observed penetrating waters as deep as 40 centimeters and hitting the bottom with enough force to stir up fine-grained sediments. These resuspended sediments then can be carried away by weak tides. Potential applications of this discovery include using artificial raindrops and their subsequent vortex rings to: transport oxygen into sewage lagoons for aeration, inject nutrients into an aquaculture facility, clear up silt build-up in boat ramp and pier areas, and predict more accurately the path of toxins bound to sediments.

**NOAA Corps Anniversary Celebrations:**--The NOAA Corps has an anniversary coming up. The Corps was established May 22, 1917 to provide engineers qualified for marine command who could conduct hydrographic and geodetic surveys. Since then "the Seventh Service" has accumulated a variety of additional roles in the ocean and atmospheric sciences. Today NOAA Corps officers include men and women trained as engineers and scientists, working in every environmental discipline. In May, the NOAA Corps will be celebrating its 69th anniversary at a number of facilities across the nation. In the Washington, D.C. area, the Corps will observe the anniversary May 23 at Ft. McNair Officers Club beginning at 7:30 p.m. (Contact Lt. Cdr. Richard P. Floyd, FTS 377-2363.) The Seattle area Corps celebration will be May 10 at the Washington Athletic Club beginning at 7:00 p.m. (Contact Lt. Cdr. Richard W. Permenter, FTS 399-7659.) The Monterey, Calif., area anniversary celebration will be May 16 at the Holiday Inn beginning at 7:00 p.m. (Contact Capt. Glen R. Schaefer, 408/646-3131.)

**Maddox To Head Severe Storms Lab:**--Dr. Robert A. Maddox will become director of ERL's National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Okla., June 1. He replaces Dr. Edwin Kessler who is retiring after a distinguished career. Dr. Maddox has been with NOAA at ERL in Boulder since 1976, most recently in the Weather Research Program directing studies on thunderstorm systems, heavy rainfall, and flash floods. The National Severe Storms Laboratory focuses primarily on better understanding thunderstorms and tornadoes and developing better ways of detecting them with radar.

**Good News For The Gray Whales:**--Preliminary results from a recent NOAA radio-tagging study support the current view that the eastern Pacific stock of the California gray whale has recovered from commercial whaling and is no longer in danger of becoming extinct. The data suggest that the present population is about 15,000 to 18,000 animals, which is at or near the presumed population level prior to commercial whaling.

**Hazard Pay Differential Explained:**--Hazard pay differential is paid to employees who are assigned any irregular or intermittent duty involving unusual physical hardship or hazard when that duty is not usually involved in carrying out the functions of the position, according to Alan Cecilio of NOAA Regional Administrative Support Centers. Hazard pay differential is an addition to basic pay and does not become part of basic pay when computing additional pay or allowances, Cecilio says. Hazard pay differential may not be paid when the hazardous duty has been incorporated in the classification of an employee's position. Contact your servicing personnel office for further information or, if you wish to look up the rules yourself:

"FPM Chapter 550-9" discusses the law and regulations that govern payment of hazard differential to GS employees; "FPM Supplement 990-2 Chapter 550 Subchapter 9 Appendix A" lists the irregular or intermittent duties for which OPM has authorized payment of a hazard differential; and "FPM Supplement 990-2 Chapter 550 Appendix E" provides background information on identifying the nature of the hazard the differential is intended to compensate.

**NMFS Turtle Operations Get Media Play:**--The United Press International wire service ran a major story and the CBS Early Morning News carried a colorful segment April 22 as the Fisheries Service in Galveston released 530 Kemp Ridley turtles, most endangered of the world's sea turtles. Hatched by incubation on Padre Island, raised for a year in the NMFS Galveston laboratory, and tagged for identification, they were freed in the Gulf of Mexico. Media contact for the event was Charles Caillouet, chief of NMFS life studies at Galveston. It was the eighth year in which the Fisheries Service has released the endangered creatures.

**Weather Service Helps Fruit Tree Growers:**--The Weather Service's Western Regional Headquarters recently helped growers save a number of fruit trees through agricultural savvy. WRH meteorologists in Salt Lake City under the direction of agricultural weather program leader, D. Gregory Harmon, alerted forecasters in the field to the fact that favorable conditions had spurred early development of fruit trees this spring. The stepped up sensitivity resulted in excellent reaction to advance warning of the sweep of critically cold weather through the northwest over the April 11-13 weekend. Growers in eastern Washington, Idaho, and Utah took extensive precautionary measures based on freeze forecasts issued as many as five days before and followed up with the use of such protective measures as helicopters, wind machines, oil heaters, and water. The result--minimal damage.

# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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