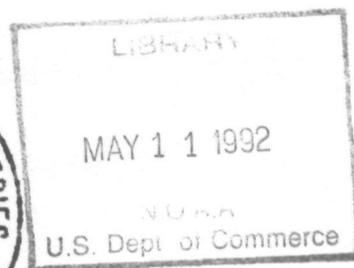




# NOAA REPORT



**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.

August 20, 1986

## COMING UP

NOAA-G polar-orbiting satellite launch from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., Aug. 30.

NOAA Regional Users Conference in New Orleans, La., Sept. 10-11.

Toxic Chemicals and Aquatic Life: Research and Management symposium in Seattle, Wash., Sept. 16-18.

Oceans '86 in Washington, D.C., Sept. 23-25.

11th Annual Climate Diagnostics Workshop at the University of Illinois, Oct. 14-17.

Winter weather media workshop in Chicago, Ill., Oct. 24-25.

Foreign Fishing Restrictions?--NOAA is seeking public comment on industry proposals to change rules concerning foreign fishing permits. If enacted, the changes would affect foreign fishing and constrict joint-venture fishing operations, in which U.S. fishermen sell their catch at sea to foreign processing vessels. Last year joint venture catches by U.S. fishermen in the 200-mile-wide Exclusive Economic Zone totalled a record 2 billion pounds, worth \$104 million.

Among the industry's recommendations under consideration are ones:

- o Preventing foreign joint venture vessels from operating near U.S. shoreside processing plants.

o Terminating a country's joint fishing operation if that nation does not actively try to buy fish in the amounts or at prices proposed in its joint venture application.

o Requiring a foreign fishing company to post a bond to guarantee payment if a court rules against it in a contract dispute.

o Preventing fish caught by foreigners in U.S. waters from entering the United States if the same fish is available from domestic processors.

Comments are sought by Sept. 25 on the proposals and how they might be carried out.

**Rona Receives Marine Geology Award:**--Peter A. Rona, a NOAA marine geophysicist credited with discovering the first sites of hydrothermal venting in the Atlantic Ocean, has been awarded the Francis P. Shepard Medal for Excellence by Marine Mineralogists. Rona has been with NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory since 1969.

**NOAA Assists Air Force Weather Service:**--NOAA lent a hand recently when communications at the Global Weather Central, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebr., experienced a five-hour breakdown affecting the continental United States. The National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, Mo., provided support and professional assistance to the Air Force allowing them to sustain severe weather forecasting operations. During the communications breakdown, the Air Force was able to issue severe weather warnings to 41 points. As a result of NOAA's assistance, no Department of Defense installation was affected by unforecast severe weather during the period. The Air Force expressed its appreciation for NOAA's assistance in a letter to Fred Ostby, director of the NSSFC .

**NOAA Aids Louisiana Wetlands Control:**--Biologists at NOAA's Galveston, Tex., fisheries laboratory are helping land managers in Louisiana regulate water control structures across the state's wetlands barge canals to allow fish to enter the marshlands during crucial early life stages. Land managers used the structures to increase the water level in ponds by the start of the waterfowl hunting season in November to provide better marsh habitat for ducks and geese that migrate to the area during the winter. In the spring and summer, they would drain the marshes to allow new plant growth. However, this method prevented several important species of fish and shellfish from entering the marsh area during their peak migratory periods. NMFS biologists reviewed plans for about 300,000 acres of wetlands, developed water control structure operating procedures, and for the last three years have encouraged land managers to allow young fish and shellfish to enter the marsh area and return to the Gulf after

maturing. NOAA has provided guidance for the management of about 200 of the water control structures installed throughout the state's 2.5 million acres of marshlands. About 90 percent of the fish caught off Louisiana's shores - including shrimp, menhaden, sea trout, croaker, flounder, and blue crabs - depend on wetlands during their early development.

NGDC Employee Cited For Tsunami Paper:--A presentation on historical tsunamis in the Pacific Basin won Patricia Lockridge of NESDIS' National Geophysical Data Center an award as the "best communication on tsunami research" at the International Symposium on Natural and Man-Made hazards August 3-9 in Rimouski, Quebec. She received a bronze plaque and 100,000 Japanese yen.

Flash Flood Losses Tallied:--Flash floods and riverine flooding claimed nearly 40 lives and estimated losses are just over \$1 billion during the first six months of 1986, according to Crystal D. Watts, hydrologic operations center coordinator for the National Weather Service. Damage estimates are running far below the 10-year average (1976-1985) of \$3.175 billion annually. The most disastrous flood so far this year occurred in California where losses accounted for nearly one-half of the mid-year total.

Climate Data For A-Bomb Study:--Researchers from the Japanese government and the U.S. Department of Energy studying the effects of atomic radiation on survivors of the August 1945 Hiroshima blast have requested weather data from NESDIS. The scientists have found that measured radiation differs from the theoretical values. They are trying to gather meteorological data, particularly on atmospheric moisture, to see if that may have caused the measured difference.

NOAA's Sandy Hook Women In The News:--An article in the August issue of "The Woman's Reporter" features women of the NOAA's Sandy Hook, N.J., fisheries laboratory. The article-stressing the advances made by women since the lab was founded in 1960 - features the work of Anne Studholme, who heads the laboratory; Myra Cohn, a marine biologist; Ruth Waldauer, a chemical engineer; Michelle Cox, a scientific illustrator; and Claire Steimle, the facility's librarian. In a letter to Ms Studholme and her colleagues commending them for bringing NOAA accomplishments to light, Administrator Calio said "I am proud of what NOAA is doing in promoting science careers for women, and I am very impressed by the calibre of women we have at NOAA."

Safe Summer '86:--Public Affairs has distributed television public service announcements to key outlets across the nation giving tips on having a safe summer. They advise the use of nautical charts for safe boating, show how to avoid deadly rip currents at the beach, and, through the famed golfer Arnold Palmer, counsel getting off the course immediately when thunderstorm clouds gather. Approximately 160 hurricane safety

TV spots have been taped and sent to the Weather Service for distribution to stations in hurricane-vulnerable states. Station personnel, in turn, will visit TV outlets and urge that the safety announcements be aired frequently.

Climate Diagnostics Workshop:--NOAA's Climate Analysis Center and the Illinois State Water Survey are joint co-sponsors of the up-coming 11 Annual Climate Diagnostics Workshop to be held at the University of Illinois on October 14-17. The workshop's principal focus will be on diagnostic studies of drought, and the importance of land surface characteristics and processes for climate.

NOAA, Saudis Discuss Weather Program Assistance:--Top weather officials of the United States and Saudi Arabia last week looked at ways to upgrade the mideast kingdom's weather services. On August 11, assistant administrator Richard A. Hallgren and his deputy, Dr. Joe Friday, met with Dr. Nizar Tawfig, director of Saudi Arabia's National Meteorological and Environmental Center, and Mr. Sameer Bukhari, director of its Data Center to discuss plans for developing an integrated meteorological services and supporting research system for the Saudis. It was agreed to convene a Management Council to meet in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in October to further the plans. Dr. Tawfig and Mr. Bukhari then left for NOAA's Environmental Research Laboratories in Boulder, Colo., to discuss a possible project with the team members of NOAA's Program for Regional Observing and Forecasting Services (PROFS), the system of predicting small-scale weather changes in local areas currently being studied at ERL.

GOES Ready To Go:--Early tests of GOES-H, NOAA's geostationary satellite, have been completed and a data review held August 8 with all systems reported on schedule. The spacecraft now will be stored until mid-October when it will be brought out and readied for a Nov. 13 launch. The successful launch of GOES-H will restore the operational two-GOES-satellite coverage that has been lacking since the failure of GOES-5 in July 1984.

Coho Salmon Recreational Fishery Closed: The recreational fishery quota of 189,000 coho salmon for the area south of Cape Falcon to Cape Blanco in the Pacific Northwest was reached August 13 and the fishery was closed. The closure was announced by Roland A. Schmitt, director of the NMFS Northwest Region, after consultation with the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The closure conforms to the preseason announcement of 1986 management measures, and is intended to ensure conservation of coho salmon.

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# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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