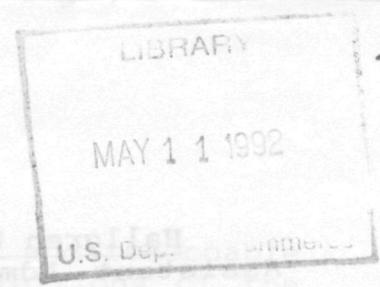
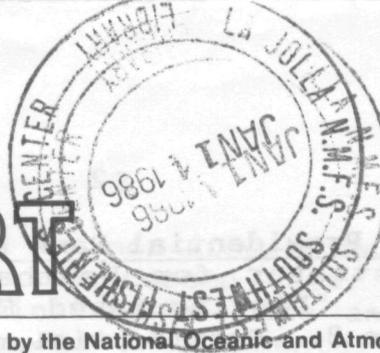




NOAA REPORT



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.

December 10, 1986

COMING UP

American Geophysical Union fall meeting in San Francisco, Calif., Dec. 8-12.

American Meteorological Society annual meeting in New Orleans, La., Jan 12-17.

National Ocean Service's 180th anniversary conference in Rockville, Md., Feb. 3.

To NOAA Employees:

With Thanksgiving behind us and the winter holidays approaching, it is a good time to pause and take stock. This has been a productive year for NOAA. A great deal has been asked of all federal workers, and I am proud to say that at NOAA our people have passed the test.

We have managed to cope with Gramm-Rudman-Hollings. We have launched a satellite. We have reorganized ourselves to better meet the challenge of providing service and adapting to change. We have met our obligation to conserve and allocate the living marine resources in the EEZ. We are progressing in modernization of the Weather Service. We have produced charts and published data atlases. Our scientists continue to study the coupling of the oceans and atmosphere and devise methods to measure and monitor this activity.

Major accomplishments are usually the result of tedious efforts. I applaud you for approaching your jobs with patience, perseverance, and an eye on the big picture. I have high expectations for the coming year and look forward to working with you to achieve NOAA's primary goal: serving American citizens efficiently and with a commitment to save lives and property and conserve our natural resources.

Best wishes for this holiday season!

Anthony J. Calio

Hallgren Wins Presidential Rank Award:--Richard E. Hallgren, Assistant Administrator for Weather Services, received the Presidential rank, "Distinguished Executive," at White House ceremonies December 8. Presidential rank awards are given yearly to career Senior Executive Service members for exceptional achievements for an extended period. No more than 1 percent of SES executives may receive the rank of "Distinguished Executive" annually, with an award of \$20,000.

Dr. Hallgren was cited for his leadership as director of the National Weather Service and its provision of severe weather and flood warnings and forecasts for the United States.

"Through his vision and dynamic leadership," Dr. Hallgren's citation said, "the existing national weather services have significantly improved, resulting in savings of lives and property throughout the country. He has forged federal, state, local, and private partnerships which have spurred cooperative efforts in the federal sector such as the development of the Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD) and in the private sector the emergence of a \$150-million-a-year weather information services industry. He is recognized nationally and internationally as an outstanding leader in the field of meteorology and environmental science."

Seafloor Vents May Exist Worldwide:--New findings from the depths of the Atlantic Ocean reveal that seafloor hot springs venting mineral-rich water probably extend around the world and have a global impact on the ocean environment, a NOAA scientist told a meeting of the American Geophysical Union Tuesday. Results of the first direct observations of seafloor hot springs in the Atlantic made with the submersible Alvin this summer were reported by a team of scientists from NOAA, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Until the team's work during 1985 and 1986, it was believed high temperature venting occurred only in the more rapidly growing seafloor of the Pacific. "If the venting we saw this summer along the mid-Atlantic Ridge is typical of slow-spreading ocean floors," Rona said, "we can postulate it occurs wherever this type of spreading is taking place. That would mean possibly thousands of vents discharging chemically-rich, high-temperature solutions into the oceans of the world. The impact upon the chemical composition and heat content of the oceans could be greater than anyone has imagined."

UN Approves Remote Sensing Principles:--The United Nations General Assembly has accepted the "Principles Governing Remote Sensing from Space," a set of rules for producers and users of satellite data which has been formulated and debated for more than 10 years. NESDIS has made significant contributions to the document, assuring that the interests of both NOAA and commercial remote sensing satellite operators are protected. Notable

provisions include: a call for non-discriminatory and reasonable availability of primary and processed data; definitions of the distinction between dissemination of data and that of analyzed information; and promotion of environmental protection and the avoidance or management of natural disasters. Although the Principles are nonbinding on the international community, they establish a framework of rights and responsibilities that will guide the growth of civil remote sensing of the Earth from space to the benefit of all countries.

CAMEO Promotion Set:--A major media effort will be undertaken on December 18, when CAMEO - Computer-Assisted Management of Emergency Operations - is demonstrated for the press by the Seattle, Wash., fire department. A mobile system designed to identify the nature of chemical dangers, the way to combat them, and their probable trajectory at disaster scenes, CAMEO will be offered to public safety organizations across the nation by the NOS Hazardous Materials Response Branch. Already, workshops for fire departments and federal agencies have won an outstanding response, with others scheduled for January, February, and April. Media interest is expected to heighten national interest in the system.

Hearing Set Today In NMFS Observer Assault:--A pretrial hearing is being held in Anchorage today for Jung Sik Lee, the captain of a Korean fishing vessel charged with battery and sexual harassment of an NMFS fishery observer in late October. The United States has brought criminal charges against the captain, and also a civil action under the Magnuson Act seeking forfeiture of the vessel. Jung Sik Lee is in custody pending posting of bail. The vessel has been released on bond and now is fishing in the Bering Sea outside the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone.

Lightning Predictions At Space Center Improved:--Discoveries by NOAA scientists have dramatically improved lightning predictions at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Irv Watson, Raul Lopez, and Ronald Holle of ERL studied the problem of the extremely dangerous lightning which may delay launching activities and disrupt even routine work at the Center. In a report delivered to the Fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union today, the NOAA team said that most major outbreaks of lightning over the Center occurred when low-level winds blew in from the southwest, and when their inflow was increasing heavily. Interaction of the Florida peninsula's land mass with the low-level sea breezes determines where lightning will occur on hot summer days between June and September. The greater the inflow over a period of several minutes, the more likely a thunderstorm was to strike, the researchers discovered. Tables showing probabilities and intervals of lightning during the 1985 summer, along with computer software, were provided to Air Force

forecasters, who integrated the finding into daily and short-term predictions. The information has "dramatically improved" forecasts at the Center, according to William Jafferis of the NASA Shuttle Operations Unit, a primary user of the forecasts.

Undersea Research Symposium:--The Office of Undersea Research will sponsor its annual symposium in association with the meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists December 27-30 at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. A major topic under discussion will be the factors influencing the uptake of carbon dioxide by marine plants and transport of carbonate and organic carbon particles to the deep sea. Knowledge of these factors will help to determine the level at which the ocean reservoir serves as a sink for natural or anthropogenic changes in atmospheric carbon dioxide.

NOAA's Q&A Piques Radio Listeners' Interest:--What was the greatest 24-hour snowfall in the United States? How fast does a snowflake fall? The answers to these and other weather questions are in eight 30-second public service announcements on winter weather safety distributed by Public Affairs to 917 radio stations across the country. Each PSA leads with a winter weather question and ends with the answer. In between, listeners are provided with important safety tips on blizzards, wind chill, winter travel, freezing rain, and emergency food and electrical supplies. By the way, according to the National Climatic Data Center, the greatest 24-hour snowstorm was in April 1921 when almost 76 inches of snow fell on Silver Lake, Colo. And a snowflake falls one mile per hour.

Great Salt Lake Continues Slow Rise:--Utah's Great Salt Lake is headed for a record high, NOAA hydrologists report. On December 1 the Lake reached 4,211.05 feet, a rise of 0.1 foot since November 1, 1985. Assuming average weather conditions through the spring, they say, the Lake is expected to peak between 4,212.5 and 4,213.0 feet next spring or early summer. This is about a foot higher than last year's peak and a new record. Besides seasonal fluctuations, the Lake's level has been gradually rising for the past 20 years.

Movie's Winter Locale Poses Problem:--A California movie studio has asked NESDIS to help it find a location that resembles winter in New England as the setting for a motion picture starring Don Johnson tentatively titled "Sweetheart's Dance." Why not shoot the picture in New England? The production won't begin before next April. The National Climatic Data Center is providing snowfall and temperature for several areas in the United States and Canada.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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