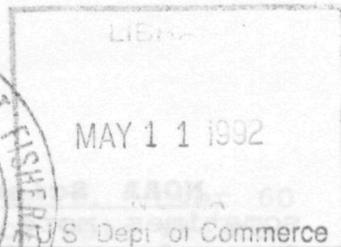
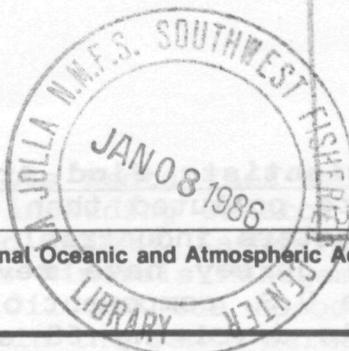




NOAA REPORT



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December 3, 1986

COMING UP

National Academy of Sciences seminar on carbon dioxide research in Washington, D.C., Dec. 3-4.

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.

Winter Forecast A Mixed Bag: Stormy, wet weather is favored in the Great Lakes area, along the east coast from Maine to Florida, and along the southern rim of the country from Florida as far west as Arizona this winter, NOAA's Don Gilman told the press at a briefing in Washington Nov. 28. Dr. Gilman, a long-range forecaster for the National Weather Service's Climate Analysis Center, said the south central portion of the nation has the highest chance of colder than normal winter weather while the season is expected to bring milder than normal weather west of the Rockies.

NMFS, NOS Work Together To Compile Data:--NOAA scientists of the NMFS Northwest Alaska Fisheries Center and the NOS Ocean Assessment Division have joined forces to compile data on the life history, distribution, and abundance of fishes and invertebrates in 100 of the nation's estuaries. Fisheries scientists will work with OAR to develop and compile data for 25 west coast estuaries. The two NOAA components will summarize the spatial and temporal distribution of significant species by estuary, salinity zone within the estuary, and species life stage; tabulate the relative abundance of each significant species within an estuary; and profile the life history of each of the species.

NOAA Scientists Find Arctic Pollution: Arctic air is sometimes more polluted than air moving out over the Atlantic Ocean from eastern industrial cities, studies in the Arctic and offshore New Jersey have revealed. NOAA's Russell Schnell, leader of the U.S. component of a multi-national research effort in the Arctic involving 65 atmospheric scientists, speculates that pollution in the Arctic could be affecting the Arctic climate. Schnell said the polluted Arctic air contains large amounts of unburned black carbon - soot - which absorbs sunlight both entering from space and reflected off the icecap. This, he said, acts as a warm blanket, which could increase Arctic temperatures slightly.

Indications are that the polluted Arctic air probably reached the Arctic from industrial complexes and power plants in eastern Europe and Eurasia. It had traveled an estimated 4,000 miles before it was sampled, while pollution off the U.S. East Coast probably had traveled no more than 500 miles.

On one Arctic flight aerosol black carbon, an indicator of man-made air pollution, was measured at 700 nanograms per cubic meter. This was compared with black carbon concentrations found during NOAA's Western Atlantic Ocean experiment off the New Jersey coast in January. The highest concentration found during the New Jersey flights was 500 nanograms. The same NOAA research aircraft and instruments were used for both studies.

Police Train As Storm Spotters:-- Under a program set up by Richard Calcaterra, the National Weather Service's Disaster Preparedness Meteorologist for West Virginia, recruits entering the State Police Academy will receive training in severe weather spotter techniques. In addition, uniformed officers will be required to take 2 to 3 hours of spotter training during a week of in-service training during 1987. Trained spotters play an invaluable role in the Weather Service's efforts to detect and warn of severe local storms such as tornadoes, and heavy, flood-producing rain.

Firm To Provide Computer Time-Sharing Services:--NOAA elements around the globe soon will be able to plug into private industry computers located near Detroit for mission-related information needs. Electronic Data Systems' Demand Systems Division in Rockville, Md., has been selected to provide NOAA with computer time-sharing services under a five-year, \$8,975,000 contract. The computer services will be used worldwide to aid NOAA components and organizations interacting with NOAA, such as the World Meteorological Organization, universities, and scientific research facilities.

Exxon Hearing:--NOAA General Counsel Daniel McGovern conducted a public hearing November 24 on the Exxon appeal of the California Coastal Commission's 1983 objection to the company's

plan for increased production in its Santa Ynez unit. Over 60 individuals spoke at the hearing, including Senator Pete Wilson, Congressmen William Dannemeyer and Robert Lagomarsino, William Grant of the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service, the Sierra Club, and the Western Oil and Gas Association. The eight-hour hearing, televised live in the Santa Barbara area, was attended by approximately 700 people, making it the largest hearing held to date under the Coastal Zone Management Act appeal procedures. The next steps in the appeal process, according to McGovern, will be the filing of a reply brief by the California Coastal Commission in response to Exxon's opening brief and the close of the public comment period on January 2.

Surveyor Flexes Muscles On Return To Seattle:--The NOAA ship Surveyor returned to the National Ocean Service's Seattle Ship Base November 24 after some heavy-weight lifting in the deep ocean area between Hawaii and the mainland. After conducting bathymetric mapping of the Exclusive Economic Zone off the southwest coast of the Island of Hawaii, the ship paused on its return trip to recover a deep-sea mooring array which weighed nearly six tons from 5900 meters of water. The array had been deployed by scientists from Woods Hole and Scripps Oceanographic Institute to study underwater sound propagation.

Parking At Main Commerce:--Carpools only need apply for parking spaces in the Department of Commerce's Great Plaza in a new open competition for spaces now underway. Tentative date for new assignments for the prized parking slots is February 2. Application deadline is December 19. The rules: The applicant must be a full-time Commerce employee located in the Main Commerce Building, and assignment of carpool spaces will be based on the number of full-time riders. Applications are available from the Office of Real Property Programs, Room 1037, HCHB.

Personnel Panel Certification:--The National Capital Administrative Support Center Procurement Division supervisors have received special training from the Personnel Division which allows them to be certified by the Office of Personnel Management as Contract Specialist Panel Interviewers. Certification will speed the recruitment process in this critical area by allowing the supervisors to interview and give final certification of eligibility for entry-level applicants for Contract Specialist positions.

NOAA Weather Radio At Ohio Rest Parks:--Low-power NOAA Weather Radio transmitters have been installed at 17 interstate rest parks in Ohio to give motorists the latest information on local weather and road conditions. National Weather Service stations worked with the Ohio Department of Transportation to have the transmitter installed at selected sites to give maximum weather coverage across the state.

Giant Stromatolites Discovered:--Subtidal stromatolites, columns of microscopic blue-green algae which are generally regarded as the first evidence of multicellular life and which dominated all living things over 2 billion years ago, were discovered in shallow water by investigators from the NOAA Undersea Research Program Caribbean Marine Research Center. Until now, modern stromatolites were thought to occur mainly in intertidal environments where they are protected from grazers by hypersalinity and frequent subaerial exposure. The fact that these stromatolites exist in a temperate environment where predators live is surprising, the scientists said. They are particularly interested in studying stromatolites as examples of ancient lifeforms which existed where oil is generally found.

Court Action On Observer Assault:--The presiding Federal District Court judge granted the fisheries' observer's motion to intervene in order to pursue her claim for damages arising out of her alleged assault by the captain of the Korean fishing vessel Shin Yang Ho. The judge required an additional bond of \$500,000 to cover the observer's claim against the owners of the vessel before it can be released. Total bond is now set at \$735,000. The master of the vessel has pleaded not guilty to criminal charges brought against him for assault on a Federal officer. A pretrial hearing in the criminal action is set in Anchorage for December 10.

Winter Cold Poses Danger For Elderly:--Cold weather spells danger for the elderly, a news release issued today by NOAA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency says.

The elderly are especially vulnerable during winter months to accidental hypothermia, a drop in deep core body temperature that can be deadly if not detected promptly and treated properly. Most likely to develop accidental hypothermia are the chronically ill, the very old, those whose body temperature regulation is defective, those who are unable to afford enough heat, and those who do not take steps to keep warm.

During cold weather relatives should be alert for change in an elderly person's appearance or behavior, uncontrollable shivering, stiff muscles, slow or irregular heartbeat, slurred speech, shallow and slow breathing, weak pulse, low blood pressure, a body temperature below 95 degrees F., confusion, disorientation, and drowsiness.

If such symptoms are observed in the elderly, steps should be taken to warm up the victim and medical assistance should be summoned immediately.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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