

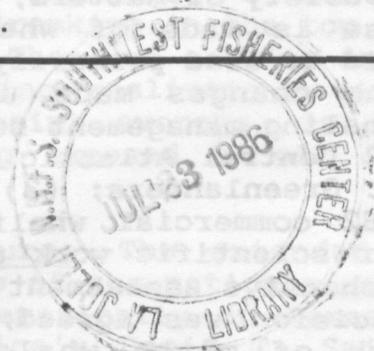


NOAA REPORT

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July 16, 1986

COMING UP

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Cold Water Near-Drowning: New Concepts in Drowning Survival;" John L. Ball, Jr., OAR, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., July 18.

NOAA Science Seminar Series: (double seminar) "Evaluation of PROFS 1985 Convective Weather Forecasts;" Mary C. McCoy, ERL, and "A Comparative Evaluation of Three Radar-Based Hail Detection Algorithms;" Herb A. Winston, ERL, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:00 a.m., July 25.

National Climate and Water Management Conference in Asheville, N.C., Aug. 4-8.

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

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

International Whaling Commission Meeting Results:-- The International Whaling Commission (IWC) held its 38th annual meeting in Malmo, Sweden, June 9-13. The United States delegation was led by Anthony J. Calio, U.S. Commissioner to the IWC. The key results were as follows: (1) consensus was achieved on the language of a resolution dealing with the issuance by member countries of special scientific permits allowing the

taking of whales; the agreed language makes recommendations to members on a variety of matters, including that after the maximum scientific use is made of whales taken, the meat and other products should be used primarily for local consumption; (2) there were no changes made under the existing aboriginal/subsistence whaling management scheme except to recognize and set a quota of 12 Central Atlantic minke whales to meet aboriginal needs of East Greenlanders; (3) there were no modifications to the IWC's 1982 commercial whaling moratorium decision; (4) an initial 1-year scientific work plan in preparation for carrying out the comprehensive assessment of whale stocks mentioned in the moratorium decision was agreed; and (5) the Okhotsk Sea-West Pacific stock of minke whales (taken by Japan), formerly classified as sustained management stock, now will be classified. For the first time in memory, there were no votes necessary in either the Technical Committee or Plenary sessions; all significant decisions were reached by consensus.

GOES Set For Hurricane Watch:--After a three-week journey from its winter position, NOAA's geostationary satellite, GOES West, arrived on its summer equatorial station at 98 degrees West longitude July 9 to monitor the 1986 hurricane season. This is the third hurricane season that GOES West has been shifted eastward to watch from the 98 degree position. It first was moved there after malfunction caused GOES East, the regular east coast satellite sentinel, to go blind on July 29, 1984. Last May 3, a replacement for the disabled GOES East was destroyed by controllers when its Delta launch vehicle went out of control.

CEN Television To Carry NOAA Tornado Film:--CEN, the Cable Educational Network, will air the NOAA film "Terrible Tuesday" four times in September, according to the networks vice president, W. Clark Bunting. "I plan to highlight its premiere via our magazine, press release, and on-air promo," Bunting said. In "Terrible Tuesday," a film stressing tornado safety, the Wichita Falls, Tex., survivors of one of history's worst tornado outbreaks tell their stories. The CEN showings are scheduled Sept 25 at 7:30 p.m.; Sept. 27 at 3:30 p.m.; Sept. 29 at 11:30 p.m.; and Sept 31 at 8:30 p.m. (all times EST).

Gifted Student At AMC:--The Atlantic Marine Center is entering its third year of involvement in the Professional Apprentice Program with the Virginia Beach Public Schools (VBPS). This year, Brian Gustafson, a junior at Kempsville High School and a student at the Old Donation Center for the Gifted and

Talented, selected AMC for career exposure. Students in this program are academically gifted, ranking in the top three percent of the VBPS system's students. They are seeking information and experiences to aid them in making realistic career decisions. Brian, who holds a 4.0 grade point average, is interested in computer sciences. He is being exposed to all facets of AMC operations.

It Never Rains But It Pours:--The extended dry weather experienced across large portions of the nation's southland since the first of the year ended dramatically in Texas in mid-May, according to the Weather Service's David T. Smith, regional hydrologist in Fort Worth, but local farmers still have little to celebrate about. Since that time, 10 to 15 inches of rain fell in north Texas and 2 to 4 inch totals were reported in west Texas. For most areas, the rains came too late to help crop yields and created a host of problems for producers. In Texas, the dry spring hampered development of small grains and pastures statewide. Most dryland wheat was short of moisture for grain-filling, and large acreages in west central Texas were plowed under or baled for hay. The continuing wet weather has delayed harvesting of grains, which will further reduce crop quality and yields.

Oldest Magnuson Act Enforcement Cases Closed:--Five civil penalty cases, the oldest dating from August 1977, were closed this week with the signing of a settlement agreement and the receipt of a check for \$5,000, according to NOAA General Counsel Daniel McGovern. The cases involve Japanese coral draggers who were spotted fishing in U.S. waters by Coast Guard patrol aircraft but who fled before they could be apprehended. NOAA assessed civil penalties against the owners and operators of the vessels, and has been trying for years to collect the penalties. Despite some complications (the masters reportedly all have died or retired, the owners all have declared bankruptcy or left the fishery, the vessels all have been scrapped, and the penalties are unenforceable under Japanese law), NOAA, with the assistance of the Regional Fisheries Attache, was able to convince the All-Japan Coral Fishery Association to settle the cases.

Great Salt Lake Falling Slowly:--Warm and dry weather during the month of June has helped to ease the flooding around the Great Salt Lake, Crystal D. Watts, a hydrologist at Weather Service headquarters says. Although the warmer weather has produced above normal evaporation, high inflows to the Lake from

spring snowmelt have kept the lake fairly level. The July 1 reading at the U.S. Geological Survey boat harbor gage was 4,211.40 feet, a decline of 0.10 feet since mid-June. The lake is expected to decline slowly over the next three months and should drop an additional 7 to 13 inches, depending on the amounts of summer precipitation and evaporation, according to Watts.

Puerto Rican Flood Network Expanded: Twenty seven additional rain gages are being deployed around Puerto Rico to augment the existing Automated Local Evaluations in Real Time (ALERT) rain gage network, the National Weather Service's Southern Region reports. These gages have been purchased by the Puerto Rican Department of Natural Resources in an effort to bolster flood warning services for the Garden Isle. The impetus for this expansion was last October's extreme rainfall and flooding and the demonstrated utility of the existing ALERT network during that rainstorm. Judicious design will allow this island-wide network to function with but four repeaters, two of those linked. The proposed addition will mean there will be three readout sites -- the first two are operating now at NOAA's Weather Service Forecast Office and the Civil Defense Center in San Juan.

Mt. Mitchell Out Of Action:--As a result of a fractured gear shaft for the NOAA Ship Mt. Mitchell's starboard reduction gear, it will be necessary for the ship to lay over at NOAA's Seattle, Wash., ship base for emergency repairs. The 231-foot vessel was enroute to Alaska to perform hydrographic surveys when the failure occurred. The fractured shaft has rendered one of the ship's two main propulsion systems inoperable. The repair is a major one requiring removal of the reduction gear from the ship, fabrication of new shaft, and alignment of the shaft, reduction gear, and main engine. This repair will result in the Mt. Mitchell arriving in Alaska approximately two weeks behind schedule.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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