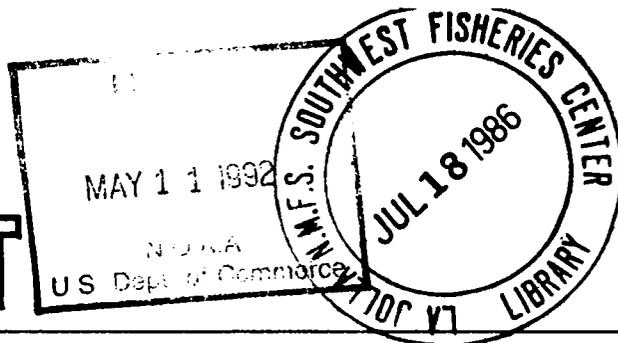




NOAA REPORT



JF
JFC
LIBRARY

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.

July 2, 1986

COMING UP

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.

ESSC Report Titled "Blueprint for Action:"--NOAA Administrator Calio joined his counterparts from NASA and the National Science Foundation last week at a news briefing which unveiled the blueprint for a long-range "earth system science" research effort by the three agencies.

The cooperative program is outlined in a 48-page report, "Earth System Science -- A Program for Global Change," issued by NASA's Earth System Science Committee, a group of earth, space, and atmospheric scientists who spent three years studying goals and priorities for a national effort.

Calling the report "a blueprint for action," Dr. Calio told the gathering of science reporters "NOAA's primary statutory role is prediction, from daily weather to global change. To predict, we must observe, understand, and sometimes simulate natural phenomena. We share a common purpose with NASA and the NSF in many of these activities and pledge our best efforts to continue."

Dr. James Fletcher, NASA Administrator, and Dr. Erich Bloch, Director of NSF, shared the podium with Dr. Calio at NASA headquarters before more than 30 broadcast and print media correspondents. A direct satellite television hookup fed the proceedings to reporters at eight NASA stations such as Houston, Canaveral, and Cleveland, and also serviced TV stations and networks and major newspapers.

Whaling Agreement Upheld:--The Supreme Court has upheld the executive agreement between the United States and Japan in which Japan promised to cease commercial whaling by 1988 in return for Secretary Baldrige's promise not to certify Japan under either the Pelly Amendment or the Packwood Amendment. In March 1984, Secretary Baldrige reached an agreement with Japan under which he agreed not to certify Japan for its whaling activities if Japan withdrew its objections to a ban on the taking of sperm whales and a moratorium on all commercial whaling. Under the agreement, Japan would be allowed to harvest a limited number of whales before the moratorium took effect for it. At the time the agreement was reached the Secretary characterized it as "a positive step towards ending whaling throughout the world." The matter has been in litigation since November 1984.

Hurricane Bonnie Strikes:--National Hurricane Center meteorologists found the season getting under way early this year when Bonnie, the first Atlantic hurricane of 1986, struck the Gulf Coast on the morning of June 26. It carried 85 mph winds, killed three persons, injured a dozen more, and spread heavy rains. The Texas-Louisiana border and Port Arthur, Texas, bore the brunt of the storm. Port Arthur was without power until noon and the city suffered broken store windows, scattered tree limbs, and debris-filled streets. Two men were killed from accidents in automobiles and a woman died after being trapped inside her burning Port Arthur home by wind-driven flames. In southwest Louisiana, about 25 homes, trailers, and fishing-camp cabins were destroyed. The remnants of Hurricane Bonnie produced heavy rains and scattered thunderstorms over east-central and northeast Texas and into northwest Louisiana, with severe flooding in Texas.

Significant Legislation Introduced:--Sen. Weicker of Connecticut has introduced legislation allowing the President to appoint (with the advice and consent of the Senate) an Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to serve also as NOAA Administrator; an Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, to serve also as NOAA Deputy Administrator; and a Chief Scientist in the Associate Administrator's position, to be principal scientific advisor to the NOAA Administrator. Identical language is included in the House omnibus fishery legislation.

Industry Petitions FDA on Menhaden Oil:--More than nine years of research effort by the National Marine Fishery

Service and others, soon may pay off for U.S. menhaden fishermen. On June 13, the National Fish Meal and Oil Association asked the Food and Drug Administration to declare menhaden oil safe for human consumption, a recognition that could lead to use of the oil in margarine and other foods. FDA approval of the petition, which has the Commerce Department's support, could open up a very large domestic market for a product that until now has been used only for industrial purposes in this country. The Atlantic menhaden, found in the Gulf and along most of the East Coast, accounts for about 40 percent of all the fish landed in the U.S. in any year. In 1985, fishermen caught over 2.7 billion pounds of the oily fish, valued at almost \$101 million.

Antifoulant Paint Problem:--An antifoulant paint which could save the Navy millions of dollars in fuel costs may be too dangerous to the marine environment to use. The Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Navy, and the National Bureau of Standards recently met at a workshop sponsored by NOAA's National Marine Pollution Program Office on the side effects of the use of tributyltin (TBT) as an additive in antifoulant paints applied to the hulls of vessels to inhibit the growth of aquatic organisms. At the meeting, chaired by NOAA's Dr. William O. Conner, attendees learned that the Navy recently has completed an environmental impact assessment of fleetwide implementation of these paints. Use of the paints, according to the Navy, could result in a savings of \$150 million per year in fleet fuel costs. However, TBT has been shown to be toxic to marine organisms other than those causing drag on the hulls of the Navy's ships. EPA has determined that the use of TBT may result in acute and chronic effects even at very low concentrations. EPA has been conducting a survey to learn from paint manufacturers details on the biological impacts of their products, and may pursue regulatory action in the future. The NOAA workshop brought together leading Federal and academic scientists to assess state-of-the-art analysis and monitoring techniques for TBT in the water column in coastal and estuarine areas likely to be affected by the use of antifouling paints.

These paints have been applied to about half the vessels of the NOAA fleet. NOAA is delaying any further application of TBT-containing paints until Federal policy on its use and effects is determined.

Baltimore Tide Gage Brings Savings:--A real-time telemetry tide gage, installed by NOAA at Tolchester Beach on the Chesapeake Bay opposite the entrance to the Baltimore Harbor, is saving ships thousands of hours transit time and hundreds of thousands of dollars in fuel and other expenses, according to Dr. John Hayes, Director of the Office of Oceanography and Marine Assessments, which is responsible for the installation. Congress provided special funding for the gage; the site was chosen in cooperation with the Maryland Pilots Association; and construction of the dock to house the gage was supported by the U.S. Coast Guard. The Tolchester Beach tide gage, by providing real-time water levels of the entrance to the harbor, will enable pilots and merchants to use the northern, more shallow entrance to the harbor safely when transferring to and from the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal with big annual savings in time and money.

Commerce Protects Redfish:--Blackened redfish, which has been showing up on the menus of upscale restaurants far from New Orleans, where the recipe glorifying red drum originated, has become so popular that a quota has been imposed on the Gulf of Mexico fish for the first time. In recent emergency action the Department set a one million pound limit on redfish caught in nets in federal waters for a 90-day period. During the emergency, the National Marine Fisheries Service will mount a research effort to learn more about the species as a basis for long-term management and conservation. According to NMFS, annual commercial landings of redfish have skyrocketed from 210,000 pounds in 1983 to 5.2 million pounds in the first five months of 1986. The dockside price has risen just as dramatically, from about 30 cents a pound to \$1.30.

Undersea Press Briefing Held:--AOML's Dr. Peter Rona met the media Tuesday, July 1 at a public affairs briefing in HCHB to discuss his recent dives to the floor of the mid-Atlantic Ridge in the submersible Alvin, where smoking hot geysers, massive polymetallic sulfide deposits, and exotic marine life were observed for the first time. There to hear about the historic, 12,000-foot dive were Channels 4 and 9, Cable News Network, Westinghouse, the Washington Post, AP, UPI, Newhouse News Service, the USIA, the National Geographic News Service, and others.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ERRATA NOTICE

One or more conditions of the original document may affect the quality of the image, such as:

Discolored pages
Faded or light ink
Binding intrudes into the text

This has been a co-operative project between the NOAA Central Library and the Climate Database Modernization Program, National Climate Data Center (NCDC). To view the original document, please contact the NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring, MD at (301) 713-2607 x124 or Library.Reference@noaa.gov

HOV Services
Imaging Contractor
12200 Kiln Court
Beltsville, MD 20704-1387
July 23, 2010