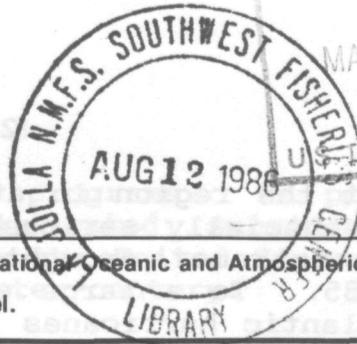




# NOAA REPORT



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July 30, 1986

## COMING UP

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Mariner Reports for Safety at Sea;" Paul A. Jacobs, NWS, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., Aug. 1.

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NACOA meeting on the role and missions of NOAA; Washington, D.C. Aug. 4-5.

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

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NOAA-G polar-orbiting satellite launch from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., Aug. 22.

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

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

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**Severe Drought Spreads:**--NOAA's Climate Analysis Center continues to monitor and evaluate the severe drought that has affected most of the southeastern United States since December 1985. According to Dr. William S. Bonner, director of the NWS National Meteorological Center, the Palmer Drought Severity Index indicates severe or extreme drought exists in all or most of nine states: Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Extremely high temperatures during July have added to the problem. Drought conditions are currently most extreme in much of the Piedmont areas of the western Carolinas and northern Georgia, where several localities have recorded less than 40 percent of the normal December through mid-July precipitation. Comparisons with earlier years indicate that the current drought is probably the

worst to affect the region in at least 111 years. The drought this year is especially serious because it follows a similar, though not as extreme, drought in the region from late 1984 through mid-1985. To a large extent, only the passage of the remnants of Atlantic hurricanes through the region in late 1985 prevented much of the area from experiencing more-or-less continuous drought conditions for the last 20 months

**Red Drum Fishery In Gulf Closed:**--Red drum (redfish), an important recreational and commercial resource for many years in the Gulf of Mexico, has gained sudden and enormous popularity in restaurants across the Nation, precipitating a drastic increase in its commercial harvest -- from 200,000 pounds in 1983 to 5.3 million pounds in the first five months of this year. Due to this obvious threat to the health and abundance of the redfish stock, an emergency regulation establishing a one million pound quota for the red drum (redfish) fishery in the Gulf of Mexico was put into effect for the 90-day period beginning June 25. Catches were closely monitored through the use of voluntary observers on purse seine vessels and required reporting of incidental catches. The directed net fishery was closed on July 20 when the quota was reached. NOAA is undertaking a major effort to gather scientific information on the state of this resource. A second 90-day emergency rule will be considered while fishery experts continue this scientific fact-finding. An appropriate catch limit, based on these findings, will be set by the end of this year.

**Coordinator Issues Aircraft Icing Plan:**--Declaring icing one of aviation's major weather hazards, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology and Supporting Research has issued the first National Aircraft Icing Technology Plan.

"Icing causes fatalities every year and disrupts aircraft operations, particularly business aircraft, small general aviation aircraft and helicopters," said Robert L. Carnahan, the Federal Coordinator. He added that the government design standards for icing certification and forecasting guidelines for aircraft icing date back to the 1950s.

Produced by the office's National Aircraft Icing Program Council, the plan seeks to provide improved technology for today's aircraft and to promote advances needed by 1995 to meet national goals for aeronautics.

Goals are to provide the capability for aircraft to fly in icing conditions with all systems fulfilling mission requirements, cut the cost and time for certification and qualification by 30 percent, provide accurate icing monitoring and forecasting, and improve guidance for the aviation community concerning aircraft icing.

Carnahan estimated the federal cost of the portion of the program dedicated to icing to be in excess of \$30 million, and said a wide range of university, industry, and other government

interests should augment their programs. He pointed out that other nations are conducting dedicated, subsidized research in aircraft icing technology while the United States' efforts have been "minimal" for the past quarter-century.

Under the program, the Federal Aviation Administration will conduct a national effort to characterize all icing environments and provide valid aircraft design criteria in that area. NOAA will lead a coordinated program to improve understanding of the weather aspects of icing, and to improve the monitoring and forecasting of icing conditions. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of Defense will lead the efforts in simulation studies and improving the facilities on the ground and in flight that are dedicated to aircraft icing.

A variety of government programs, not funded within the plan, will support the effort. They include the next-generation radar system, the NOAA atmospheric profilers, the NOAA Program for Regional Observing and Forecasting, plus efforts of universities and the National Center for Atmospheric Research. NOAA, DOD, NASA, and industry and university aircraft will participate in the program. In addition, the National Science Foundation grants program will contribute icing-related basic research.

The National Aircraft Icing Program Council is composed of the following policy-making authorities: Robert L. Carnahan, Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research, chairman; Dr. Richard E. Hallgren, director of the National Weather Service representing the Department of Commerce; Raymond Siewert, Department of Defense; Neal A. Blake, Department of Transportation; Roger L. Winblade, NASA; Dr. Carl Hall, National Science Foundation; and Emanuel M. Ballenzweig, Assistant Federal Coordinator for Department of Transportation-Federal Aviation Meteorological Affairs, who has served as executive secretary.

The council's primary tasks are to develop and maintain a national aircraft icing technology plan and to provide policy guidance for its execution. As the programs are carried out, the plan will be reviewed and updated.

**NOAA Support for Indian Satellite:**--NOAA has signed an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organization to provide tracking and telemetry support for India's IRS-1A satellite. This spacecraft is the first in the Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellite series that is scheduled for launch in 1987. The NESDIS Fairbanks station will provide support to India on a reimbursable basis.

**Canada Gets Tough With Fishing Violations:**--Canada has announced tough new policies aimed at conserving its fishery resources. Under the new policies, allocations of surplus fish to a foreign country will depend on the country's cooperation in conserving various Canadian fishery resources -- not on granting

the Canadians access to the country's markets, as in the past. The new policies will increase Canadian surveillance efforts in the Atlantic from both sea and air by armed fishery enforcement officials. Only foreign fishing vessels from countries that "consistently respect conservation rules" established by Canada and international fishery organizations will be granted port privileges. Fines for illegal fishing will be increased substantially. The Canadian crackdown is aimed at the conservation of several stocks including cod, haddock, redfish, herring, mackerel, scallops, and lobster.

Family Members Have Helped NWS for 97 Years:--On August 9, Earl Pickering, who oversees the cooperative weather observer program for the National Weather Service in Seattle, will be a guest at the 100th reunion of the Willis family of Olga, Wash. Members of the family have been participating in the NWS observation program - making daily readings of the weather which become part of the official climatology of the area -for the past 97 years. NWS director Richard A. Hallgren has written a congratulatory letter to the Willis family which will be presented at the reunion.

Auto Maker's Improvement Tests Aided:--Chrysler Reliability and Testing Division is graphing cycles of various operations on their automobiles such as opening and closing doors, turning on engines, etc. Temperature data for extreme hot and cold regions as well as for major U.S. metropolitan areas recently were provided by NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C. As a result, Chrysler will be able to improve product durability by conducting tests under actual field conditions.

Researchers Wait for Landfalling Hurricane:--Members of ERL's Hurricane Research Division are ready with two new portable digital radar recording systems to take a close look at any hurricane nearing landfall on the continental United States this year. Two teams, headed by Dr. Robert Burpee, each are equipped with the new recorders. Should a storm threaten coastal areas, the teams and their equipment will move from their base in Miami to Weather Service radar sites in front of or adjacent to the expected path of the approaching storm. Working closely with NWS radar personnel, each team will tie into the local radar, recording digital radar images of the storm. The data gathered by these teams will go back to Miami where scientists using information from aircraft, satellites, and sophisticated computer models will attempt to unravel the mysteries surrounding hurricane events. A single first-generation recorder has been in use over the past several years; however, experience with the difficulties in positioning a single team and assuring complete coverage of hurricanes events proved the need for multiple coverage and newer technology.

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# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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