



# NOAA REPORT

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June 11, 1986

## COMING UP

International Whaling Commission 38th Annual Meeting  
and associated meetings in Malmo, Sweden, June 2-13.  
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World Meteorological Organization Executive Council  
meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, June 2-16.  
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NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Dynamics and Controls of  
Carbon Flow in Lake Michigan's Food Web;" Dr. Donald Scavia,  
GLERL, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., June 13.  
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NOAA Users Conference in New Orleans Sept. 10-11.

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**Norway "Certified" for Harvesting Whales:**--Commerce Secretary Baldrige, in response to commercial whaling by Norway in the North Atlantic, took action June 9 that could lead to an embargo of Norwegian fish products.

The action was a "certification" that Norway's harvesting of whales in the region, despite the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) prohibition against killing of the mammals, has undermined IWC's efforts to protect them.

The United States has supported a moratorium on commercial whaling since 1972. Secretary Baldrige said the United States has been negotiating with Norway since 1982 to get it to abide by the zero quota by withdrawing its objection to the ban.

The certification is provided for in the Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act. The amendment is designed to prevent weakening the effectiveness of international fishery organizations, including the 40-member IWC of which Norway and the United States are members. The IWC regulates commercial whaling, but has no enforcement power.

Under terms of the certification, the President may direct the Secretary of the Treasury to prohibit the importation of some or all Norwegian fishery products into the United States.

The Secretary, in consultation with the Department of State, will recommend to the President the trade sanctions he believes are appropriate. The President must notify Congress of his action within 60 days after certification. If he imposes a partial, rather than total, embargo on Norwegian fish products, he must tell Congress why.

The Pelly Amendment has been invoked by the United States against different countries six other times since the law was passed in 1971, but remedial action by the involved countries changed conditions sufficiently and trade sanctions have not yet been imposed by the President.

Last year Norway exported about \$1 billion worth of fish worldwide. More than \$143 million worth of Norway's fish products, primarily salmon, shrimp, and sardines, went to the United States. The United States exported less than \$215,000 in fishery products to Norway in 1985.

**U.S. Precipitation Map:**--The National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., has prepared a map of total 1985 annual precipitation for the country using data from more than 6,000 volunteer data collectors. The map, prepared by the Data Operations Division headed by Robert G. Quale, will be published on the cover of the "1985 Comparative Climatic Data" booklet, which compares weather data for major U.S. cities. The map is an effective tool for indicating the areas in the United States that have suffered from serious precipitation shortfalls.

**California Search-Rescue Campaign:**--In the wake of a successful, statewide Alaska media blitz to alert pilots and mariners to the false-alarm problem associated with COSPAS/SARSAT, the search-and-rescue satellite system credited with over 575 "saves," NOAA will cooperate in a similar drive in California. A planning session will be held in Sacramento July 2. NOAA will be represented by Lt.(j.g.) Lana Andrieva, NOAA Corps, assistant to COSPAS/SARSAT manager Jim Bailey. The Air Force is spearheading this campaign, aided by the Civil Air Patrol and the Coast Guard.

**Radiosonde Recovery Program Pays Off:**--A national radiosonde recovery awareness program, announced by NOAA last January, has resulted in a 13 percent increase in the return rate of these balloon-borne devices which parachute to earth after data-gathering missions into the stratosphere. According to Mike Terrell of the Weather Service's national reconditioning facility in Kansas City, Mo., some 1,100 additional instruments were

received during the first five months of this year over the same period last year as a result of the awareness program being conducted by the NOAA Public Affairs Office and NWS.

Included in the radiosondes recovered recently was one that dropped into the courtyard of the Treasury Department in downtown Washington, D.C., a half block from the White House. The unit was spotted by a vendor who reported the sighting to the Treasury police. They recovered the radiosonde and called the National Weather Service to pick it up, saving the Federal Government about \$25. Every little bit helps.

**Fish Tagging: Everyone's A Winner:**--In this month's Sea and Air radio show taped by Public Affairs and sent to 650 radio stations around the nation, Dr. Grant Beardsley of the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Center talks about NOAA's cooperative game fish tagging program. With the program's emphasis on conservation, more than 5,000 American and foreign sport fishermen have been tagging ten different species of game fish with darts bearing information on the fish's weight, length, and the location and date it was caught. When the fish is recaptured, the tag is removed and sent to Fishery Service biologists who analyze the information along with certain skeletal parts. With this information, NOAA can determine the age and growth of fish and improve the management of fishery resources. Atlantic bluefin tuna and white marlin are just two species that have been aided by the program.

**Carnahan Is New Federal Meteorology Coordinator:**--Robert L. Carnahan, chief of NWS external relations and industrial meteorology, has been appointed Federal coordinator for meteorology and supporting services. He succeeds Col. William S. Barney, USAF, retired. The office of the Federal coordinator reviews Federal weather programs and funding requirements, provides programs for development and coordination of the nation's weather services and supporting research, and documents the activities of weather agencies in periodic national plans.

**NODC Aids D.C. Special Olympics:**--Ten NOAA volunteers from the National Oceanographic Data Center were among the helpers at the 1986 District of Columbia Special Olympics May 30-31. The annual sporting event for the handicapped saw a record 921 athletes and 1,200 volunteers participate. Gary Kuell, Bob Gelfeld, Melanie Hamilton, Cynthia Zeigler and three of her family members, Rosa Washington and her husband, and Charles Cotton represented the Washington data center. NODC employees also contributed toward purchasing T-shirts for the athletes.

**U.S. Sea Scallop Catch Low - Imports High:**--U.S. landings of sea scallops in the Georges Bank, Mid-Atlantic, and Gulf of Maine fisheries declined in 1985 to 14.9 million pounds of meat, the lowest level in 10 years, according to fisheries service

economists. This marked the seventh consecutive year of decline. The value of 1985 landings dropped to \$71.8 million, almost \$23 million less than 1984. Better things are in store, however, they said, as sea scallop abundance is expected to increase this year resulting in increased landings in the latter half of 1986 and during 1987 as scallops from the 1982 spawning attain legal size. Reflecting the scallop shortage, imports rose 54 percent in 1985 over the previous year. Major exporters were Canada, Peru, and Japan.

NOAA In Seattle Participates in PIPE Program:--The Weather Service Forecast Office in Seattle, representing all local NOAA elements, has become a full partner in the city's Private Initiatives in Public Education (PIPE) program, according to Tom Swift, deputy meteorologist-in-charge of the forecast office and program coordinator. The primary purpose of PIPE is to link Seattle area business and community/government organizations with public schools in the "partnership" fashion as a means of providing resources that would otherwise be unavailable to the schools. These efforts will increase community awareness of the services and career opportunities available from NOAA and the Weather Service.

Small Fry Crushed In Nets:--New Hampshire researchers aided by a NOAA Sea Grant are studying the survival rate of undersize fish caught in trawl nets. By law, these small fish must be thrown back, but many of them are crushed in the net by the sheer weight of the fish above them. The Sea Grant study, headed by W. Hunting Howell, has been evaluating commercial groundfisheries to determine whether different types of gear affect the survival rate of small fish. The shrimp industry had particularly high discard rates for ground fish (90-95 percent) due to the small mesh size of the nets used. But Prof. Howell's group has identified several other variables affecting the mortality of young fish, including the size of the thick rubber disks used to keep the nets on the bottom. Smaller disks tend to collect greater amounts of rock and debris in the net which may crush vulnerable, soft bodied fish. Area and seasonal effects also were discovered. Once all of the variables are identified they will be incorporated into a computer model that will generate a more accurate assessment of the number of fish perishing in the discard process. The data will be an important consideration in future fish stock management.

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# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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