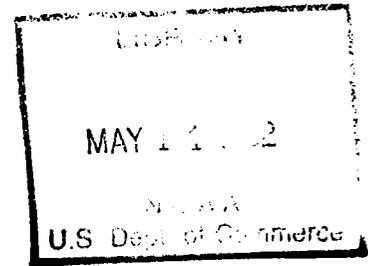
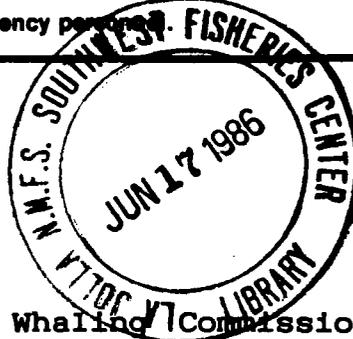




NOAA REPORT



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June 4, 1986

COMING UP

International Whaling Commission 38th Annual Meeting and associated meetings in Malmo, Sweden, June 2-13.

World Meteorological Organization Executive Council meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, June 2-16.

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Vacillations in a Coupled Tropical Ocean-Global Atmosphere Model;" Paul S. Schopf, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m. Note: postponed from June 6 to July 11.

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.

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

NOAA Studying Thunderstorm Clusters:--ERL scientists are studying a huge, violent, and frequent weather phenomenon which last year was responsible for some 20 tornadoes and 16 flash floods, causing 14 deaths and many injuries. John A. Augustine and Kenneth W. Howard of ERL's weather research program have documented 59 mesoscale convective complexes (MCCs), gigantic clusters of interacting thunderstorms, occurring in the nation's midsection between February and late October last year.

To qualify as an MCC, a storm complex must exist for at least six hours with a minimum size of about 19,000 square miles --about one-quarter the size of Kansas.

MCCs produce different types of weather at various stages. Growing, they can produce large hail and tornadoes. Once organized, they generate high winds, heavy rain, and intense lightning strikes. At full strength, they become calmer, with continuous moderate-to-light rainfall.

These weather systems are not well understood and forecasting them accurately is difficult, complicated by the systems' generally developing during the night, moving slowly over an extended time, and reaching maximum size shortly before sunrise.

Augustine and Howard are using an automated satellite technique to measure the areas, centers, and shapes of the systems at various points in their life cycles. This information, plus knowledge of other atmospheric activity occurring during the systems' development, may lead to improved forecasting.

Sea Grant Pays Off:--The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded Louisiana more than \$3.5 million in Superfund money to begin the final cleanup of an abandoned hazardous waste site near Darrow, La., using a technique developed by Louisiana Sea Grant researchers. In a project partially funded by NOAA, Sea Grant scientists directed by Dr. Ralph Portier developed microbes that detoxify wastes by turning them into harmless compounds. The microbes were tested at a Superfund waste disposal site under an EPA contract. Impressed with the efficiency, safety, and low cost of the process during the test, the EPA offered to fund this full-scale biological degradation project. EPA spokesman Rodger Meacham said the biological process will result in savings "probably in the millions" because the waste will not have to be removed from the site to be destroyed.

Major Media Push Opens Hurricane Season:--More than a score of TV and print media representatives, including NBC's weatherman Joe Witte, attended the May 30-31 workshop in New Orleans kicking off the 1986 hurricane season; more than 30 attended the May 30 press conference held by Neil Frank, National Hurricane Center Director.

Several news releases were issued in connection with the opening of the season. They were:

--Andrew, Bonnie, and Charley head the list of 1986 hurricane names

--NOAA encourages the public to make the 1986 hurricane season fatality-free by heeding official warnings.

--NOAA and FEMA jointly issue a list of basic safety preparations for the season.

--Six hurricanes -- a 70-year record -- struck the U.S. mainland last year, and the Weather Service issued hurricane warnings to all coastal states from Maine to Texas.

--NOAA scientists this year will provide forecasters with data collected during flights into and around offshore storms to help give earlier hurricane warnings.

--This summer, through an arrangement by the Weather Service, AT&T, USA Today, and NBC News, the underwriter, you can dial-a-hurricane -- for a fee. Constantly updated hurricane and tropical storm information will flow from the National Hurricane Center. The East and Gulf Coast number is 900-410-NOAA; the Pacific service, 900-410-CANE. It's 50 cents for the first minute, 35 cents for each additional minute. Of last year's revenues, \$58,300 went to the American Red Cross.

Copies of the releases listed above are available from NOAA Public Affairs (301) 377-8090.

NOAA Cops Survival Suit Derby:--Mike Bailey, Tim Clancy, Bob Maier, and Karen Teig from NOAA's Foreign Fisheries Observation Program in Seattle, won the "Survival Suit Race" held May 18 as part of festivities honoring the area's marine heritage during Maritime Week. The race was a new event organized by John Ball, from NOAA's Northwest Information and Referral Center. Teams of four were required to don survival suits, jump from a floating dock, swim about 30 feet to an inflated life raft, and climb in. Five groups entered the event won by NOAA with a record time of 55.8 seconds.

Stehling Is NOAA's First Scientist Emeritus:--Kurt Stehling, senior scientist on the National Ocean Service's engineering staff, before his May 30 retirement, has been appointed NOAA's Scientist Emeritus. The honorary position will permit Stehling to continue work on various NOAA activities and remain available for consultation with any NOAA office. Stehling, who joined the Environmental Science Service Administration, NOAA's predecessor, in 1970 after serving on the National Council of Marine Resources in the Executive Office of the President, has a 38-year working history in rocket research and spaceflight, remote sensing, and advanced marine technology. During the 70's he pioneered various undersea research experiments, including cosmic ray physics and marine bioluminescence analysis. He is located in Building 1 of the Washington Science Center in Rockville, Md. His telephone number: (301) 443-8444 or 8401.

Pride of Baltimore Sinking:--NOAA has provided the National Transportation Safety Board with satellite imagery showing the area where the Pride of Baltimore sank off the coast of Puerto Rico May 14. NTSB, with the assistance of the U.S. Coast Guard is conducting an inquiry into the accident in which four died. The satellite image from NOAA's GOES was taken 1-1/2 hours after the sinking and shows what appears to be an arc cloud defining a surface gust front ahead of an apparently dissipating thunder-shower cell. Downdrafts from thunderstorms can produce intense, tornado-strength wind gusts. The cloud indicating the presence of the gust would have struck the Clipper, as reported, on her starboard side. The Pride of Baltimore recently had come out of squally overcast weather associated with a trough of low pressure, which can be seen on the GOES photo, and was under nearly clear skies before the freakish surface gust hit.

Any Bonds Today?:--The 1986 Savings Bonds Campaign is underway and will continue through June. "Personal financial planning has emerged as an important way to be responsible for our individual future security," Administrator Anthony J. Calio said. "Purchased with a full understanding of their place in a carefully developed portfolio, savings bonds are a wise investment. No other investment combines protection against loss and theft, exemption of interest from state and local taxes and deferral of Federal taxes, and market-based rate guarantee in one saving program. No similar package of benefits reduces the cost of debt financing which make a direct contribution to improving our national capacity to manage your debt. You know best your need for a profitable, automatic, and insured savings plan. I know you will find U.S. Savings Bonds meet the competition. When your NOAA canvasser brings you a pledge card, please consider U.S. Savings Bonds as an investment in the future."

Hydro 86 Proceedings Published:--Proceedings of Hydro 86, the National Ocean Service conference recently held in Norfolk, Va., which drew more than 200 delegates from 11 countries, are available from The Hydrographic Society of America, one of the co-sponsors. The bound proceedings contain 23 technical papers, with topics ranging from the latest development in airborne and ground-based data collection systems to proposed digital data exchange standards, data base management, and automated chart production. Copies are \$15 from The Hydrographic Society of America, P.O. Box 732, Rockville, MD, 20851, telephone (301) 443-8232.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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