NOAA REPORT

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March 11, 1986

COMING UP

Satellite applications training course, Mar. 10-21 at the World Weather Building.

National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere meeting Mar. 17 and 18, Page Bldg. 1.

Administrator Calio addresses American Oceanic Organization luncheon, Mar. 18 at 11:30 a.m., Hogate's Restaurant, 9th St. and Maine Avenue, S.W. Reservations: 451-1730

NEXRAD data user groups, NOAA and American Meteorological Society meet Mar. 25 in Washington on plans for disseminating NEXRAD data.

NOAA-G Launch Wednesday, May 28, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

Upper Air Automation Moving:--Full-scale implementation of a program to automate upper-air observation at 80 stations across the nation is under way by the Weather Service, with nine in operation and completion of the system expected late this year. According to Leroy Nordahl, upper-air program leader, observations have been automated at weather stations in Nashville, Spokane, Charleston, S.C., Cape Hatteras, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Omaha, Salt Lake City, and Stephensville, Tex. A sophisticated software package permits computerized interpretation of observations sent to earth from radiosondes at altitudes up to 20 miles. A major step forward, automation will eliminate manual interpretation, give upper air specialists more time for other forecast chores.

Fisheries Reports Under Way:--Two significant studies on the nation's 10-year-old fisheries law are under way. "An Evaluation of the Implementation of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act," a draft report recently released for public comment, says success of meeting the law has been mixed, but that

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institutional (as opposed to legislative) changes are sufficient to meet any of the Act's shortcomings. Chief among the system's deficiencies, says the document, are lack of financial and programmatic responsibility. It concludes that "no meaningful cost savings" are possible through changes in the system of regional fishery management councils or other institutional arrangements. The second study, this one by experts outside of NOAA in public agencies, academia and industry, is expected to take a broader view of how NOAA is managing the nation's fisheries, rather than how existing law is working, with a view toward suggesting alternative strategies. After public comment, both reports will be sent to the Congress.

Japan-U.S. Fish Pact Announced:--Japan's Foreign Ministry announced Sunday in Tokyo that Japanese fleets will stop fishing in the Bering Sea in 1994, under a new agreement. Japan will phase out fishing trips to the western half of the Bering Sea and beyond the U.S.'s 200-mile territorial limit in the eastern half, according to the announcement.

FASINEX Experiment Winds Up:--NOAA scientists have begun to evaluate data from the Frontal Sea-Air Interaction Experiment (FASINEX), which concluded late last month, according to Environmental Research Laboratories' Siri Jodha Singh Khalsa. The Office of Naval Research study was supported by scientists, aircraft and ships from NOAA, NASA and NCAR. Researchers focused on that area where the weather may begin--where the sea meets the air. The site: in the Atlantic, 300 nautical miles south of Bermuda, where a persistent subtropical ocean front tends to occur as warm and cooler waters meet. Information from the experiment, it is hoped, may yield new understanding of the role of sea-air interaction in the development of climate and marine weather models.

That's A Lot Of Tuna:--At the request of the Fisheries Service, the Department of Agriculture has purchased $3.6 million worth of U.S.-harvested and processed canned lightmeat tuna this year, with more to come. The latest buy was 972,562 pounds worth $1.2 million. Most of it will go to school lunch programs and other federally-supported feeding efforts.

TV Weathercasters' Workshop Success:--A total of 35 TV weathercasters from 11 states and the District, with a collective audience high in the millions, participated in the Office of Public Affairs' annual tornado workshop Mar. 7 and 8 at the National Severe Storms Center, Oklahoma City. Thirty-five interviews were taped for airing in home cities. Markets represented were: Oklahoma, Texas, Pennsylvania, Florida, Colorado, Georgia, Tennessee, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. NOAA speakers included Deputy Assistant Administrator (Weather) Elbert W. Friday and Edwin Kessler, NSSL Director.

Requiem For Hydrolab:--The end of an era came this week as a crane edged Hydrolab, an 8-ton habitat which served NOAA nearly eight years, inside the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History. Operated for the agency as an undersea home and work station for diving researchers off St. Croix, by Fairleigh Dickinson University, it will become part of a permanent exhibit in the Museum's Hall of Life next spring. Hydrolab served as a base for nearly 200 scientific missions, involving 400 scientists from 10 nations, in such areas as fisheries, pollution, seafloor, medical and pharmaceutical studies. Its scientist-aquanauts worked in the surrounding sea up to 7 days without returning to the surface; their body tissues were saturated with the same oxygen-nitrogen pressure as the water at 50 feet. Hydrolab was supplied with air, power and comunications from a surface buoy. The 16-foot habitat boasted hot and cold running water, a microwave oven, four bunks, even a trash compactor.

Major Hydro Meeting Planned:--Paul M. Wolff, Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, is general chairman for the biennial HYDRO USA Conference, sponsored by NOAA's Ocean Service and the U.S. branch of the International Hydrographic Society, Mar. 25-27 at the Omni Hotel, Norfolk, Va. Hydrographers around the world will attend the conference, whose theme is "Charting For The Future." RADM. John Bossler, NOAA Corps, the U.S. National Hydrographer, will give an opening presentation.

Blood Tests Offered:--The Health Unit, in conjunction with the National Lab Service, offers a series of blood tests for such things as blood cholesterol, diabetes, anemia, and other ills. At the Department, the screening will be held between 8 and 11 a.m. in the auditorium; employees are asked to fast from midnight Mar. 17 until the test is completed. Tests will also be given at the following locations and dates: Page 1, Mar. 17; WSC 1 and 5, Mar. 19; NBOC 1, Mar. 24; World Weather Building, Mar. 27; and Gramax, Mar. 28. Since the tests are given by an outside lab, there will be a $15 fee; checks are accepted. For further information: 377-4088.

Mt. Mitchell to Washington:--The NOAA ship Mt. Mitchell will be in Washington the week of Mar. 17 for visits in connection with the annual meeting of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping and the American Society of Photogrammetry. The hydrographic survey ship's home port is Norfolk.

Crab Conservation Measure Taken:--The Fisheries Service, to protect a valued species from overfishing, has closed the North Mainland Section of the Kodiak, Alaska District to Tanner crab fishing. The action brings to 10 the number of Tanner crab closures thus far this year.

Zip The Lip:--Secretary Baldrige has announced that the Commerce Department's security office will coordinate an awareness program ordered by President Reagan in the wake of recent espionage cases and leaks of sensitive and classified information. Employees will receive briefings on the hostile

intelligence threat posed by unfriendly foreign governments, and will report any contact with foreign nationals seeking unauthorized access to information. Said the Secretary: "I encourage each of you to be especially careful in your contacts with representatives of foreign countries, especially those...whose interests are inimical to those of the United States, and with anyone who requests official information which was not prepared for public release....contacts and unauthorized requests...should be reported to your security officer."

Green Thumb, Dead Eye:--Congratulations to Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator William Matuszeski (Ocean Service), an accomplished gardener and shutterbug, whose photo of his Washington garden was one of 10 honorable mention winners in the 1985 national photography contest of Horticulture Magazine. The picture appeared in the December issue.

Calling All Children, 9 to 90:--In the satellite age, should the humble kite be forgotten?

It was, after all, the Weather Service's vehicle for measuring tenperature and pressure, through the years from the 1800s to the 1930s. The first automatic record of temperatures aloft were made from a five-kite train at Boston's Blue Hill Observatory in 1890. On one memorable day in 1910, weathermen at Virginia's Mt. Weather lifted a 10-kite train to a record 23,835 feet--small potatoes compared to the NOAA satellites' 22,300-mile altitude, but eminently respectable for that time. From 1898 to 1906, the weather service maintained 17 kite stations, the last one closing in 1933.

They were plain-jane flying boxes--big, awkward, requiring two people to loft them, but fashioned with loving attention to detail, and very effective, within the state of yesterday's art. They were valued sufficiently to warrant being housed in large buildings, with adjacent carpenter shops.

The kites are long since gone, but their specifications have been saved and are available. If any NOAAites have the itch, and the patience, to construct an airworthy replica of the famous old weatherbird, there will be a remarkable opportunity to showcase it at the Smithsonian Kite Festival, Mar. 22 (rain date, Mar. 23) on the Washington Monument grounds. For information on how to build the kite, and on the festival itself: Pat Thomas, 377-8090.

Recheck-Your-Drafts Department:--Secretary Baldrige's war on bureaucratic bafflespeak has become nationally known, although it may be a bit soon to declare victory. NOAA Report, refusing to believe the war unwinnable, will quote from the Secretary's guidance from time to time. For example, some might think this week's ten least-wanted words have a nice ring, but bite the dust they must. Farewell, then, to such old friends as input, image, orient, hopefully, ongoing, maximize, institutionalize, finalize, prioritize--and even that cherished, overworked term--parameters.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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