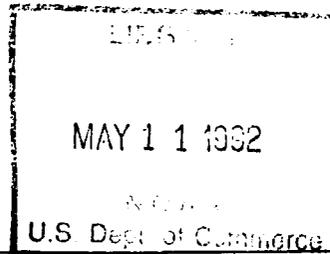




NOAA REPORT



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.

May 14, 1986

COMING UP

International Whaling Commission Interagency Meeting in Room 5230, HCHB, Washington, D.C., May 16.

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

NOAA-G launch from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., June 16.

"Partnerships Key of Global Problems:" Dr. Calio:--Complementary partnerships among NOAA and other groups inside and outside of government are vital to the solution of global problems, Administrator Anthony Calio has told ocean community leaders.

Delivering the Doherty Lecture in Ocean Policy, sponsored by the University of Virginia's Center for Oceans Law and Policy May 7, he said the oceans must be recognized as a major national priority.

But the task of advancing oceanic and atmospheric science and service is too big for any one organization, he said.

"We shall be looking at how to cooperate with other parties in this enormous venture," he said. "I see NOAA as a leader in this country's ocean and atmospheric efforts, but NOAA does not, nor should it, have a monopoly.

"We must be willing to yield to others who are better suited to a particular endeavor. Being a leader means offering encouragement, demanding accountability, bringing people and ideas together."

Terming NOAA a world leader in climate and air quality research, the Administrator cited the international TOGA program, in which the agency coordinates U.S. activities involving numerous federal agencies, the academic-scientific community, and other nations. NOAA's atmospheric research program should continue at the same high level, and its ocean science research needs development - its oceanic research potential has not been fully tapped, he said.

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Some NOAA priorities will require re-examination and reorientation to meet the challenge of the 80's and beyond, Dr. Calio said; he has asked the National Academy of Sciences to analyze the agency's scientific programs and compare them with the work of other governmental and private organizations.

Dr. Calio expressed optimism about NOAA's future. He said NOAA has "an ideal mix of outstanding people trained in the specialties, such as marine biology and ocean science. We have the tools and technology to explore, observe, and analyze. And we are developing the interdisciplinary skills needed to understand the interaction of our oceans and atmosphere."

Dr. Calio concluded by saying when society states its values, talent and technology converge and money becomes available from a variety of sources.

"NOAA is there with the talent and technology and determination," Dr. Calio said. "We may be a little short of money, but I don't think money is the essential ingredient. I think it is our creative energy."

U.S.S.R. Nuclear Accident:--Public interest continues high in the Soviet nuclear accident, with NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory and Weather Service components playing key roles in tracking and reporting the journey of radioactive particles. The Environmental Protection Agency's daily release is relayed electronically to Weather Service field offices to assure accurate local-level reporting of developments.

Last week Dr. Joe Boatman of the Air Resources Laboratory flew a number of missions onboard NOAA's King Air aircraft investigating the Chernobyl radioactivity. In a cooperative venture with the Department of Energy, the aircraft was outfitted with DOE radiation detection equipment including a gamma scintillation spectrometer, an air filtration system, particle counters, and instruments for basic meteorological measurements and flown to Juneau, Alaska. On May 6, the Boulder researcher began investigating the coastal area between Juneau and Ketchikan with pilots Tom Gates and Lt. Cdr. Roger Morris of NOAA's Office of Aircraft Operations at the controls. Only very low levels of radiation, slightly above normal background levels, were detected. The aircraft returned to Boulder May 10.

Delta Investigation:--Russell Koffler, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Satellites, has been appointed as the NOAA liaison to the NASA team investigating the GOES/Delta launch failure. Koffler flew to Cape Canaveral on May 7. The team's findings are due on July 2. Meanwhile, NOAA Administrator Anthony J. Calio attended a series of Congressional briefings on the rocket failure. Dr. Calio was questioned on the effects of the accident on satellite operations by the House Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (May 8); the House Science and Technology and Government Operations Committee (May 6); and the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee (May 6).

Fish Tag Research Contract Extended:--The Bonneville Power Administration extended its research contract with NOAA for development of the Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag until March 31, 1987. The PIT tag, a tiny device attached to a fish which electronically reveals its history as it passes a receiver, is a potentially powerful research and management tool that can be used to monitor movements of salmonids in the Columbia River Basin, as well as fish in other areas. Current NOAA research, headed by PIT project manager Earl F. Prentice, is centered on use of the tag in the field, and developing and testing an automatic monitoring system for detecting and recording fish passage at mainstem hydroelectric dams in the Snake and Columbia Rivers in Washington. A tag-detection system which precisely logs the departure and/or arrival times of uniquely-coded fish without sacrificing or even removing the fish from the water will greatly improve the accuracy of estimating migration rates and relative abundance of tagged groups of experimental fish.

Early Warning For Oklahoma Town:--Residents of the Oklahoma City suburb of Edmund had 40 minutes to prepare for the tornado that struck their town at 7:20 p.m., May 8. The Weather Service forecast office issued a tornado warning for Oklahoma County (mentioning the danger to Edmund) at 6:40 p.m., based on reports of a rotating wall cloud and baseball-sized hail. The storm damaged or destroyed 25 homes and 12 persons were reported injured, none seriously.

NOAA In The News:--The May 12 issue of "U.S. News and World Report" devotes a full page to NOAA's progress in forecasting tornadoes. Describing the agency's efforts as "urgent," the newsmagazine concludes that new technologies "almost certainly...will reduce loss of life by extending warning times." The Ocean Service also made the news as the May-June issue of "Ocean Navigator" carried an article describing the effects of the recently-completed North American Datum 83 will have on nautical charts. The July-August issue of the magazine will run a story on NOAA's new charting research laboratory.

Albritton Heads Aeronomy Laboratory:--Dr. Daniel L. Albritton, a pioneer in the investigation of concentrations of potentially harmful chemicals in the atmosphere, has been named director of ERL's Boulder Aeronomy Laboratory. A physicist, Dr. Albritton has been with the laboratory since 1967, most recently directing the atmospheric sampling program which carries out measurements of the concentrations and properties of trace atmospheric species. Data of this sort are vital to such key environmental issues as stratospheric ozone depletion, acid deposition, production of ozone in the troposphere, and the "greenhouse" effect.

Halibut Haven:--Where do juvenile California halibut live? The answer to that question one day may benefit recreational and commercial fishermen who prize the tender, white-meat flatfish. Scientists, headed by John Hunter at NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Center in La Jolla, Calif., have begun a study to discover the role of lagoons and bays, such as San Diego and Mission Bays, in providing a safe haven for juvenile halibut during this part of their life cycle. The numbers of California halibut taken by fishermen have declined in recent years and more information on halibut history is needed before recommendations for conservation and wise utilization can be made.

Smithsonian Exhibits:--The new "Looking at Earth" exhibit opened at the Smithsonian's of Air and Space Museum on May 7. The exhibit features NOAA weather satellites and programs as well as imagery from the Landsats. Another exhibit, slated to open May 14 at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, will feature NOAA's now-retired undersea habitat, Hydrolab.

May Is High Blood Pressure Month:--NOAA employees are urged to have a blood pressure check this month. High blood pressure, or hypertension, is one of the most serious diseases in the United States. It contributes directly and indirectly to over one million deaths each year and it affects approximately one out of every four or five American adults. Free blood pressure screenings and information on hypertension will be available all month at health clinics throughout the country. For example, at Commerce's Herbert C. Hoover Building, screenings will be available at the Health Unit, Room 6046.

NOAA Help for Western Pacific Fisheries:--A series of reports generated from a computerized system called WESTPACFIN is helping fishery managers, producers, and processors make better economic and management decisions, according to Richard S. Shomura, head of the NMFS laboratory in Honolulu. Commercial landings for every species caught off Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, reported by pounds of fish caught and value of the landings, are now published by the laboratory as "Fishery Statistics of the Western Pacific" and given broad distribution to fishing interests.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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