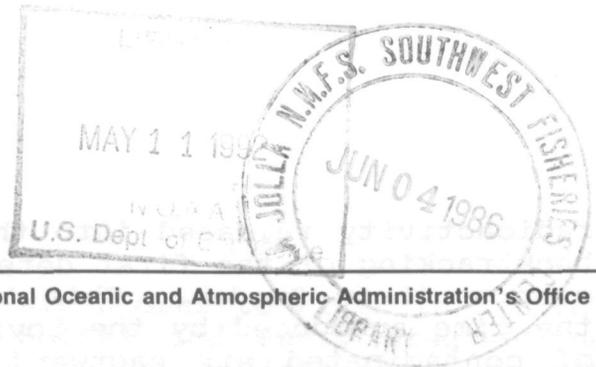




NOAA REPORT



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 29, 1986

COMING UP

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Microbiological Processes on Marine Surfaces;" Prof. Ralph Mitchell, Harvard University, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., May 30.

Hurricane Workshop for TV weathercasters and print media in New Orleans, La., May 30-31. (Hurricane season opening press conference with NHC director Neil Frank, May 30.)

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., June 6.

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

NOAA Assistance During Nuclear Accident Detailed:--NOAA's role in predicting the movement of air masses containing radioactivity following the Soviet nuclear accident in Chernobyl was eminently successful, according to ERL Director Vernon E. Derr. ERL's Air Resources Laboratory represents NOAA on the task force that followed the radiological consequences of the accident. The only early information on the time of the initial

radioactivity released into the atmosphere was obtained by wind backtracking of the first detection of radioactivity on April 27 over southern Sweden. This turned out to be within an hour of the time announced by the Soviet Union a week later. Transport of contaminated air eastward was forecast for arrival at the Asian east coast by May 3 or 4. The White House was notified on May 3 of likely rainwater contamination in Japan. Aircraft sampling further confirmed the presence of radioactivity during the Economic Summit Conference in Tokyo.

Early reports suggested that the air-contaminating radioactivity would occur first in Alaska from over the North Pole area, but NOAA forecast the first arrival along the northwest United States and southwest Alaska coast on May 4 or 5. Radioactivity was measured on those days by aircraft flying off the Washington and Oregon coasts as well as in contaminated rainwater near the coast. The NOAA predictions used data from sampling aircraft and from the worldwide network of radiosonde observations. Forecasts of air movements and occurrences of precipitation by the ARL staff were based on ARL programs utilizing products of the National Weather Service.

CODAR Watching the Gulf Stream:--The Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory and Coast Guard personnel recently began testing a Coastal Ocean Dynamics Application Radar (CODAR) system from the coast of Florida. According to Dr. George Maul, CODAR principal investigator at AOML, it will improve search and rescue operations along the Florida Gulf Stream, as well as provide improved wave and sea state information to shipping interests. CODAR utilizes dual radar sites and highly sophisticated computer processing of radar echo returns to provide current, wind, and wave information. NOAA will provide and operate a CODAR system, and the installations - one on Fisher Island in Miami and one at Fort Lauderdale. The system will be operated at AOML for a year on a trial basis, and the data will be provided through the National Weather Service to the Coast Guard and public.

Albatross IV Crew Saves Shipyard Worker:--Fast thinking on the part of several of NOAA's Albatross IV crew members is credited with saving the life of a Delta Marine Shipyard worker in Wilmington, N.C. The incident began when a worker inadvertently touched off the ship's CO2 firefighting system with a cutting torch. Several workers were able to escape the confined below-deck compartment, but one was overcome by lack of oxygen. Lt. Dean L. Smehil, the ship's acting commanding officer, and 3rd assistant engineer Daniel J. Parry donned oxygen-breathing devices and went into the compartment while 1st marine engineer Ralph Webb and 1st assistant engineer James

Fitzgerald quickly rigged a fresh air blower to flush the carbon dioxide from the compartment. Smehil and Parry dragged the unconscious worker from between some framing into which he had fallen and gave him oxygen from their tanks. In a few minutes the compartment had sufficient air to breathe without masks and the worker was taken from the compartment, revived, and transported to a hospital for observation. He recovered fully and returned to work the next morning.

South Pole Calling:--Satellite communications now are speeding data from the South Pole to users worldwide, according to Dr. James Peterson who heads NOAA's Geophysical Monitoring for Climatic Change (GMCC) program at ERL. In the past, environmental data collected at the GMCC station at the Pole were collected on tape during the austral winter, picked up in November by the first aircraft flight from McMurdo, and mailed to the GMCC laboratory in Boulder for processing. Recently, GMCC scientists began doing things a new way. Now the data are collected in the GMCC personal computer for two weeks, sent to the South Pole main computer, and then relayed via the NASA ATS-3 satellite to Miami. From there the data are sent via electronic mail to the GMCC computers in Boulder. The procedure is a cooperative venture of NOAA, the National Science Foundation, and NASA. GMCC personnel are planning more frequent relay of data in austral spring to monitor changes in the Antarctic ozone.

EEO Training Seminar Termed Success:--The May 5-7 EEO Training Seminar held by the NOAA Office for Civil Rights was termed "a huge success" by OCR head Howard O. Grimmett. There were 96 registrants (plus 19 OCR employees) representing each of the line offices and several staff offices from as far away as Hawaii and Alaska. The opening session included an historical segment, "Voices From The Past" which recognized some of the pioneering contributions to the EEO program efforts in NOAA. Workshops were conducted by OCR staff and such notable "outsiders" as Arva Jackson (NESDIS), Bill Matuszeski (NOS), and Tony Tafoya (EEO, ERL, Boulder, Colo.). On the seminar's final day, a contemporary issues panel featured Robert Martinez from the Office of Personnel Management; Valerie Olson of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and Author E. Cizek and Richard A. Sterns from the Department's Office of Civil Rights.

SARSAT Lifesaving Count Grows:--The number of lives saved that can be attributed directly to the COSPAS-SARSAT search and rescue satellite system grew to 579 by mid-May, James T. Bailey, who heads the SARSAT program for NOAA, reports. Many ships and planes carry special transmitters which radio position information to U.S or U.S.S.R. satellites when trouble occurs. The satellites relay the emergency signals to rescue centers on earth. Most of those saved so far by the satellite rescue program are Americans, NESDIS says. The efficiency of the program will be increased later this year with the launch of NOAA-G which carries SARSAT equipment.

Alaskan Atlases:--NOAA's National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., will help put together an updated series of climatic atlases for Alaskan offshore regions. The atlases will serve as a climatological reference in assessment of lease sales for all gas exploration and development in the area. The atlas project is being prepared by a private firm under contract to the Interior Department. A NOAA team headed by Mike Changerly will handle data collection, quality control, summarization, plotting, and analysis. The contractor, the Arctic Environmental Information Data Center, will draft maps, write text, and prepare final copy for printing.

Mackerel Multiplying:--Fisheries Service specialists say Atlantic mackerel appear to be continuing an increase that started in 1981 and is approaching the high abundance observed in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Catches in domestic and joint-venture fisheries have increased every year since 1977, totalling 14.7 million pounds last year. The total (all countries) mackerel catch reached 115.4 million pounds in 1985 and probably will increase this year, NOAA fisheries management people say. A joint research fishery now being conducted by the United States and Poland with the Polish vessels Admiral Arciszewski and Lutjan has taken large amounts (about 4 million pounds in May alone) of mackerel from Hudson Canyon south to the Chesapeake Bay.

Admiral Karo Dead At 82:--Vice Admiral H. Arnold Karo, 82, who served as director of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Science Services Administration, NOAA's predecessor, died of respiratory failure May 23 at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C. He was director of the USC&GS from 1955 until 1965. When ESSA was established, Adm. Karo served as Deputy Administrator until his retirement in 1967. Admiral Karo is survived by his wife, Elsie of Bethesda, Md., two sons, Arnold M. and Douglas P., one daughter Kathryn R., and two grandchildren.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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