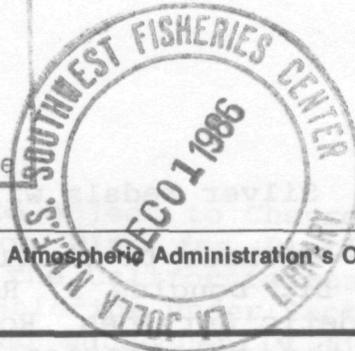




# NOAA REPORT

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**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.

November 19, 1986

## COMING UP

NOAA Observation and Prediction Review at WSC-5 in Rockville, Md., Nov. 17-19.

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NOAA Climate Program Review at WSC-5 in Rockville, Md., Nov. 19-21.

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Meeting of the Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research at the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology in Rockville, Md., Nov. 25

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National Academy of Science seminar on carbon dioxide research, Washington, D.C., Dec. 3-4.

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**Gold and Silver Medal Winners:**--Department of Commerce Gold and Silver Medals for outstanding service will go to 31 NOAA employees at ceremonies in the Department auditorium November 20 at 11:00 a.m.

Gold Medal winners include:

Douglas P. Anderson, Mark H. Bushnell, and Robert J. Roddy (group award), all of the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories, Miami, Fla., for saving the life of a shipmate and colleague.

Lt. Dean L. Smehil and Daniel J. Parry (group award) of the Atlantic Marine Center, Norfolk, Va, for heroic action in saving the life of a shipyard worker.

Dr. J.D. Mahlman of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, Princeton, N.J., for pioneering research and active leadership in studies of the dynamics and chemistry of the middle atmosphere.

Charles J. Neumann of the National Hurricane Center, Miami, Fla., for exceptional scientific achievement in statistical/dynamical tropical cyclone track prediction modeling and its impact on the Agency's ability to perform its mission.

Silver Medals will go to:

Michael D. Abell, Dr. William E. Carter, John Ross MacKay, and Dr. Douglas S. Robertson (group award) of NOS Charting and Geodetic Services, Rockville, Md., for exceptional contributions to the application of Very Long Baseline Interferometry to geodesy, through project POLARIS.

Arthur C. O'Shaughnessy of the National Weather Service, Sacramento, Calif., for unusual courage and competence resulting in the saving of a life and capture of perpetrators of a violent crime.

Michael D. Cox of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, Princeton, N.J. for pioneering scientific and technical contributions to ocean modeling, particularly for development of an eddy-resolved ocean model.

A National Weather Service Flood Warning Group consisting of Stephen M. Billcheck, Richmond, Va.; Leo R. Harrison, Jr., and Elnora G. Markle, Washington, D.C.; Marvin O. Hill, Alfred L. Purdy, Jr., and Paul Gilkerson, Elkins, W. Va.; David A. Keller, Kenneth S. Mack, and Robert M. Tibi of Charleston, W. Va. (group award) for outstanding forecast and warning services during the devastating flood of November 4-6, 1985, in Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia.

Russell Koffler, NESDIS, Suitland, Md., for outstanding contributions in the program management of satellite data processing as the Director, Office of Satellite Data Processing and Distribution.

Richard M. Davis, William Propest, David E. McGuirk, Robert O. Brines, Jr., and Roger W. Bissinger of the National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, N.C., (group award) for exceptional contributions in developing and promoting the use of advanced technology in the processing of climate data worldwide.

Robert C. Elvander and Robert E. Saffle, National Weather Service, Silver Spring, Md., (group award) for outstanding contributions to the National Weather Service radar program leading to improved severe storm warnings.

Rear Adm. Francis D. Moran, Director, NOAA Corps, Rockville, Md., in recognition of accomplishments in establishing a unified, efficient, and effective DOC/NOAA Aircraft Program.

**Chevron's Platform Gail Appeal Dismissed**--Chevron U.S.A. and the California Coastal Commission have reached a settlement which resulted in Chevron's withdrawing its coastal zone consistency appeal before the Secretary of Commerce.

On September 9, the Commission voted to object to Chevron's amended proposed Development and Production Plan for Platform Gail, a proposed oil drilling platform off the California coast. Chevron appealed the decision to Secretary Baldrige under Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, and subsequently filed suit against the Commission in federal district court. As part of the settlement, Chevron agreed to dismiss its law suit and withdraw its administrative appeal. The Mineral Management Service, the federal permitting agency and another party to the settlement, agreed to approve the amended plan. The Commission, in turn, agreed not to challenge the permit.

**Combined Federal Campaign:**--The 1987 Combined Federal Campaign began October 20 for federal employees in the Washington, D.C., area. Over 3,700 NOAA employees have been asked to contribute toward the agency's goal of \$241,000. As of November 12 almost 50 percent of the goal had been pledged. This is a significant accomplishment. However, we must continue our efforts if the goal is to be reached by December 2.

The CFC means very much to the millions of people who are touched by the services of the hundreds of agencies supported by organization. When you give, you are reaching out to help people in the metropolitan area in a personal way. Employees who contribute can designate the organization to receive their gift. This way, your money can support activities of direct interest to you. Payroll deduction is the easy way to give because it spreads your donation over the entire year in relatively small amounts.

Key workers have been designated throughout NOAA in the metropolitan area to contact employees about the CFC and accept contributions. The key workers are helping the CFC as an additional responsibility, and have information about the CFC, participating agencies, and how to contribute. If you haven't been contacted or don't know who your key worker is, call one of the following: NWS - Michael Hudlow; NOS - Richard Legatski; NESDIS - Larry Heacock; NMFS - Henry Beasley; OAR - Dian Gaffen; Staff Offices - Arva Jackson.

Give a gift that will help you, your friends, and your community. Make a pledge to the Combined Federal Campaign today.

**PROFS Goes Operational In Denver:**--The National Weather Service in Denver, Colo., next month will begin using the special computer and software programs known as the Program for Regional Observing and Forecasting Services (PROFS) to produce operational weather forecasts. Termed by some "the weather forecast office of the future," the PROFS workstation processes and presents weather data to forecasters, enabling them to combine data from several sources, highlight areas of particular interest, and "see" the weather in a manner never before available. In a

modified form, PROFS ultimately could be installed at weather stations nationwide, according to its developers at the Environmental Research Laboratories in Boulder, Colo.

**Scientists Eye El Nino Prospects:**--The current warming of sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific, resembles the warmings associated with El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO), according to an advisory from the National Weather Service's Climate Analysis Center, but the likelihood of a classical El Nino episode during the next few months is unclear.

El Nino is the warming of the surface waters of the eastern equatorial Pacific which occurs at irregular intervals of 2-7 years and lasts for 1 to 2 years. A major ENSO episode, such as that of 1982-83, may produce simultaneous appearance of severe weather in a variety of regions over the world as well as major disruptions of the marine ecosystems along the west coast of South America, and sometimes North America.

The Climate Analysis Center advisory issued November 10 says Pacific oceanic and atmospheric indices show that the large-scale equatorial Pacific warming of sea surface temperatures (of the past few months) has expanded in area and increased in intensity. Sea surface temperatures are now greater than 1 degree C. above normal throughout much of the equatorial Pacific. The current warming of sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific, which resembles the warmings associated with ENSO episodes, has resulted in the eastward shift of the warmest equatorial water (30 degrees C.) to the international date line from its normal position 3,000 kilometers to the west. This marks the first time since 1982 that the warmest equatorial water has shifted to the date line.

While the ENSO warming is extensive and has continued to expand eastward during the past several months, the degree to which this will result in classical El Nino conditions along the coasts of Ecuador and Peru during the next few months is presently unclear. The Climate Analysis Center will continue to monitor conditions in the Pacific and to provide early dissemination of diagnostic information concerning the current warming.

**Buoy Deployment Set for Juan de Fuca:**--The National Data Buoy Center plans to deploy an environmental buoy in the Strait of Juan de Fuca north of Port Angeles, Wash., in December to increase marine safety in the area. The wind and wave data from the buoy will be extremely valuable to the Seattle Weather Service Forecast Office, as this will be the first time forecasters have had real-time data from instruments on the water on a regular basis.

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# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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