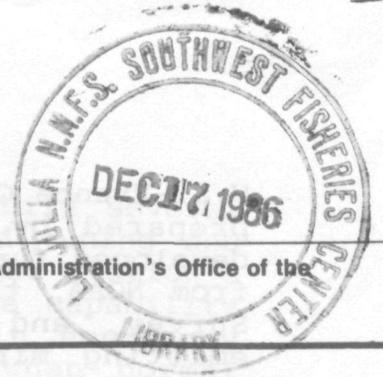
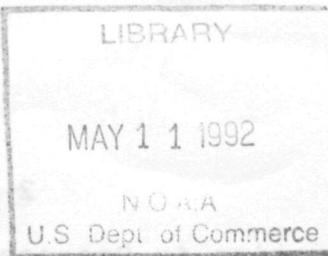




NOAA REPORT



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.

November 26, 1986

COMING UP

Winter Weather Outlook media briefing, Dr. Donald Gilman, Washington, D.C., Nov. 28

OAR Awards Ceremony in WSC-5, Dec. 1.

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

Satellite Edges Westward:--NOAA's geostationary satellite, GOES-6, has started a gradual move to the west to watch for winter storms.

Stationed at 98 degrees west longitude since last July 9 to track East Coast hurricane threats, GOES-6 began moving to its winter storm position at 108 degrees west longitude on November 20. The satellite, which provides forecasters a vast amount of daily weather data and transmits the cloud cover images seen on television screens throughout the nation, will arrive at its winter destination December 11, its NOAA controllers say.

Under normal conditions, two GOES satellites are stationed 22,300 miles above the Equator, one watching the eastern two-thirds of the United States and one observing the western third. In July 1984, however, the eastern GOES quit sending images to Earth, forcing GOES-6 to do double duty. For the past 28 months it has been moved back and forth with the seasons, tracking hurricanes in the Atlantic in the summer and Pacific storms in the winter.

By next spring, NOAA expects to have the normal two satellite system back in operation after the planned launch in late February of a new GOES spacecraft. Last May 3 a replacement GOES was destroyed in a launch failure at Cape Canaveral.

U.S., France Plan Hydrothermal Vents Program:--A NOAA proposal to conduct a multidisciplinary research program on hydrothermal vents is being developed under the aegis of the

U.S.-France Cooperation in Oceanography Agreement. The proposal, prepared by the NOAA Office of Undersea Research, will be developed further by a working group composed of representatives from NOAA, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Navy. Cracks or vents in the ocean floor emitting mineral-rich hot liquids are of great interest to scientists who are studying their potential as mineral resources and investigating their effects on the ocean's chemical composition and its circulation. The group will define specific scientific questions and working hypotheses related to mid-ocean ridges. Later, specific research objectives will be designed.

Winter Weather Outlook Press Briefing Set:--Don Gilman is ready to go out on a limb again. On Nov. 28 at 1:30 in the Commerce auditorium, Dr. Gilman, long-range forecaster at the NWS Climate Analysis Center, will present NOAA's winter weather outlook - one of the Office of Public Affairs most popular media efforts. The annual briefing draws a major turnout of print and electronic press - seeking to learn the weather prospects for the next three months.

Black Market Clammers Shut Down:--Undercover operations by agents of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the state of South Carolina resulted in the arrest of 19 persons allegedly involved in a nearly \$1-million black market clam operation. The November 14 arrests followed a year-long, covert investigation into illegal commercialization of South Carolina clams. Officials said the illegal dealers netted more than \$775,000 from the sale of more than five million clams, mostly out of state, between December 1983 and August 1986. The illegal operations endangered the public health because the clams were not inspected for disease or contamination.

Tornado Researcher Honored:--Dr. Robert P. Davies-Jones, leader of the tornado intercept program conducted by NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory, has been honored for "breakthrough" research into the understanding of the origins of tornadoes. For the second time in three years, Dr. Davies-Jones has received an outstanding publication award presented annually by the Environmental Research Laboratories. "This milestone paper...represents a breakthrough in basic understanding of supercells and the origins of tornadoes," the citation accompanying the award states.

Emergency Communications Tested:--The Atlanta, Ga., Weather Service Forecast Office and three area amateur radio operators recently took part in a simulated emergency test conducted in cooperation with the American Radio Relay League and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. The weather station was one of the primary stations during the exercise, which simulated an ice storm disrupting normal communications in the Atlanta area. The hams set up radio equipment at the WSFO and transmitted Weather

Service traffic during the simulated emergency. While several problems developed (the WSFO's radio antenna needed tuning and adjustment and there was interference from some of the station's electronic equipment), the exercise demonstrated the capability of volunteer amateur radio operators to maintain emergency communications with state and local officials when normal communications fail.

Pollock Nuggets For School Lunches:--Kids in the National School Lunch Program will be eating fish nuggets made from Alaska pollock by mid-December through the efforts of NMFS and the Agriculture Department. The first stage of a pilot program under which the Agriculture Department is expected to buy from U.S. processors more than a million pounds of Alaska pollock for school lunches began this month with the purchase of frozen, breaded pollock nuggets from a Seattle firm. The company, Trans-Pacific Seafoods, submitted a low bid of \$420,000 to sell DOA 304,000 pounds of the ounce-size breaded fish portions. The nuggets are a recently developed form of pollock that lends itself well to institutional feeding programs. This is the first time pollock has been purchased through the program. NMFS assists in the purchases by letting the Agriculture Department know what fish products are in abundance and would be acceptable for the department's Surplus Commodity Program. The purchases are distributed to school lunch and other federally supported feeding programs.

Crime Time?--When some expensive truck tires were stolen on several occasions earlier this year, a midwestern police department thought bad weather might be part of the crooks' modus operandi. And who else to ask about bad weather than the National Climatic Data Center? Since noisy compressed air tools were used to remove the tires and wheels, the police are going on the hunch that the thieves used the cover of rainstorms (when windows are closed and people are indoors). NOAA's Asheville center provided data to the police for six dates when tires were grabbed. If a pattern exists, the police will stake out suspected places during adverse weather.

New Computer System Helps Sun Watchers:--NOAA and Air Force solar forecasters at the Space Environment Services Center are "breaking in" a new computer system that lets them make more detailed, more accurate forecasts, faster. Additionally, a special part of the system not yet operational will let the forecasters get pictures of the sun on demand from any of a dozen observatories around the world, an especially valuable feature for nighttime observation and when the Colorado facility is under heavy cloud cover.

Presently, the forecasters depend on a wire photo machine which receives pictures of the sun transmitted over telephone lines from observatories to the center. With the new system,

according to center chief Gary Heckman, the image of the sun captured in an observatory's telescope is converted to numbers which are speed-transmitted to the center, and converted back to picture form. One advantage, Heckman says, is that the digital data can be manipulated in a computer to provide enhanced views of portions of the sun for closer, detailed analysis.

Facsimile Upgrading Complete:--The upgrading of NOAA's facsimile network is complete, according to Deputy Comptroller Kathleen J. Charles. Forty-four new facsimile machines have been installed at NOAA sites during August and September, and 19 other NOAA sites have purchased or are purchasing equipment. The new network now is equipment-compatible across NOAA, which means any location can communicate with any other facsimile location without first checking to see if the other location has the "right" equipment. It also means that NOAA can reduce the number of commercial and FTS telephone lines that are needed to support the different types of machines. As a result of the upgrading of equipment, Ms. Charles said, NOAA can expect a life cycle (five years) savings of approximately \$880,925.

Fire Fighters Still Busy In California:--In sharp contrast to the wintry weather that has settled over most of the northern portion of the western United States, fire fighters in California have been having a hot time of it trying to contain several large wildfires. NOAA's fire weather forecasters from the Fresno Weather Service Office recently were dispatched to a 7,000-acre fire near King City. A second dispatch request was made to a wildfire southeast of Carmel in Los Padres National Forest. Other large fires in central and southern California have been fanned by persistent strong winds. The lack of appreciable precipitation has aggravated the situation. Fire control agencies and fire weather forecasters remain concerned about the high wildfire potential throughout most of California.

Easy Living:--Money magazine recently was furnished climatic data by NESDIS on most of the major metropolitan areas of the United States. The magazine's editors plan to devote a future issue to the best places to live in this country and will rank cities based on climate, schools, safety, jobs, housing costs, etc.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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