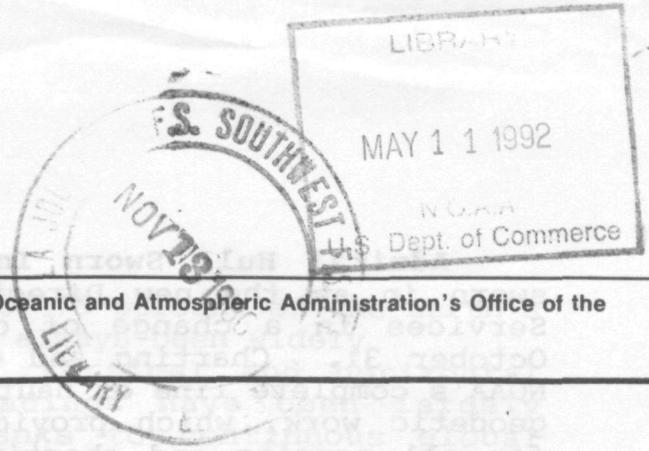




NOAA REPORT



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 5, 1986

COMING UP

International Whaling Commission Interagency meeting at the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C., on Nov.12.

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

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

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

SARSAT Test Slated:--The international cooperative search and rescue COSPAS/SARSAT Program is scheduled to conduct a worldwide exercise designed to demonstrate its effectiveness November 11-14. Twenty-five 406 MHz beacons will be activated at various locations during the test of the system's ability to receive, process, and distribute distress alert messages in a timely manner. Simulated distress signals from the beacons will be picked up by NOAA and Soviet satellites and transmitted to ground stations. The stations will forward the data to national mission control centers for distribution to rescue coordination centers. Beacons will be located in the Azores, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, French Polynesia, Gabon, Greenland, India, the United Kingdom, U.S.S.R., and the U.S.A. One of the U.S. beacons will be aboard the NOAA Ship David Starr Jordan, which is participating in a marine mammal survey cruise in the equatorial eastern Pacific. The ship is expected to be between the Galapagos Islands and San Diego when it sets off the alert signal.

Admiral Hull Sworn In:--Rear Admiral Wesley V. Hull was sworn in as the new Director of NOAA's Charting and Geodetic Services in a change of command ceremony in Rockville, Md., October 31. Charting and Geodetic services is responsible for NOAA's complete line of nautical and aeronautical charts, and for geodetic work, which provides the precise geographic framework for all mapping and charting. Adm. Hull assumed command from Rear Admiral John D. Bossler, who is retiring from NOAA after 27 years of service. Adm. Bossler will head the Ohio State University Center for Mapping in Columbus. Adm. Hull previously was Director of NOAA's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk. He joined the Commissioned Corps in 1958 and has seen service as commanding officer aboard the NOAA Ships Bowie and Mt. Mitchell, in addition to assignments aboard the Pioneer, Lester Jones, and Oceanographer.

Fishery Agents Nab A Tough Customer:--Within the last two weeks NMFS Special Agents in the Northeast seized four scallop catches with a value of \$136,988. Three of the seizures were routine. The fourth, however, involved a fishing vessel which fled up the Delaware River to avoid inspection by NOAA agents. After the ship was located and stopped by the Coast Guard, the captain jumped ship (1/2 mile from land in any direction) and refused to be taken out of the water until he could no longer tread water. The Coast Guard has custody of the vessel pending investigation into recent suspicious structural alterations to its interior.

Fire Weather Lingers:--The fire weather season in the Pacific Northwest just won't quit. After one of the most severe summer wildfire seasons in recent memory, fire fighters in Oregon and Washington have been waiting for the onset of the annual fall rains and a chance to relax a bit. But season-ending rains have not materialized in amounts expected and several planned burns have gotten out of hand due to dry, windy conditions. NOAA's Salem fire weather office provided on-site support to a large, uncontrolled fire in south-central Washington last week. The mobile unit was out for six days, which may be a record for wildfire support this time of year. The winds that fanned the fires in Oregon and Washington were forecast by Weather Service fire weather meteorologists well in advance.

Satellite Oceanography Sourcebook Out:--A sourcebook of data and literature on the new and rapidly expanding science of satellite oceanography has been published by NOAA. The 250-page volume, an important new tool for those interested in the behavior and resources of the world's oceans, is entitled "Satellite Remote Sensing of the Marine Environment: Literature and Data Sources." In the past, collection of ocean data was limited to shipboard and buoy sampling of physical, chemical,

geological and biological properties of 75 percent of the Earth's surface. Shipboard observations have always been widely scattered in time and location. Vertical and horizontal projections from such sparse readings have been largely scientific guesswork. Today, thanks to continuous global surveillance by environmental satellites, it is possible to collect detailed data on temperature, chlorophyll, turbidity, winds, waves, and other factors. NOAA's new publication, which sells for \$10 a copy, tells where and how to tap a veritable goldmine of information on satellite oceanography. It is available from NESDIS's Assessment and Information Services Center (FTS 673-5404).

Media Get Winter Safety Reminders:--Public Affairs is turning up the heat on the media to get across NOAA's annual winter safety message. A television public service announcement feature film of silent film comic Buster Keaton, with a winter safety message, is being prepared for transmission to 350 stations in 35 states and the District of Columbia. The November edition of "The Sea And The Air," a monthly taped radio program, has been recorded, featuring the Weather Service's Ross LaPorte, on the same subject. A winter weather public service ad for newspapers and magazines has been delivered for distribution.

Gordon Little Leaves NOAA:--Dr. Gordon Little, Director of the Wave Propagation Laboratory, is leaving NOAA to become a UCAR Senior Research Fellow at the Naval Environmental Prediction Research Facility in Monterey, Calif. Dr. Little came to the Department of Commerce in 1958 from the University of Alaska, became Director of the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory in 1962, and Director of WPL in 1968. Dr. Little is best known for his work in remote sensing; in particular the initiation of the Program for Regional Observing and Forecasting Services (PROFS).

Tilapia Research Yields Benefits:--About 2500 tilapia, a freshwater fish raised successfully in saltwater by scientists with the NOAA Undersea Research Program's Caribbean Marine Research Center, were shipped to Haiti to feed needy families recently. The Haitian Baptist Agricultural Center coordinated distribution of the fish to Haitian families. This research program, located at a fish hatchery on Lee Stocking Island in the Bahamas, is investigating simple methods to produce low-cost aquatic food in the Caribbean and other areas of the world where freshwater reserves are limited.

Telephone Weather Recording Service Pays Off--Private operation of the telephone weather recording service in Tucson, Ariz., is doing well. The radio station and commercial sponsor of the service report that 120,000 calls were made to the system in August and that the number is increasing. The recording system has 11 telephone lines. This compares with an average of 80,000 calls each month when the National Weather Service operated six telephone lines.

Use It Or Lose It--That's the blunt message on year-end leave taking from the Commerce Department's Personnel Officer, Jo Ann Sondey-Hersh. At the end of the current leave year, January 3, 1987, the maximum amount of annual leave which most employees can carry over into the next leave year is 240 hours. If you have more than that, Ms. Sondey-Hersh says, you'd better use it or lose it.

It may not be so cut and dried, however. If you have leave subject to forfeiture scheduled and approved in writing by Nov. 21, and you find you are unable to use it before the end of the leave year, it may be restored for future use under limited circumstances. Examples include illness, administrative error affecting the leave account, or exigency of the public business (e.g., unforeseen program emergency, sudden call to jury or military). Contact your personnel specialist for details.

Weather Calendar--There's no end to the uses for NOAA data it seems. NESDIS recently provided The Weather Channel with documentation of severe weather events for a promotional calendar. The 24-hour-a-day cable television channel is marketing a 1987 calendar featuring severe/hazardous/unusual weather events of the past for each day of the year. Information from the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., ensured the accuracy of the calendar data.

Power Company Installs NOAA Weather Radio--The Plant Vogtle (Waynesboro), Ga., NOAA Weather Radio transmitter, installed by Georgia Power Company to provide nuclear accident alerting for its Plant Vogtle facilities, recently went on the air. This is NOAA Weather Radio station number 375, the 14th installed by a private interest group.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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