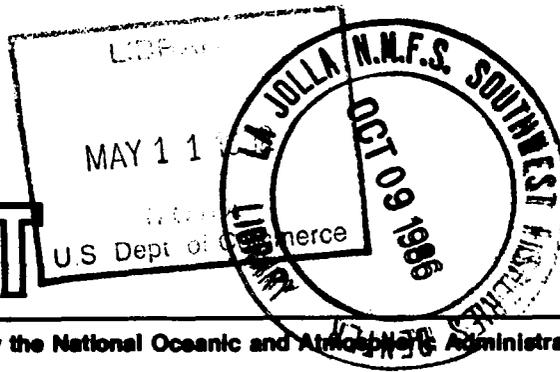




NOAA REPORT



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October 1, 1986

COMING UP

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Cold Water Hypothermia;"
John L. Ball, Jr., OAR, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., Oct. 3.

Task Group for Communications Interfaces and Data
Exchange at the Office of the Federal Coordinator for
Meteorology in Rockville, Md., Oct. 7-9.

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "The Greenhouse Effect
and Sea Level Rise;" James Titus, EPA, and Robert Etkins,
NCPO, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., Oct. 10.

11th Annual Climate Diagnostics Workshop at the
University of Illinois, Oct. 14-17.

Working Group for Operational Processing Centers at
Offutt AFB., Nebr., Oct. 15-16.

Winter weather media workshop in Chicago, Ill., Oct.
24-25.

Severe Flooding Threatens Midwest:--The potential for severe flooding in the Midwest is approaching a critical state, according to the National Weather Service. Anticipating heavy rainfall, along with saturated soils in the area, are now a major concern of NOAA hydrologists. Although there is no major flooding now, minor to moderate flooding is currently occurring in many Midwestern states. The ground is saturated from a series of storms which have swept through the area and the past cycle of heavy rainfall is expected to continue much of this week.

Sarsat:--Science Systems and Applications, Inc. of Seabrook, Md., has been awarded a seven-year cost-plus-fixed-fee contract, for the development, maintenance, and operation of the NOAA Search and Rescue (SAR) Mission Control Center. The control

center will receive, process, and distribute worldwide data acquired via SAR transponders on NOAA's polar-orbiting satellites, for locating ships and aircraft in distress. The center, scheduled to be operational by January 1990, will be collocated with NESDIS data processing facilities at Suitland, Md.

Red Drum Emergency Extended:--Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige has extended the ban on red drum fishing in the Gulf of Mexico for an additional 90 days. Emergency regulations were imposed for the period June 25 - September 23 when it was found that an emergency existed in the fishery because of substantial increases in commercial harvests in the fishery conservation zone. The regulation imposed a 1,000,000 pound quota for the directed commercial net fishery. The fishery was closed on July 20 when the quota was reached. The extended ban, made with the concurrence of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, runs from September 24 through December 22.

Super-speed Computer At NWS:--An \$8 million Cyber 205-642 super-speed computer system from ETA Systems Inc., of St. Paul, Minn., has been procured for the National Weather Service. The computer, along with software and maintenance services, will be delivered over a five-year period. The second such system for the NWS's National Meteorological Center in Camp Springs, Md., it will help provide forecast guidance to 52 forecast offices across the nation. Its use will expand the Center's ability to conduct research with numerical models of the atmosphere for improving severe weather and flood warnings as well as routine forecasts. The computer also will serve as a backup for the present Cyber 205 computer.

Dr. Ernest Hildner To Head ERL Lab:--Dr. Ernest Hildner, an astrophysicist, will become director of ERL's Space Environmental Laboratory in Boulder October 26. Presently a visiting scientist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Hildner most recently was chief of NASA's Solar Science Branch at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. From 1970 to 1980 he was with NCAR's High Altitude Observatory conducting solar research in conjunction with the Solar Maximum Mission satellite and an NCAR experiment aboard Skylab. Dr. Hildner holds a B.A. degree in physics from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., and MA and Ph.D. degrees in physics from the University of Colorado.

Skippers Adopt NOAA Nomograms:--Response to a NOAA announcement of new graphic aids to indicate the danger of icing on ship superstructures has been heavy, according to Carol H. Pease of NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle. Research by Pease and Albert L. Comiskey of Northern Technical Services in Anchorage indicates that vessel icing in northern waters occurs three times as quickly as previously recognized. On the basis of this knowledge, Pease and Comiskey

have refined existing nomograms (graphics indicating temperature, windspeed, and degree of icing) and they're in high demand from a wide variety of marine users in the Northwest.

Researchers Investigate Earl and Newton:--ERL's Hurricane Research Division (HRD) in Miami reports completion of two successful hurricane investigations during the first three weeks of September. As Hurricane Earl moved towards the northern Antilles, HRD scientists deployed to Bermuda and flew into the hurricane aboard NOAA's two WP-D3's on September 13 and 14. They studied the structure of the storm's rainbands and surface winds and tested new concepts regarding the difficult problem of forecasting tropical storm movement. Hurricane Newton, an east Pacific storm off Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, became a target for microphysics investigations on September 21. NOAA scientists armed with evidence that stratoform cloud activity is of considerable importance in hurricane dynamics and organization, obtained a record amount of data in Newton. The two WP-D3's collectively spent over 16 hours in the storm.

NOAA Radio Show Tells of Fish Cities:--Artificial reefs: They provide a natural habitat for juvenile fish and provide better catches for sport fishermen. They've been used by the Japanese for centuries, and now many foreign countries are starting to build them. Almost any type of material can be used to make them including rocks, shipwrecks, oil rigs, and tree trunks. In the latest Sea and Air radio program distributed by Public Affairs, NMFS recreational fisheries officer Richard Stone talks about the use of artificial reefs to establish new populations of fish and help them survive and grow. The tape will be heard on 650 radio stations across the nation.

A Unique Cooperative Weather Station:--At the request of the Department of Energy and Westinghouse Electric, a cooperative weather station recently was established 26 miles southeast of Carlsbad, N. Mex. The site is a nuclear waste depository - the only one of its kind in the world. According to Bob Manning, Cooperative Program Leader at NWS Southern Regional Headquarters, the staff of the depository will make daily observations of temperature and precipitation. An official weather reporting station with published daily records was deemed of the utmost importance for official records and safety. The station name: "Waste Isolation Pilot Plant."

Ocean Upwelling A Source of Acid Rain Chemicals:--Ocean upwelling, a process through which deep-ocean water is circulated to the surface, may add more acid rain-producing chemicals to the atmosphere than previously recognized, according to ERL's Dr. Farn P. Parungo. Reporting in the Journal of Atmospheric Chemistry on a Pacific cruise aboard the NOAA research vessel Discoverer, Dr. Parungo said maximum quantities of acid rain-producing chemicals were found in air samples collected at upwelling locations off the U.S. Pacific coast, along the

Equator, and off the Antarctic. Heavier concentrations of sulfate and nitrate particles were suspended in the atmosphere over these locations than over other portions of the ocean.

Parungo said that particles of sea salt-bearing sulfates and nitrates are transported from the ocean into the atmosphere via sea spray or air bubbling at the surface. The relative concentrations of sea salt components in the air and the sea water are almost identical, but in areas where upwelling is occurring, there can be up to 100 percent more sulfates in the air sample than in the water and up to 1000 times more nitrates, Parungo said.. This, she explained, is caused by the ocean spray particles intermingling with sulfur and nitrogen-containing waters. The gasses escape into the atmosphere where they are converted to sulfate and nitrate particles by photo-chemical reactions.

"These additional particles could serve as cloud condensation nuclei to initiate cloud formation and promote precipitation," Parungo said. Rain samples collected during the cruise, she added, showed high ratios of sulfates and nitrates to sodium from sea salts, and were more acidic than sea water.

State Partnership Workshop in Michigan:--NOAA and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources are co-sponsoring a workshop in Lansing today to stimulate interaction and information exchange and strengthen relationships between NOS and State agencies. The informal Michigan NOS-State Partnership Workshop is designed help federal and state planners avoid duplication of efforts and make maximum use resources. John J. Carey, acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, is senior NOAA participant.

Tuna/Porpoise Observers Wanted:--NMFS is trying to find observers for tuna vessels as the yearly quota of porpoise taken incidentally in tuna nets nears fulfillment. Currently about 20,000 of the 20,500 porpoises allowed have been taken. Once the quota is reached, vessels without NMFS observers will not be able to land yellowfin or bigeye tuna until next the year. Observer coverage has fallen to about 50 percent as the fast turnarounds by tuna boats take their toll of the existing observer corps. Many observers are quitting rather than returning immediately to sea.

House of Representatives Asks Whale Sanctuary: On September 23 the House passed by voice vote, H.J. Res. 67, calling for a sanctuary for humpback whales in the West Indies. Under the resolution, the President is to pursue an international agreement establishing the sanctuary. A similar measure passed the House in the last Congress. No Senate counterpart has been introduced.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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