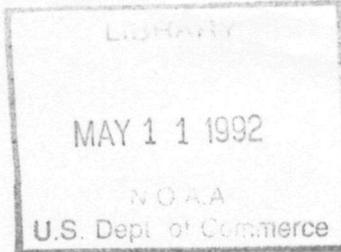




# NOAA REPORT



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October 8, 1986

COMING UP

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

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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.

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

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

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

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**New Satellite Aids Rescuers:** Only five days after its launch and less than 24 hours after its search and rescue equipment was turned on, NOAA-10, the nation's latest weather satellite, picked up the first distress signal that led to the rescue of four Canadians whose plane crashed in a remote area of Ontario.

NOAA-10 was launched September 17. On September 22 engineers turned on search and rescue equipment which permits the satellite to pick up distress signals from downed aircraft or ships in distress and to relay them to processing facilities on the ground, from where they are dispatched to rescue forces.

The day after the equipment was turned on it "heard" a distress signal over Canada and relayed it to Canadian rescue forces. The signal was the first indication that someone was in trouble. Later, a Soviet satellite - also equipped with search and rescue equipment - verified the distress signal. The

combination of reports from the American and Soviet satellites and a report of an overdue plane on a flight near Red Lake, Ontario, sent a search aircraft to the area. Because of the accuracy of the satellite's coordinates, the rescuers were able to spot the downed aircraft at the exact location the satellite system had indicated it would be. The distress signals are sent by an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) which is designed to be activated automatically upon impact. The four injured occupants of the plane were airlifted from the crash site in the text-book search and rescue mission. Since the 1982 inception of the search and rescue program known as COSPAS/SARSAT, the satellites have contributed to saving more than 600 lives.

Meanwhile, California Governor George Deukmejian has issued a proclamation naming 1987 the "Year of Air and Maritime Safety," calling on all citizens to cooperate in a statewide campaign to cut down the number of satellite false alarms being registered by improper handling of ELT equipment by sailors and aviators.

**NOAA Man Heads Seattle Federal Executive Board:** Kelly Sandy, Director of the Western Administrative Support Center in Seattle, began a one-year term as chairman of the Seattle Federal Executive Board (FEB) on October 1. FEB goals include improved coordination of federal activities, enhanced communications among federal executives, executive development, and support of Presidential initiatives.

**Floods Strike Midwest:** Ten persons are dead, thousands have been evacuated from their homes, and damage is expected to top \$1 billion as heavy rain-producing thunderstorms continued to aggravate flood problems from weeks past in the Midwest. According to NOAA hydrologists, moderate to severe flooding has been reported throughout the nation's midsection, with near record to record flooding in parts of Michigan, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Illinois. On most of the mainstem rivers, moderate flooding is in progress. A near-record crest is expected on the Lower Missouri River at St. Charles by the end of this week.

**Disabled NOAA Employee Wins Sports Medals:**--Jeffrey D. Sampaga, a biological aid at the Honolulu Laboratory of the Southwest Fisheries Center, won two gold medals for the shotput and a bronze medal for the javelin at the International Stoke Mandeville Games at Aylesburg, Buckinghamshire, England, which took place July 26 - August 3. Sampaga was one of 800 disabled athletes representing 36 countries at the games.

The U.S. team was composed of over 50 disabled athletes. Sampaga was one of four wheelchair athletes on the U.S. field events team. He was selected for the U.S. team on the basis of his accomplishments in the National Wheelchair Games at Erie, Pa., in 1985. Sampagna holds the world record in the discus (29.14 meters) for wheelchair athletes.

**Ferrel Officers and Crew Rescue Drowning Woman:**--Officers and crew of the NOAA Ship Ferrel are credited with saving the life of a woman who slipped off a fishing pier near the ship's dock in Corpus Christi, Tex. Boatswain Franklin Mickle saw the woman fall and notified the ship's Executive Officer, Lt. Cdr. Ted Lillestolen, who dove in and pulled the woman to shore. She was unconscious and not breathing, but other officers and crew resuscitated her and applied oxygen from ship's supplies. It was learned later that the woman previously suffered from a collapsed lung, and if the rescue had not been prompt or if emergency first-aid with oxygen had not been administered, she would not have survived.

**NWS Nominates Fishing Fleet For Award:**--The Boston, Mass., Weather Service Forecast Office has nominated the Yankee Fleet, owned by Captain Tom Hill, for the 1986 National Weather Association Awards Program for its "important contribution to meteorological operations by an organization that is not directly a part of the professional meteorological community." The Yankee Fleet operates 12 fishing vessels (ranging in size from 60 to 100 feet) out of Gloucester, Mass.--New England's largest fishing port. For the past two years, the Yankee Fleet has provided National Weather Service forecasters at Boston an opportunity to participate in familiarization trips to the Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, and Nantucket shoals. Participation is designed to provide forecasters with a better insight into the marine weather and climatology of the offshore environment for which they prepare forecasts. Participation also provides forecasters with a better insight into the needs of the marine community.

**ERL Group Studies Ammonia From The Air:**--Scientists from ERL's Air Resources Laboratory are collaborating with Pennsylvania State University experimenters in an effort to test methods for detecting ammonia from the air. This summer scientists from ARL's Geophysical Monitoring for Climatic Change (GMCC) Division, using NOAA's King Air research aircraft from Miami, Fla. successfully sampled the air for ammonia over the Pennsylvania State campus. Ammonia, a known oxidant for sulfur dioxide, is difficult to measure because of its low concentration in the atmosphere. Ammonia is thought to be a major player in the formation of sulfate aerosols, which when combined with moisture produce acids that are detrimental to plants and animals alike. According to Dr. Joe Boatman, leader of the GMCC team, "Large amounts of air, 15 cubic meters or more, had to be sampled before an adequate measurement could be made." Whether a properly instrumented aircraft could perform such a feat was questionable, particularly when a similar ground-level measurement requires more than six hours. Although quantitative results are not yet available, scientists John Miller (ARL), Rosa DePena (Penn State), and Dr. Boatman indicate that aircraft measurements are possible and that two-dimensional ammonia profiling may be possible in the near future.

**Turtle Poacher Goes To Jail:**--Is NMFS serious about protecting endangered species? On October 1, in Jacksonville, Fla., a Federal District Judge sentenced a licensed sport fishing guide who operated in the Homosassa Springs/Crystal River area of Florida, to a prison term not to exceed one year for delivering one green sea turtle that had been taken in violation of federal law. The defendant earlier had been indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on five counts of taking, possessing, transporting, and selling Green Sea Turtles in violation of the Endangered Species Act. Here's how he was caught: Armed with a search warrant, special agents of the NMFS (headed by David Weatherly of St. Petersburg) and officers of the Florida Marine Patrol went to the man's home where they found pieces of Green Turtles that had been butchered to extract the meat. The meat known locally as "sea chicken" was marketed to local citizens for \$5 a pound. Acting on further information, the agents located a turtle shell dump along a remote stretch of road near the defendant's residence where dozens of turtle shells were collected. As part of a plea bargain agreement, the defendant is to cooperate fully in an on-going investigation which has revealed substantial turtling and turtle trading in the area.

**Sea Lamprey Population Count:**--Submersible-based operations using an externally mounted "electric shocker" are being used by NOAA Undersea Research Program scientists to assess juvenile sea lampreys in Lake Superior. Juvenile lampreys, living in burrows in the mud/silt bottom, have been photographed and videotaped throughout their depth range and stimulated (electrically shocked) to leave their shelters for collection by a suction sampler. Further assessment of the lamprey population (which is believed to be making a comeback) and its reproductive cycle is critical to effective management of the lamprey, a major parasite of the lake trout and other fish. A \$1 billion trout fishery was nearly decimated by the lamprey in the 1950's.

**Red Cross Blood Drive:**--Washington-area NOAA employees are urged to participate in a blood drive October 24 at the Herbert C. Hoover Building. The American Red Cross, in cooperation with the Department's Health Unit will conduct the drive from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the conference rooms next to the Department auditorium. According to the Red Cross, one transfusion occurs every 12 seconds in the Washington area. Thousands of patients each month depend on healthy volunteer blood donors. A unit of blood from one donor may save the lives of up to five people. There is a critical need in the Washington area at this time for types "O" and "B" blood, the Red Cross says.

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# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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