



NOAA REPORT

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COMING UP

NOAA-G polar-orbiting satellite launch from Vandenberg AFB, Calif., postponed.

NOAA Regional Users Conference in New Orleans, La., Sept. 10-11.

Meeting of the Committee for Space Environmental Forecasting at ERL in Boulder, Colo., Sept. 12.

Toxic Chemicals and Aquatic Life: Research and Management symposium in Seattle, Wash., Sept. 16-18.

Oceans '86 in Washington, D.C., Sept. 23-25.

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

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

NOAA Upsets Fish "Laundering" Scheme:-- NOAA fishery agents in Tacoma, Wash., have seized almost 595,000 pounds of salmon worth \$796,000 bound from Taiwan to Japan by way of the United States in an alleged multi-million-dollar fish laundering scheme.

The haul, believed to be part of over 3.5 million pounds of salmon worth \$4,746,000 routed through Tacoma, consists of 4-6 pound chum and sockeye.

This is how officials believe the laundering took place:

Japan prohibits the importation of Taiwanese-caught salmon,

nor can salmon be exported legally from Taiwan. NMFS agents say the salmon were shipped first to Singapore and Hong Cong. Then, Union, Inc., a trading company in Costa Mesa, Calif., shipped the fish to Tacoma. There, it is alleged that new container seals and bills of lading were used to obscure Taiwan as the country of origin, and the salmon were to be reshipped to Japan. The United States has a substantial salmon export market to Japan, and a U.S. bill of lading would be accepted readily there.

In the seized shipment, sophisticated tests, and the fishes' appearance, including gillnet marks, and fishing patterns indicate they were caught on the high seas, and are of Taiwanese origin.

The Taiwanese ban on salmon exporting and gillnetting was imposed at U.S. urging in an effort to eliminate migratory interceptions and bring gillnetting practices under control.

Civil penalties against Union Inc., and its general manager could total \$150,000.

Surface Sensors Can Warn of Aircraft Icing--Ground-based sensors can warn aircraft of icing conditions in the atmosphere, NOAA scientists say.

A study by members of the Environmental Research Laboratories and the Institute for Cooperative Research in Environmental Science said that microwave radiometers, automated and operated continuously, can report vital information from the ground about water content in the sky as frequently as every two minutes. Aircraft icing occurs when so-called liquid water (as opposed to ice or ice crystals) is present within a critical temperature range of about zero to minus 20 degrees Celsius, according to NOAA researcher Martin T. Decker.

At present icing conditions are detected through balloon-borne measurements taken only every 12 hours. The airborne instruments measure atmospheric pressure, temperature, relative humidity, and wind velocity. But they do not measure water content in the sky.

The radiometers enabled scientists to identify 90 percent of icing conditions reported by pilots within 10 miles of Denver's Stapleton International Airport and 77 percent of icing incidents as far as 50 miles from the airport. Data were correlated with icing occurrences reported by pilots over a two-year period.

The radiometers are prototypes of instruments in the atmospheric profiling system being developed by NOAA. A 30-station network of the Profiler systems will be installed throughout the Midwest in the next three years for research and for operational use by the National Weather Service.

NOAA-G Launch Delayed:--The NOAA-G launch is being delayed to no sooner than September 17 to allow more time to correct a liquid oxygen fuel leak in the launch vehicle.

FAA To Join NWS Observing System:--The Federal Aviation Administration has decided to join with the National Weather Service in the Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS) program. The FAA plans to acquire the Weather Service-designed systems for 500-750 locations, including about 300 where "manual" observations currently are made at airports with Flight Service Stations and Air Traffic Control Towers, and the remainder at smaller, non-towered airports where observations are not currently made. ASOS uses state-of-the-art automated sensors in combination with modern computer technology to gather, store, and retrieve and manipulate data such as temperature, dew point, wind direction and speed, atmospheric pressure, and precipitation for local weather observing and forecasting operations.

NOAA, USGS Research Program Set For Sioux Falls:--NOAA and the U.S. Geological Survey have agreed to establish a Cooperative Federal Land Remote Sensing Research Program at the EROS (Earth Resources Observation Satellite) Data Center in Sioux Falls, S. Dak. Program objectives are to design, develop, and conduct land remote sensing research, application development, and user education. NOAA has assigned Kevin P. Gallo, a physical scientist with NESDIS to Sioux Falls where he will join with members of the EROS Data Center in cooperative research projects.

Oil Platform Dismantling May Harm Fish:--Explosions involved in the dismantling of oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico may be causing injury to turtles, marine mammals, and fish, NOAA fishery experts believe. The Minerals Management Service and NMFS have been in informal consultation attempting to resolve the problem. Several meetings, both at the regional and headquarters levels, have been held with representatives of government, industry, Congress, and the environmental community to develop a solution to the problem.

Port Switch For The McArthur:--The NOAA ship McArthur, currently engaged in porpoise population studies in the tropical eastern Pacific, cancelled its originally scheduled port call in Callao, Peru, when it was unable to obtain diplomatic clearance. As the vessel required fuel and supplies, the Pacific Marine Center and Office of Marine Operations made necessary arrangements, including diplomatic clearance, for an inport at Guayaquil, Ecuador, August 27 to September 1.

NWS Summer Intern Is Math Hotshot:--The Center for Excellence in Education (formerly the Admiral H.G. Rickover Foundation) assigned several of its summer interns to work with the National Weather Service for 2-1/2 week periods. One, Robert

Southworth, a 16-year-old from Winchester, Mass., who's grooming himself for a career in physics and mathematics, focused his research efforts on controlling the quality of automated weather observations. According to his mentors at the NWS Techniques Development Laboratory, he succeeded in making important contributions to this program, using statistics, a powerful microcomputer, and some sharp insight during his July 22 - August 13 stay. Southworth currently is training in Annapolis, Md, with 20 other students vying for a birth on the U.S. Math Olympiads team.

U.S./Mexican Research in Gulf of Mexico--NOAA scientists joined other American investigators aboard the Mexican research ship HO2 in mid-July as the United States and Mexico joined in their first expedition to investigate air pollution and acid rain in the Gulf of Mexico. Gas and aerosol samples were collected day and night for post-cruise analyses. The Mexican scientists measured SO₂, O₃, CO and hydrocarbons; scientists from California Polytechnic University measured sulfur gases; and the NOAA scientists measured aerosols and radiation on board. Rain samples also were collected. Research results will be reported in a year.

Charge It!--Beginning September 4, NOAA employees in the Central Administrative Support Center area will be able to charge purchases of items needed in day-to-day operations with credit cards. The names of 445 NOAA employees have been submitted to the Rocky Mountain Bankcard System for issuance of Mastercards. The Bankcard Project, authorized by the OMB as a government-wide pilot, is intended to determine the feasibility of all Federal employees making credit card purchases. This first phase involves the CASC service area only. The second phase will begin in the Western Administrative Service Center region in December.

Tweens Tame Toxins--While tracing what happens to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's) that may enter an estuary from oil spills and other sources, a Sea Grant scientist has discovered that tweens, a soap-like compound or surfactant, can make PAH's in the marine environment more susceptible to breakdown by naturally occurring bacteria. William Guerrin of the University of New Hampshire has found that tweens increase the water solubility of hydrocarbons, making them more susceptible to biodegradation. Another advantage is that unlike commonly used detergents, these "soaps" do not harm the bacteria necessary to the PHA breakdown process. Therefore, tweens could be sued to clean up toxic compounds without harm to biological processes.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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