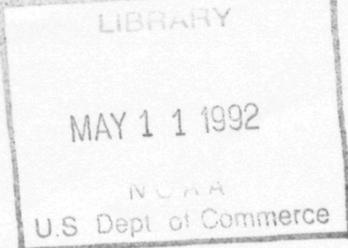




NOAA REPORT



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April 1, 1987

COMING UP

National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, Fla., April 1-3.

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Thermohaline Ocean Circulation:" Robert Etkins, NCPO, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., April 3.

National Weather Service Directors Conference in Silver Spring, Md., April 7-9.

17th Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology in Miami, Fla., April 7-10.

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Stratospheric Visible Spectroscopy at McMurdo Station, Antarctica:" Dr. Susan Solomon, ERL, WSC-5, Room 926, 11:00 a.m., April 8. (Note unusual time and weekday.)

American Meteorological Society/Society of American Foresters Ninth Conference on Fire and Forest Meteorology in San Diego, Calif., April 21-24.

Results of Toxic Chemical Monitoring Released:--NOAA has released results of the first year of a national program to monitor toxic chemicals in bottom feeding fish and sediments at 50 coastal and estuarine sites from Maine to Alaska. Initial results show a complex, varied picture of environmental quality around the Nation's coast.

While stressing the preliminary nature of the results, NOAA scientists report that sediments in northeastern coastal and estuarine sites had the highest concentrations of toxic trace metals, aromatic hydrocarbons, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) found in the United States. Concentrations of PCBs in the livers of winter flounder from a site in Boston Harbor were the highest in the Nation.

Nationwide, 60 percent of the sites sampled showed non-detectable or very low levels of DDT. Relatively high concentrations were found in sediments sampled in Boston harbor and along the southern California coast.

U.S., France Plan Joint Studies:--Under Secretary/Administrator Calio and Yves Sillard, Director-General of the Institut Francais de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer, have announced plans to conduct joint oceanographic investigations on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge in 1990-1992.

Several U.S. and French agencies will participate in the multi-disciplinary project, which will focus on the structure, dynamics, and composition of the deep sea floor, the circulation and dispersion of hydrothermal fluids, the related biological communities, and the presence of metalliferous deposits on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Each project is a continuation of work by the two countries on the East Pacific Rise.

A joint U.S.-France task group will provide scientific recommendations and an organizational plan for a research program, including possibilities for research by scientists from other countries, by 1988. The project will include several months of operations at sea using surface ships and submersibles.

Fish Exports Up: Exports of edible U.S. fish rose a whopping 30 percent last year to an all-time high of \$1.3 billion with the sale of a record 735 million pounds of seafood to foreign buyers, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service. Fisheries noted, however, that imports of edible fish also set a record, with the United States purchasing \$4.8 billion worth of seafood from abroad, \$772 million more than 1985. The volume of these imports totalled 3 billion pounds, also a record.

Imports of non-edible fishery products - chiefly high value-added items such as marine-derived chemicals, jewelry using pearls or coral and leather goods from aquatic animals - added another \$2.8 billion to the foreign trade total. U.S. exports of non-edible fishery products were worth only \$66 million.

The leading U.S. export was 293 pounds of fresh and frozen salmon valued at \$552 million. The principal import was 400 million pounds of shrimp, worth a record \$1.4 billion or 30 percent of the value of all U.S. seafood purchases.

Media Announcements Stress Weather Safety:--Fifteen public service announcements have been distributed to broadcast media in 45 states nationwide this week by Public Affairs to help alert Americans to the dangers of floods and tornadoes. Each year, these deadly forces combine to kill an average of almost 300 persons. Viewers of 195 television stations and listeners to 7,500 radio stations will learn the basic safety measures to

survive these natural disasters, including how to recognize clues to their development, the definition of watches and warnings issued by the Weather Service, and steps to take and places to avoid should a tornado or flood threaten.

GOES-7 Operational:--GOES-7, the nation's newest geostationary weather satellite, completed a month of tests and was turned over fully-operational to NOAA on March 25.

GOES-7 is the eighth GOES spacecraft to be launched since 1974. In addition to providing cloud cover images and atmospheric temperature profiles (or "soundings"), GOES-7 will collect space environmental data and conduct an experiment for detecting emergency distress signals on the ground from geosynchronous orbit.

At its position at 75 degrees west longitude, the satellite will become GOES East, providing primary weather coverage for the East coast of the United States. A twin satellite (GOES-6) at 135 degrees west longitude will provide coverage for the western half of the United States as GOES West.

NOS Man Receives Fairchild Award:--Lawrence W. Fritz, Director of the NOS Charting Research and Development Laboratory, recently was honored by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing as the 1987 recipient of its highest award, the Photogrammetric (Fairchild) Award. Fritz was cited for his outstanding efforts in the art of photogrammetry.

Grand Union Joins Seafood Inspection Program:--The Grand Union Company, one of the nation's largest food chains, has begun marketing federally inspected fresh seafood in stores in its southern region. With the entrance of some 57 of the chain's Big Star stores in North Carolina, the majority of Grand Union's 378 markets will be participating in a voluntary program which offers processors and retailers impartial, certified inspection of fresh, frozen, canned, and cured fish and shellfish.

Animation for Cousteau:--The National Geophysical Data Center received a call for assistance from a New York City production company that is helping to produce a new Jacques Cousteau television series. The firm requested digital terrain data for the Channel Islands offshore of California that will be used in a 3-D animation for one of the Cousteau programs.

Alaska Storms Program:--From mid-February to March 9, scientists from OAR's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory and the Wave Propagation Laboratory participated in nine NOAA P-3 aircraft missions over the North Pacific Ocean as part of the Alaska Storms Experiment. Data from these missions will allow the study of life cycles of oceanic cyclones undergoing explosive cyclogenesis, an important prediction problem.

NOAA Man Strikes It Rich:--Michael Converse, a survey technician on the NOAA Ship Rainier, will split the \$5 million Washington Lotto jackpot with an Idaho couple. Converse, a 27-year-old bachelor who plans to stay with his ship when it leaves next week for a survey in Alaskan waters over the next five months, claimed the first of 20 annual checks for \$100,000 at the Spokane, Wash. lottery office Monday. According to the United Press International, Converse said, "I don't really know how to spend it," adding he will most likely throw a party for his 57 shipmates aboard the Rainier.

Naval Observatory Holding Open House:--This year's May 9 open house at the U.S. Naval Observatory will be held in conjunction with the national observance of Astronomy Day. All of NOAA is invited to tour the grounds and telescopes from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The observatory will open the famous 26-inch telescope, used to discover the moons of Mars in 1877. The recently restored 12-inch telescope will be equipped with a filter for observing solar flares and sunspots. The modern 24-inch telescope will be open and so will the 6-inch transit circle. The National Capital Astronomers, a local organization of amateur and professional astronomers, has agreed to set up their own telescopes for viewing out on the grounds and the U.S. Navy Band will present an open air concert at noon.

Winter Blahs and Sunshine:--The National Climatic Data Center's Sam McCown has supplied a Columbia University researcher with data listing daily minutes of sunshine and percentage of total possible sunshine for the greater New York area. Research has shown that major winter depression symptoms brought on by the seasonal reduction in sunshine are reversible through artificial light therapy. Energy loss, overeating, and oversleeping problems also have been alleviated by improved interior lighting. The Columbia researcher will use the NOAA data to see whether volunteers who keep daily ratings of sleep, mood, and energy levels show a correlation with the sunshine data.

NOAA On Cable:--Programs produced by NOAA will be presented in a series entitled "The Vital Sea" for a 13 week period March 30 to June 29 on the California State University, Long Beach, cable television channel. Titles include Ocean World (co-sponsored by the U.S. Navy), Sea Grant, Famous: Boundary of Creation, and Global Weather Experiment.

Deep Sea Pick-up:--Enroute from Seattle, Wash., to survey working grounds near Hawaii, the NOAA Ship Surveyor successfully recovered two deep-sea equipment arrays which were moored to the bottom of the ocean. A third array was checked using acoustic interrogation. The three moorings are part of a Scripps Institute/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute project funded by the U.S. Navy and the National Science Foundation. Dr. Bruce Howe of the Scripps Institute was aboard the Surveyor as Chief Scientist.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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