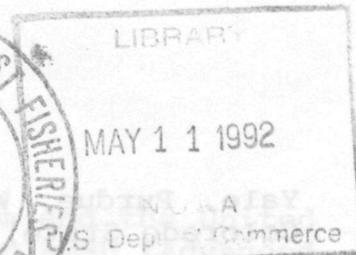
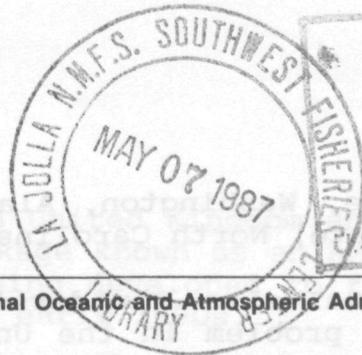




NOAA REPORT



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.

April 15, 1987

COMING UP

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

World Meteorological Organization Congress in Geneva, Switzerland, May 4-29.

International Hydrographic Organization Conference in Monte Carlo, Monaco, May 5-15.

NOAA Awards Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., at Andrews Air Force Base Officers' Club, Md., May 22.

U.S., Taiwan To Study Flood-Producing Storms:--NOAA scientists are among the U.S. experts who will participate in a joint study with scientists from Taiwan beginning May 1 to determine the causes of deadly flash floods like those in Pennsylvania and Colorado which claimed hundreds of lives in the 1970s.

The project, to be launched in Taiwan and called TAMEX for Taiwan Mesoscale Experiment, is aimed at improving understanding of mountain thunderstorms that trigger heavy rains. Such storms can cause flash floods.

Equipment to be used includes a NOAA WP-3 Orion research aircraft operated by NOAA, Doppler radars, conventional weather radars, research ships, a wind profiler, 75 ground surface weather stations, 121 rain gages, and 21 wind tower stations.

TAMEX is the first scientific effort between Taiwan and several major U.S. research organizations. These include NOAA, the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, and several universities including

Yale, Purdue, Washington, Alabama, Hawaii, Oklahoma, St. Louis, Colorado State, North Carolina State, and Florida State.

"Regional-size thunderstorms are the Number One weather forecasting problem in the United States," says NCAR's Ying-Hwa Kuo, TAMEX project co-director. "Any additional research will help us to improve our forecasts of these events, which occur in many parts of the world." Planning activities have been underway between the United States and Taiwan since 1985. Principal funding for the field project has been provided by Taiwan's National Science Council.

Americans Eating More Seafood:--For the third consecutive year Americans ate a record amount of seafood, consuming 14.7 pounds per person in 1986 and beating 1985's record of 14.4 pounds, the National Marine Fisheries Service reported. Record consumption of shrimp and the highest consumption of canned fish, primarily tuna, in 50 years helped boost the per capita figure. NOAA estimates that recreational fishermen added another three to four pounds of seafood to the American diet in 1986. According to NMFS marketing experts, the record per capita figure reflects a trend of steadily increasing fish and shellfish consumption that began in the late 1970s, when the typical American ate only about 11 pounds of seafood each year. The figures reflect the consumption of edible meat, rather than the weight of the whole fish, NMFS said.

Satellite Microwave Sounding Conference Set:--"Challenges of Satellite Microwave Sounding," a government-industry-academia conference bringing together some of the world's top remote sensing experts, will be held June 1-4 in Williamsburg, Va.

The NOAA-sponsored conference will include presentations by scientists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U.S. Air Force, United Kingdom Meteorological Office, European Space Agency (EUMETSAT), NASA, COMSAT, Aerojet General Corp., Hughes Aircraft company, University of Wisconsin, and Colorado State University. It will examine the challenges created by breakthroughs in microwave technology, especially related to polar-orbiting satellites of the 1990s. Also to be explored are opportunities for industry and academia to participate in developing requirements for microwave hardware and systems for future geostationary satellites and polar-orbiting space platforms.

By the turn of the century microwave instruments are expected to replace infrared sensors on environmental satellites, making it possible for the first time to take satellite soundings not only inside clouds but beneath them. Present sensors can take readings only at the tops of clouds.

In a joint undertaking by the United Kingdom and the United States, a microwave instrument package known as an AMSU (Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit) is now being developed to fly on polar-orbiting weather satellites in the early 1990s.

Conference co-chairmen are Dr. David H. Staelin of MIT and James C. Fischer of NESDIS.

Marine Data Speeds from Ocean to User:--Through a new data collection process, developed by units at the National Ocean Service, the National Weather Service, and the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service, the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) provided a complete ocean data set to Scripps Institution of Oceanography researchers within one month after observation. Normally, a data set of this kind takes three to four years. The data were sent through SPAN (for Space Physics Analysis Network), a NASA high-speed network that provides NODC with access to over 20 oceanographic institutions. The data transfer to Scripps was a prototype effort to speed subsurface temperature data to the ocean research community. Solutions of this kind will be critical to the success of global climate investigations such as Tropical Ocean/Global Atmosphere Program, the World Ocean Circulation Experiment, and NOAA's program in Global Climate Change.

Alaska Groundfish Emergency Rule Extended:--On April 3, NOAA published an extension of the emergency rule for the Fishery Management Plans for the groundfish fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Island areas. The extension was necessary to continue harvest limits, procedures for setting prohibited species catch limits, and the closure of specified areas to protect king crabs in the Gulf of Alaska. It also continues the requirement for weekly catch reports from domestic catcher/processor and mothership vessels in the Gulf and Bering Sea.

Sprinkler Malfunction Damages Library:--On the weekend of April 4-5, a sprinkler head broke in the basement of Washington Science Center's building 4, causing considerable damage to the NOAA Library collection. Initial assessments show about 2,000 journals were damaged and light fixtures and ceiling tiles must be replaced. The library is expected to be back in full operation by June 30.

Local Flood Warning Program Honors NWS:--A certificate of appreciation was presented Al Kachic, the National Weather Service's Eastern Region Chief of Hydrology, at the annual meeting of the Lycoming County Flood Warning Volunteer Observers organization in Williamsport, Pa. Nearly 200 persons attended the meeting, including representatives of state and county governments, emergency service organizations, river observers, and ham radio operators. The Lycoming volunteers have organized

an efficient community self-help program organized to help handle flood and flash flood events in the county.

The Sound of Thunder:--Is the sound of thunder from a severe storm or a tornado-producing storm pitched lower than other thunderstorms? A blind musician in central Wisconsin says his keen sense of hearing allows him to distinguish between the severe and "normal" thunderstorms. He is putting his beliefs to a test with the help of data from the National Climatic Data Center. The researcher will "listen in" on storms in his area, paying particular attention to those which produce thunder at frequencies of 40 hertz or lower. These are the storms he believes are most severe. He will compare his observations with data on the severity of the storms from NCDC to determine if his theory is sound.

NCDC Helps Cable Shopping Network:--The Cable Value Network recently contacted the National Climatic Data Center requesting hourly weather data for all major cities in the United States. The network is trying to correlate weather conditions with shopping via its cable television program. The research should show programmers when and where best to market their products.

NOAA Radio Tape Promotes Flood Safety:--Floods and flash floods kill more Americans in an average year than any other weather-related event. In the latest Sea and Air, NOAA's taped radio show distributed to 650 stations nationwide by Public Affairs, Frank Quinn, a hydrologist with the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, discusses flooding on the lakes - some of the worst since the 1900s - and why it is expected to continue for the next few years. And Weather Service hydrologist John Schaaque explains why people underestimate floods, the worst place to be when one strikes, and the proper safety measures to survive them.

CIRES Gets New Building:--The University of Colorado's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) hosted a ground-breaking for their new building April 7. CIRES, located in Boulder, Colo, and the largest of NOAA's Joint Institutes, brings scientists together from several different departments and disciplines to study the earth and its atmosphere in cross-disciplinary modes. The new building will provide 15,000 square feet of work space that will include a central, three-story laboratory core, two stories of offices, dry-lab space, a 100-seat auditorium, and dedicated computer room.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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