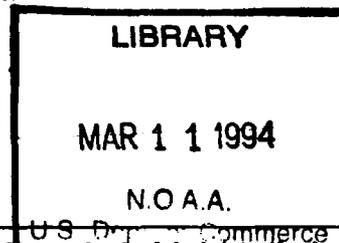




NOAA REPORT

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259

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COMING UP

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.

National Fisheries Institute Annual Convention in Dallas, Tex., April 7-11.

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

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

Japanese Cut U.S. Fishery Trade Restrictions:--The Japanese have slashed trade restrictions on U.S. fishery products in a move that could mean as much as \$400 million annually in increased sales for American exporters of processed Alaska pollock and Pacific herring.

The action follows a week-long meeting late last month in Tokyo between the Japanese and representatives of NOAA and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. The settlement will mean American producers will have virtually unrestricted access to Japanese markets for processed pollock, mostly in the form of surimi, a pollock product used as an ingredient in many traditional Japanese foods, and for herring.

The U.S. exported less than \$50 million worth of these products to Japan last year. Fishermen and processors in Alaska and Washington will be the chief beneficiaries of these new markets.

Satellites Come and Go:--As GOES-6, NOAA's new geostationary weather satellite, was maneuvered to drift westward toward its permanent station at 135 degrees west, another weather satellite was shut down after 8 years active service. On March 31, NOAA-6, a polar-orbiter with multiple problems brought on by old age, was deactivated. All communications links and on-board processors were turned off. Attitude control will be lost with subsequent loss of electrical power as the satellite's solar-energy gathering paddles will no longer be directed at the sun.

Dr. Calio Re-elected To IOC Council: Under Secretary Calio, who served as head of the U.S. Delegation and U.S. Representative to the 14th session of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Assembly in Paris in March, was re-elected to one of the 28 positions on the IOC Executive Council. In addition, U.S.- supported officers were elected to the positions of chairman and vice-chairmen. The IOC voiced strong support for the IGOSS/IODE (Integrated Global Ocean Services System/International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange) Programs and thanked the United States for offering lead support in drafting the IGOSS General Plan and Implementation Program for 1989-1995. The United States also was thanked for offering to host a workshop on international ocean data management in 1988.

Bass Moratorium Averted:--The Interior and Commerce Departments have jointly approved plans by New Jersey and the District of Columbia for managing striped bass in their jurisdictions, averting a threatened April 1 federal moratorium on striped bass fishing. Both entities were counseled last February that pending regulations for managing their striped bass populations did not comply with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Plan. (See NOAA Report, Feb. 4, 1987.) That plan calls for the Atlantic states and the District of Columbia to take steps that will protect the striped bass spawning stock in an effort to speed recovery of the highly prized fish. New Jersey and the District of Columbia now have set more restrictive regulations.

NOAA Scientist Gives Franklin Lecture:--Dr. Susan Solomon, a research chemist with the Environmental Research Laboratories, gave the prestigious Benjamin Franklin Lecture at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., April 7. Solomon is involved in ozone research at the ERL Aeronomy Laboratory. Last summer she led an expedition to the Antarctic to initiate studies of the seasonal decline of ozone over the South Pole. (See NOAA Report, Oct. 22, 1986.) The lecture was sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Science Board, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, highlighting National Science and Technology Week.

West Coast Facilities Welcome Visitors:--The NOAA Ship Davidson will hold open house at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oreg., April 18, concurrently with public visits to the offices of the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory's Marine Resources Research Division.

Space Center To Feature Weather Satellites:--The Office of Public Affairs is assisting the Kennedy Space Center visitor's center staff in developing a new 3500-square-foot exhibit area with the theme, "Satellites and You," which is expected to open in 1988. A Disney World designer is working with NASA to create the new 35-minute walk-through exhibit at the Houston, Tex., space center. Nearly 3 million tourists visit the center each year.

Wind Measurement For Structural Design:--Wind damage assessed by engineers is not always supported by the wind velocities reported by meteorologists and the news media. These differences were discussed by a workshop on the use of wind velocities in structural building design at the National Hurricane Conference recently held in Orlando, Fla. Much of the difficulty lies in the basis used for wind measurements; for example, whether velocities are stated as one-minute sustained winds or as peak gusts. The panel discussed the establishment of a common measurement system. Mark Powell of the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories represented NOAA on the panel.

Satellites A Hit With Science Teachers:--"The satellite segment was a great success," said Mary Harbeck following the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) annual convention held March 26-29 in Washington, D.C., and attended by 15,000 science teachers. Ms. Harbeck, cochairperson for the convention, was referring to the "Weather and Weather Satellites" segment, a mini-theme of the gathering. A special lecture by NESDIS Assistant Administrator Thomas N. Pyke, National Severe Storms Forecast Center director Fred Ostby, and local television meteorologist Bob Ryan highlighted this segment. Imagery from GOES and NOAA polar-orbiting satellites were copied via direct readout and given top billing by private companies in the conference registration area. The idea for the weather and satellite mini-theme was proposed last August by Robert W. Popham, head of the NESDIS direct readout program, who subsequently orchestrated the special lecture, the exhibits by the private companies, and special teacher's sessions addressing weather and weather satellite issues.

Sapelo Island Estuarine Reserve Hearing Set:--NOAA will hold a public meeting and meet individually with concerned citizens in Brunswick, Ga., April 14 to hear local views as part of an evaluation of the management and operation of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve. Areas of interest for the evaluation team, headed by June Cradick, include the state's management of the site as a national estuarine research reserve, development and management of a research program for the reserve, and the planned use and development of reserve facilities.

Weather Instruments Given Harsh Test:--When NOAA technicians installed Automatic Remote Collectors (ARC) at Saipan International Airport and Rota Airport in the northern Marianas last

summer, they couldn't have guessed the severe test the weather instruments were to receive December 3 as the center of typhoon Kim passed about 15 miles north of Saipan. The peak wind recorded by the ARC at Saipan International was 77 knots. Winds near the center of the storm were estimated near 140 knots. Most of Saipan was without electricity - winds ripped out power poles and broke transmission lines. By late afternoon more than 2,000 people were living in government shelters after their homes were destroyed. The wind and rain knocked out much of Saipan's communications, including its radio stations. Meanwhile, the two ARC's continued to operate under solar panel power (commercial power was unavailable for about four weeks), communicating their weather data via the GOES satellite.

Blood Donors Needed:--The American Red Cross, in cooperation with the Department of Commerce Health Unit, will conduct a blood drive April 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the conference rooms next to the Department auditorium. Please call the Health Unit at 377-4088 to schedule an appointment.

NOAA Tests Polluted Water Diving Equipment:--Divers successfully performed the first operational tests of polluted water diving equipment in the Western Caroline Islands recently. In a joint effort with Florida State University (FSU), NOAA divers obtained sediment core samples for a geochemical study of a saltwater lake. The 120-foot-deep lake is anoxic and contains high levels of ammonia, phosphate, and hydrogen sulfide. FSU scientists intend to study the lake's unique carbonate and phosphate mineral formations.

Phone Book Safety Rules:--The Fort Smith, Ark., telephone directory includes a section on tornado safety rules in its "Quick Reference Section." This is considered something of a breakthrough as many phone companies respectfully decline to include this type of information fearing precedent would oblige them to include fire prevention rules, the warning signals for cancer, etc.

Traffic Reporter Spots Sea Lion Harassment:--Score one for cooperation between NOAA and the media. On April 2, during morning rush hour in Seattle, Wash., traffic reporter Kathy Johnson of KING radio observed what appeared to be a small boat harassing a group of sea lions in the waters of the nearby Port of Everett. Her report prompted a joint effort by NMFS enforcement agents and the Coast Guard, who sped to the scene. One person was detained and questioned. In addition to reporting her observations, Johnson was able to take aerial photos of the incident.

FERS Overview To Be Shown:--On April 15 a 30-minute video on the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) will be shown continuously from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. in Room 6013 of the Herbert C. Hoover Building.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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