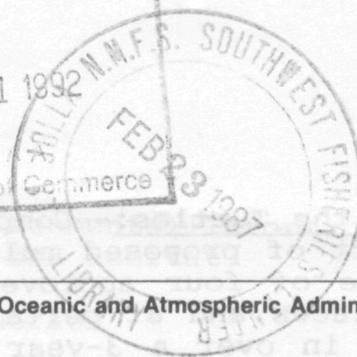




NOAA REPORT

MAY 11 1992

NOAA
U.S. Dept. of Commerce



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February 11, 1987

COMING UP

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Cold Water Hypothermia:"
John L. Ball, Jr., OAR, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., Feb. 13.

153rd National Meeting of the American Association for
the Advancement of Science in Chicago, Ill., Feb. 14-18.

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Sea Level Time Series in
the Equatorial Pacific from the GEOSAT Radar Altimeter:"
Robert Cheney, NOS, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., Feb. 20.

GOES-H launch from Cape Canaveral, Fla., Feb. 24
(rescheduled).

Symposium on 180th anniversary of the founding of the
"Survey of the Coast" in Rockville, Md., Feb. 26.

Help Wanted:--NOAA Report needs help from the field in
reporting items of interest to others in the agency. Short
pieces on projects or personnel submitted from readers will be
welcome. Submit items to NOAA Public Affairs, Rm. 6013, HCHB,
U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. Don't forget
to include your name and phone number.

GOES-H Launch Delayed:--NASA reports that the launch of
NOAA's GOES-H weather satellite has been rescheduled for Feb. 24.
during a 33-minute "launch window" which extends from 5:44 to
6:17 p.m. EST. The launch originally was slated for Feb. 19.

The space agency wants to replace a suspect switch which
selects between a pair of transmitters on the satellite which
sends image data to the GOES's central processing facility on the
ground. Identical switches failed during assembly and testing. A
switch failure on the orbiting satellite would mean it could not
change to a backup transmitter.

Save the Turtles:--Completed and cleared within NMFS is the final draft of proposed rules that will require shrimp trawlers to use one of four approved turtle excluder devices (TEDs) at certain places and at certain times. The TED requirement is to be phased in over a 3-year period. The TEDs allow turtles to escape drowning when caught in shrimp nets, providing essential protection to the critically endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles. Representatives of the environmental community and the shrimp industry worked closely together and with NOAA to develop the proposed rules.

Technology Transfer in Sahel: Sahelians, trained by the National Weather Service, have installed computer equipment which will aid agrometeorologists, agriculture extension workers, farmers, and agriculture decision-makers in mitigating the life-threatening effects of drought and seasonal variability in the northern African region. The mid-December installation of a VAX 11-780 minicomputer in Sahel marked a special milestone in the U.N.-sponsored Agrhymet (agriculture/hydrology/meteorology) Project. NOAA has been responsible for purchasing, installing, and maintaining minicomputers and communications gear in this multinational, multiagency project since 1977. This time, however, the installation was accomplished entirely by NWS-trained Sahelians. The new installation is part of a network operating in seven countries in a part of the world plagued by the three enemies of computer operation: dust, very high temperatures, and poor electrical power. A cadre of U.S.-trained Sahelians now performs most of the maintenance. The World Meteorological Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations direct the project with major funding from six countries in addition to the United States.

Restructuring of NMFS:--A restructuring of NMFS is underway designed to improve the organization's effectiveness, efficiency, and responses to the Secretary of Commerce and the fisheries constituency. According to William E. Evans, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, the headquarters staff will consist of a Deputy Assistant Administrator, an Executive Director, and associated support staff. The deputy will have primary responsibility for the management, science, and technical functions of each of the five regions and will report directly to the Assistant Administrator. The functions and personnel which currently make up Fisheries Resource Management (F/M) and the Science and Technology (F/S) groups will be divided into six operational offices reporting to the AA through the Executive Director, who also will be responsible for the headquarters support elements and administrative staff:

The six headquarters operational offices will consist of:

The Office of Enforcement
The Office of Fisheries Management

The Office of Fisheries and Environmental Information
The Office of Protected Species and Habitat
The Office of Industry Services
The Office of International Fisheries

"Once we have the organization for headquarters in place," said Dr. Evans, "we will proceed to Phase II of our reorganization, which will integrate Regional and Center management to improve our overall responsiveness."

Parlez-vous...?--NOAA can use your services if you speak or write a foreign language. The International and Intergovernmental Liaison Staff Office is surveying NOAA international affairs offices as the first step in preparing a NOAA language directory for the Washington metropolitan area, and is looking for individuals with fluent language skills (oral and/or written). The directory will help identify NOAA personnel whose assistance might be requested on an ad hoc basis for a variety of purposes, including document translation, general correspondence, briefings, training, and hosting of foreign visitors. The directory will not substitute for the NOAA translation program. If you can help out, contact Ann Bryant (377-8196).

20/20 Schedules Weather Feature:--ABC Television's popular program, 20/20, will air a segment on how TV weathercasters use Weather Service products to make daily forecasts tomorrow (Feb. 12) at 10:00 p.m. EST. Included will be interviews with experts from the National Meteorological Center, who will explain its operation.

Employee Assistance Program Contract Extended:--NOAA has extended for another year its contract with BEMW, Inc., to provide counseling services and other assistance for NOAA employees and their immediate families. Problems covered under the program includes alcohol and substance abuse and emotional/behavioral problems which may have an adverse effect on job performance. Additionally, the BEMW staff, along with external source experts, has offered workshops and seminars on such topics as stress management and self-confidence. This is the fourth year that BEMW's staff of professional counselors has provided services to NOAA employees under the Employee Assistance Program. For further information on the program, or location and office hours of the counselors, employees may call BEMW's hot line on 657-3662.

Radio Program Features Fish:--Listeners of 650 radio stations across the nation this week will hear of NOAA's support for commercial efforts to produce valuable fish oil and surimi, and involvement in providing needy students with low-cost lunches. In the latest "Sea and Air" radio program produced and distributed by Public Affairs, NMFS marketing expert Tom Billy

discusses the latest research in fish oil, and how it may reduce the risk of heart disease and affect other areas of American health as well. Meanwhile, Robert Nordstrom, an international trade specialist with Fisheries, explains U.S. attempts to produce an imitation seafood known as surimi and cut into a virtual Japanese monopoly. He also discusses a new pilot project to market 300,000 pounds of pollock nuggets for use in school lunch programs.

One World:--NOAA's Satellite Data Services Division is providing a full disk GOES satellite image of the earth to artist Peter Max who has been commissioned to produce a painting to commemorate 1986 as the International Year of Peace. The work will be on permanent display in the United Nations building in New York City.

Executive Exchange Program:--Kenneth W. Williston, of Rockwell International, has started a year-long assignment as technical assistant to the Administrator under the President's Commission on Executive Exchange Program. Williston, manager of flight systems at Rockwell's North American Aircraft Operations (home of the B-1 bomber) in Los Angeles, was among 17 executives selected from private industry to serve with government agencies while 7 federal executives took temporary assignments with the private sector. In addition to working with their assigned agencies, Williston and others in the program hold weekly meetings, participate in seminars, visit other agencies, and attend extended functions such as a week-long trip to the Harvard Business School and a 3-week tour of the Far East.

Beyond the 55-MPH Limit:--A transportation consultant working for the Federal Highway Administration recently called the National Climatic Data Center for hourly weather observations for locations in six states. He plans to correlate accident records for interstate highways with the observations to determine the extent to which weather was a factor. The effort is part of a larger study underway on the possibility of raising the 55 MPH speed limit.

Surf Clams Return:--On Feb. 4, NOAA filed a notice with the Office of the Federal Register proposing to reopen three areas closed to surf clam fishing for more than a decade. In 1975, ocean areas off Atlantic City, N.J., Ocean City, Md., and Chincoteague, Va., were closed to surf clam fishermen due to the presence of undersize clams. The closure, in place for the past 12 years, has allowed the surf clams to grow to produce greater yields.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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July 23, 2010