



NOAA REPORT

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COMING UP

American Meteorological Society annual meeting in New Orleans, La., Jan 12-17.

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

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Seasonal and Interannual Variability of the Tropical Atlantic Ocean:" A.J. Busalacchi, NASA/GSFC, WSC-5 Room 926, 10:30 a.m., Jan.16.

GOES-H launch from Cape Canaveral, Fla., Feb. 19.

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

Emergency Status for Alaska Groundfish:--Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige, acting on NOAA's advice, has determined that an emergency exists in the groundfish fisheries off Alaska that require immediate action. Portions of amendments to the Fishery Management Plans for the Groundfish Fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands were implemented effective Jan. 1. The action changes current procedures for changing harvest limits, establishes a procedure for setting prohibited species catch limits, closes specified areas around Kodiak Island to bottom trawling, and requires weekly catch reports from all U.S. catch/processor and mothership vessels.

Foreign Fishing Permits:--Foreign fishing vessels will be busy in U.S. waters this year, but NOAA knows who they are and what they'll be catching. The Magnuson Act requires NOAA to establish annual schedules and fees and issue permits for foreign fishing. According to the National Marine Fisheries Service, in



1987 fees have increased significantly while meeting all requirements of the Magnuson Act.

General fishing permits for 1987 were issued for vessels of Japan, China, East Germany, Poland, Korea, Italy, Spain, and Denmark. In the Bering Sea and Aleutians, 508 permits were issued for directed fisheries, while 141 were released for joint ventures. In addition, 123 permits were issued to Japan for the snail fishery and 10 for the Atlantic billfish and shark fishery. Korea received 19 permits for the Pacific billfish and shark fishery.

Authorizations totaling 211 were issued on the East Coast for joint ventures and directed fisheries for mackerel and very limited joint venture fisheries for squids and some dogfish.

Permit authorizations for 410 vessels in the joint venture fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska were prepared and are pending approval in time for the January 15 starting date.

Townsend Cromwell On Pacific Cruise:--Winds and cold notwithstanding, it's not winter for all NOAA employees; in particular the scientists and crew of the NOAA Ship Townsend Cromwell which currently is cruising the warm waters of the South Pacific. The vessel departed its homeport in Honolulu on January 2 and is working on a biological and oceanographic survey of albacore grounds in the southern subtropical convergence zone and bathymetric survey and assessment of insular fishery habitats in Niue and American Samoa. The research is being conducted by personnel of the Honolulu Laboratory and the La Jolla Laboratory of the Southwest Fisheries Center and by collaborating scientists from South Pacific island marine fisheries agencies and research institutions. The purpose of the cruise is to study the distribution and abundance of albacore in surface waters in order to further assess the potential for development of a surface albacore fishery in the region. They also will study the physical and biological characteristics of the ocean environment associated with high concentrations of albacore, in order to develop methods of predicting favorable fishing areas and conditions.

Late Paycheck Delivery:--Late paychecks continue to plague field personnel, but there seems to be no systemic problem, according to Dennis F. Geer, acting Director of the Office of Administration. While most problems with lateness are attributed to the postal delivery system, there are occasional delays in getting payroll tapes to Treasury dispersing offices, and on rare occasion, the Treasure Addressographs will distort a zip code which sends checks in the wrong direction. The problems are so random and sporadic that it is virtually impossible to find any

systemic problem, the finance people say. For example, pay period 24 produced late delivery to many of the central states locations serviced by the Kansas City Treasury and postal services, while in pay period 25, about eight stations serviced by the Chicago area were reported late. Employees are encouraged to avoid delays in pay by using the direct deposit system.

"Most Cited" Chemistry Research Paper:--A research paper co-authored by Susan Solomon of NOAA's Aeronomy Laboratory and Rolando R. Garcia of the National Center for Atmospheric Research was one of the 98 most cited chemistry papers published in 1983. The list is compiled from the Chemistry Citation Index, showing 1983 papers cited from 1983 through 1985. The paper, which appeared in the Journal of Geophysical Research, is titled "A Numerical Model of the Zonally Averaged Dynamical and Chemical Structure of the Middle Atmosphere.

NOAA Data Helps Weather Alarm Designers:--A manufacturer recently requested selected weather data from the National Climatic Data Center for stations across the United States. The firm plans to use the information to plot unusual changes in meteorological readings preceding dangerous weather - such as drops in atmospheric pressure prior to severe local storms. The data ultimately will be used in the design of a warning device that sounds an alarm when severe weather threatens.

NOAA Weather Radio Has Ups and Downs:--In December, the Nebraska Educational TV antenna at Basset, Nebr., collapsed bringing down with it the antenna for the NOAA Weather Radio which serves north-central Nebraska. Within 24 hours technicians salvaged enough of the NWR antenna and transmission line to get the system back on the air from a rooftop location. Even with half an antenna, reduced power, and lower elevation, Cornhuskers 25 miles away reported receiving a reliable signal. The educational television station plans to erect a 200-foot temporary tower until a permanent tower is built. NOAA Weather Radio will be beamed from both.

Hawaii Hearing:--NOAA will hold a public meeting, and meet individually, with concerned citizens Jan. 26-30 on Oahu, Kona, and Maui to evaluate the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program. The public session will be held at the statehouse in Honolulu Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. Areas of interest for the NOAA evaluation team, which will be headed by Debra Malek, include the state permit review, federal consistency reviews, and public information improvements.

NOAA To Help With Winter Olympic Forecasts:--Two National Weather Service forecasters will serve as members of an international team providing weather support for the 1988 Winter

Games in Calgary, Alberta. Donald L. Finch, WSFO Anchorage, and Stephen K. Todd, WSFO Seattle, will work with their Canadian hosts during the games to provide forecasts for all outdoor events and aviation forecasts for the heavy air traffic and special helicopter flights expected during the event.

On the Air:--The Office of Public Affairs reports that NOAA video clips (short film segments) on advanced weather information processing equipment, its carbon dioxide monitoring program, and studies of the "ozone hole" over the Antarctic have been aired by the Mr. Wizard television show, which is seen on about 150 U.S. TV stations. CAMEO, the taped story of the Office of Hazardous Materials' new system for quick identification of dangerous chemicals at disaster scenes, has been broadcast by Cable Network News.

Product Information Catalog:--Suggestions for the up-coming NOAA Product Information Catalog (PIC) are being analyzed and edited before going to press. The PIC, as its name implies, will contain comprehensive information on NOAA products and services and how to get them. During the next two months the draft PIC will be reviewed on an "as feasible" basis at conferences and seminars where persons familiar with NOAA are convening - e.g. the NWS Constituent Affairs Officers is making the PIC available for comment at the Family of Services Review Group Meeting and a seminar at the American Meteorological Society meeting in New Orleans, La. now in session.

NOS' Old Tide Machine On TV:--While NOAA's real-time tide predictions were the main subject, television crews from the NBC "Today" show, the CBS Evening News, Cable News, and Group W all used the National Ocean Service's 19th Century tide predicting machine at NOS headquarters in Rockville Md., as a background for interviews Jan. 2. The live interviews with Dr. John Hayes, an oceanographer with NOS, were prompted by the unusual astronomical tides that affected the Earth between Dec. 31 and Jan. 4.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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