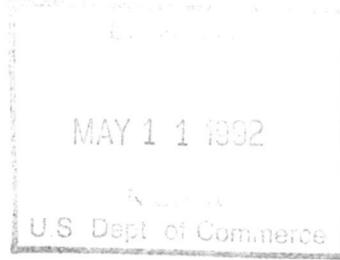




NOAA REPORT



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July 15, 1987

COMING UP

Satellite Data Users Conference in Boulder, Colo.,
July 14-16.

DOC Sea Grant Review Panel for Sea Grant 1987 in
Washington, D.C., July 19-22.

UNIDATA Policy Committee meeting at University
Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) in
Boulder, Colo., July 20-21.

Interagency Hydrometeorological Study Team
Quarterly Review Meeting in Denver, Colo., July 29-30.

Satellites To Carry X-ray Imagers:--Warnings of perilous solar storms and radiation will be improved by an x-ray imager on NOAA's geostationary satellites in the 1990s, NOAA and the U.S. Air Force report.

The Air Force will fund the instruments and NOAA will provide launch and operations services and research support.

The Imager will photograph the sun each minute from geostationary orbit, giving forecasters a chance to study the coronal holes and solar flares that provide information on the intensity and effects of geomagnetic storms and particle radiation heading toward Earth.

Images and data will be sent continuously to the joint NOAA-USAF Space Environmental Service Center in Boulder, Colo., where they will help forecasters provide more accurate 3-day forecasts of geomagnetic storms and minimum 20-minute warnings of approaching radiation.

High levels of solar radiation could be lethal to manned space flights in polar orbit, and solar storms can disrupt navigation, communication, electric utility, defense and satellite operations. (About 70 percent of satellite outages occur during these storms.)

The Solar X-ray Imager also will measure the flow of ultraviolet energy into the Earth's atmosphere. This energy can heat and expand the thin atmosphere in the paths of low orbiting satellites, increasing atmospheric drag and orbit decay.

Solar activity currently is monitored by satellite sensors and a global network of ground-based optical and radio telescopes. The network has limited imaging capability and cannot provide coverage at night or during cloudy conditions. Present satellite sensors can detect radiation only after it arrives at Earth.

The first Imager to be flown on a NOAA geostationary satellite is scheduled for launch in the early 1990s.

Dry Look for California:--Coming on the heels of the record flooding of February 1986, this year is shaping up as one of the drier years in California history, according to hydrologist Gary Barbato at the Redwood City Weather Service Forecast Office. The seasonal average precipitation for the entire state is about 65 percent of average, compared to the 60 percent experienced during the bad drought year of 1976, Barbato says. While projections indicate that 1987 will be the ninth driest year in the 82-year record for the Sacramento River Basin, an encouraging aspect of California's water supply picture is the fact that carry-over storage from 1986 in many of the State's reservoirs has maintained an adequate water supply for residents. However, the California Water Resources Control Board has classified 1987 as a "critical" water year ("critical" being the driest of the five categories used by the Board to describe a water year).

Ocean Venting Subject of NOAA Study:--NOAA researchers will return to the northeastern Pacific Ocean this summer to study how the venting of mineral-rich hydrothermal fluids from the ocean floor affects the sea's chemistry and heat distribution.

From mid-July until early September, scientists on the NOAA ship Discoverer will conduct physical, chemical, geological, and biological investigations along a 350-mile section of a spreading center, 100-200 miles off the Washington and Oregon coasts. Previously-discovered hydrothermal venting in this area is believed to play a major and persistent role in controlling the chemistry of the northeastern Pacific.

In mid-September the Discoverer will be joined by the submersible Alvin and its mother ship, Atlantis II. Alvin will conduct geological, chemical, and biological sampling and will deploy new instruments at the hot vents designed to record long-term physical and chemical changes.

NOAA's hydrothermal research program, according to Dr. Steven Hammond of the Pacific Environmental Laboratory in Newport, Oreg., is focused on predicting the effect of hydrothermal effluents on

chemical balances of numerous elements in the world's oceans. The extent of hydrothermal venting, even in the north Pacific, is still unknown, Hammond says, and geological factors appear to play a major role in the location and vigor of venting.

NOAA scientists will be joined on various stages of the cruise by researchers from the Universities of Washington, Hawaii, Florida, and Victoria, Oregon State University, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

NOAA Helps "Celebration of Flight":--The Des Moines National Weather Service Forecast Office had its hands full recently as hundreds of "unscheduled" airplanes flew into town for the "Celebration of Flight" Air Show. In addition to helping forecast the weather for the pilots and the 130,000 persons attending the show, NWS staffer Charles Bikle found time to give a seminar on the "Probability of Lightning" for the fly-in pilots.

Fishery Management Councils:-- Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige has named eight new members to the nation's eight fishery management councils and reappointed nine others. The appointments become effective August 11 and will run for three years. The councils, established by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, prepare fishery management plans for stocks of fish found in waters within their geographical areas.

The act requires that council members be selected from lists submitted by the governors of states served by each council.

The newly appointed members are:

New England Council: Arthur J. Odlin, captain and owner of the fishing vessel Holy Cross (Maine); Barry Gibson, editor, Saltwater Sportsman Magazine (Massachusetts).

Mid-Atlantic Council: Charles H. Johnson, Jr., executive director, New York Sport Fishing Federation (New York); Albert Goetze, (Maryland).

South Atlantic Council: Curtis W. Bostick, board member and treasurer, Florida Conservation Association, board member, Coastal Conservation Association (Florida).

✓ Pacific Council: Philip M. Anderson, owner, Harbor Boat Sales (Washington).

✓ Western Pacific Council: Roy N. Morioka, operations and engineering manager, Hawaiian Telephone Company (Hawaii); Edwin A. Ebisui, attorney (Hawaii).

Incumbents reappointed are:

New England Council: James Warren (Maine).

Mid-Atlantic Council: Warren F. Hader, president, Sportfishing Enterprises, Inc. (New York); Robert L. Martin, attorney (Pennsylvania).

Gulf of Mexico Council: William D. Chauvin, executive director, American Shrimp Cannery and Processors Association (Louisiana); Frank J. Barhanovich, Jr., president, Beach Seafood (Mississippi); Julius Collins, president, J. Collins Trawlers (Texas).

✓ Pacific Council: George J. Easley, administrator, Otter Trawler Commission of Oregon (Oregon).

North Pacific Council: Henry V. Mitchell, executive director, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, (Alaska); John G. Peterson, (Washington).

The at-large vacancy from South Carolina for the South Atlantic Council and the Puerto Rico vacancy for the Caribbean Council will be filled later.

Fliers, Boaters Urged To Check SARSAT Beacons:--Vacationers traveling anywhere by private plane or venturing by boat into the Great Lakes or off the U.S. ocean coasts should make certain they carry emergency locator beacons in good working condition, NOAA says in a news story scheduled for release July 16.

Properly functioning emergency beacons often spell the difference between life and death, according to James T. Bailey, NOAA manager for the international satellite life saving system known as COSPAS/SARSAT. (See NOAA Report, July 8, 1987, for a dramatic demonstration of the system's efficacy.) Rescue instruments aboard U.S. and U.S.S.R. satellites are constantly circling the Earth, listening for distress calls from emergency beacons.

Noting that a spot check of 140 aircraft beacons last year in Alaska revealed that half of them were not working while another 20 percent were in marginal condition, Bailey said, "No matter how effective the satellite system is, we can only locate aircraft and vessels that are equipped with fully operational beacons."

Cholesterol Screenings Offered:--The Commerce Fitness Center at the Herbert C. Hoover Building is offering cholesterol screenings in Room 2898 July 30 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The screenings, which give a total cholesterol count in five minutes and involve no fasting or use of needles, costs \$6. For more information or an appointment, call 377-0437.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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