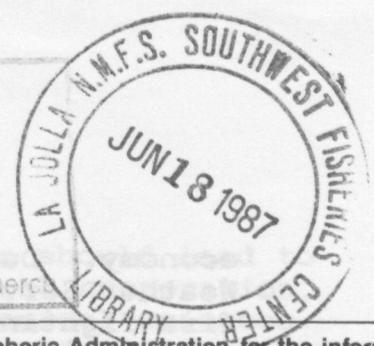




# NOAA REPORT

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**NOAA Report** is an administrative document, issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the information and use of agency personnel.

June 10, 1987

COMING UP

Fifth U.S./Peoples Republic of China Joint Commission (scientist exchange program) meeting and visits at Chinese oceanographic institutes in Beijing, China and other locations, June 11-26.

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International Whaling Commission meeting in Bournemouth, England, June 14-28.

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NOAA Officer training class graduation in Kings Point, N.Y., June 17.

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Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research meeting in Rockville, Md., June 23.

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U.S. Air Force Air Weather Service 50th anniversary at Scott AFB, Ill., June 30 - July 2.

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**Special Lightning Forecasts Issued:**--The Weather Service has begun issuing special lightning probability forecasts for the western United States this month to help fight forest fires. Forest management officials use the forecasts to plan for the deployment of fire-fighting equipment and personnel. The technique of forecasting lightning, developed by NOAA meteorologist Ronald Reap, gives the probability of cloud-to-ground lightning strikes during six hour periods for areas measuring about 30 by 30 miles. The forecasts use computer models of the atmosphere coupled with the records of more than four million lightning strikes which occurred during the summer seasons of 1983 to 1985 by the Bureau of Land Management's automated lightning detection network.

Cloud-to-ground lightning strikes caused an average of 10,000 forest fires a year between 1979 and 1982, burning 540,000 acres annually at a high cost to the nation's

economy. During the fire weather season, specially training Weather Service meteorologists issue forecasts in support of fire fighting activities.

**NOAA Equipment To Go Aboard Cooperating Ships:--** Technicians from the Atlantic Marine Center will install a Shipboard Environmental (Data) Acquisition System (SEAS) aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Eagle this month. The sailing ship Eagle is the Coast Guard's cadet training vessel and is a familiar sight at "tall ship" activities. The new SEAS will be used by the cadets to observe meteorological and ocean temperature data and to transmit the information to shore stations via NOAA's GOES satellite. The Eagle's operating area after the SEAS installation will be the tropical Pacific including stops in Tahiti, American Samoa, Tonga, and Australia.

Plans are being made to install another SEAS on the R/V Calypso, the Cousteau Society's primary research vessel which is featured on many of the Cousteau television programs.

**New Guidance Forecasts From NMC:--**In mid-May an automated system went operational at NOAA's National Meteorological Center which provides Weather Service forecasters throughout the United States with predictions of temperatures, precipitation wind, and cloudiness. These forecasts for 102 locations are produced by application of statistics to forecast data from the Center's improved numerical weather prediction system. This represents the first of several statistical guidance products based on a new numerical model that will be implemented during the next few years.

**Valuable Herring Roe Seized:--**National Marine Fisheries Service agents in Seattle and Bellingham, Wash., have seized 6,100 pounds of herring roe on kelp valued at over \$100,000. Commercial sale and export of herring roe from Alaska, where it is alleged the fish eggs originated, is unlawful. A recreational take of 50 lbs. is allowed. No arrests were made during the June 4 seizures, but felony indictments against five individuals are expected, according to the NMFS.

**Foreign Scientists On Researcher Cruise:--**Scientists from Germany, France, and Great Britain have joined colleagues from several U.S. institutions to conduct intercomparisons of sensitive chemical analysis techniques aboard the NOAA Ship Researcher in the vicinity of Hawaii. As a result of this cruise, sponsored by the NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories, scientists from a number of laboratories will gain greater confidence

in the data gained from such projects. This should lead to less duplication of effort, more international cooperation, and faster advances in the oceanographic chemical sciences. United States participants in the cruise include scientists from Washington State University, the University of California at Irvine, the University of Miami, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the Oregon Graduate Center, and Batelle Institute.

**Passaic River Basin Gets Flood Warning System:**--Homes and industry in New Jersey's Passaic River Basin received some valuable flood insurance with the issuance of a contract awarded recently for a warning system along the 80-mile long river. The system, which includes 31 event reporting radio rain gages; four county, two state, and three National Weather Service base receiving stations; and a combination radio/satellite backbone communications link, was contracted for by the Corps of Engineers, New York District, and the State of New Jersey. In addition to the contract, the U.S. Geological Survey will be installing 16 river satellite data collection platforms and three flash flood alarm devices, according to Solomon G. Summer, Weather Service Deputy Eastern Regional Hydrologist and Contracting Officer's Technical Representative to the Corps of Engineers during the project installation which is expected to take about 10 months.

**NOAA To Evaluate Florida's Coastal Program:**--NOAA will hold a public meeting and meet individually with concerned citizens in Florida June 22-26 to evaluate the state's Coastal Management Program. The public meeting will be held in Tallahassee. According to evaluation team leader, June Cradick, areas of interest include permitting policies, Federal consistency procedures, interagency coordination, and administrative procedures.

**SARSAT Exhibit To Paris:**--An exhibit featuring a bilingual videotaped presentation of SARSAT-COSPAS, the search and rescue system in which NOAA satellites play a vital role in locating ships and planes in distress, will be unveiled at the Paris Air Show June 11-21. Thus far, the system has achieved more than 800 "saves" of aviators and mariners in trouble.

**NMFS To Study Seagrass-Manatee Interactions:**--Observers believe that a decline of water quality is having bad effect on the seagrasses of Hobe Sound, Florida, a major feeding area for manatee and an important nursery habitat for spotted sea trout. Local, state and Federal concern over this relationship has led NOAA's Beaufort (N.C.) Fisheries Laboratory to initiate a cooperative research project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida

will study how the seagrasses are produced along with their composition and distribution of the seagrasses. Then, after determining their present distribution, and evaluate the effects of any regulatory measures involving their protection might have.

**Tornado Program In National Geographic:**--Catch the June issue of National Geographic just published. It features a highly complimentary 15-page article, titled "Tornado!" describing the tornado programs of the National Weather Service and the National Severe Storms Laboratory.

**Savings Bonds Guarantee Competitive Earnings:**--NOAA employees are urged to sign up for Savings Bonds during the current campaign which runs through June 19. Savings Bonds earn variable market-based interest, like money market accounts, if held for five years. The rate changes twice a year, on May 1 and November 1, and holder is guaranteed a minimum rate of return. All you have to do is hold your Bonds for five years or more and you will receive competitive rates with a guaranteed minimum.

### WATCH YOUR MONEY GROW

Save Every Two Weeks	For 5 Years		For 10 Years	
	at 8%*	at 6%*	at 6%*	at 8%*
\$ 7.50	1,147.24	2,655.00	2,888.22	
12.50	1,920.88	4,436.52	4,832.18	
25.00	3,848.68	8,882.20	9,680.14	
50.00	7,697.36	17,764.40	19,360.28	
100.00	15,394.72	35,528.80	38,720.56	

\*These do not represent current rates but are examples of possible yields.

**Summer Safety Program:**--The Commerce Health Unit in Room 6046, HCHB, is offering free literature and updated tips on summer safety during June. Information on first aid for insect bites and allergies, medications affected by the sun, helpful tips when traveling, and skin cancer is available.

**NMFS Acts To Protect Mackerels:**--NOAA has filed a preliminary notice of a reduction in the total allowable catch (TAC) for the Gulf of Mexico migratory group of king mackerel and a TAC and bag limit for the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico groups of Spanish mackerel. The National Marine Fisheries Service intends to protect the mackerels and still allow a reasonable catch by the important recreational and commercial mackerel fisheries. Public comments on the specifications will be accepted until June 24.

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# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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