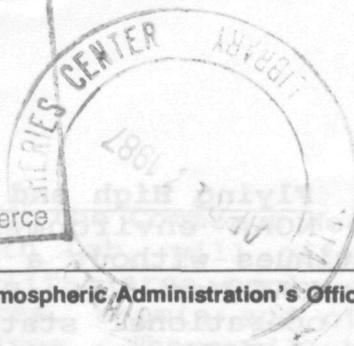
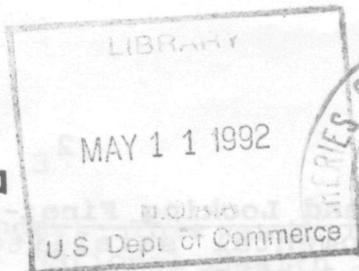




NOAA REPORT



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

Mar. 18, 1987

COMING UP

Nominations due for membership on the National Fish and Seafood Promotional Council Mar. 20

NOAA's GOES-7 satellite is scheduled to begin operations on Mar. 25

National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, Fla., Apr. 1-3

American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing-American Congress on Surveying and Mapping Annual Convention, Baltimore, Md., Mar. 29-30

Ferrel Sails in Science Probe:--The NOAA Ship Ferrel left the Atlantic Marine Center on Mar. 12 to launch a benthic surveillance project for the Ocean Service's Status and Trends Program. The ship will collect samples to assess the status and long-term changes in the environmental quality of Long Island Sound's coastal and estuarine areas. Participating will be members of the Environment Conservation Division of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center.

The cruise is part of a program to sample and measure disorders in fish and toxic chemicals in fish livers and in sediments at 50 coastal and estuarine sites from Maine to Alaska, including Chesapeake Bay. Next week the NOS Office of Oceanography and Marine Assessments will issue a preliminary assessment of sediment samples collected in 1984, the first year of the 10-year program.

New Bedford Still Champion Port:--The Fisheries Service has announced that, for the fourth consecutive year, New Bedford, Mass., topped all other U.S. cities in the value of its fish landings in 1986. Fish and shellfish worth \$106 million were landed, up from \$103 million in 1985. Dulac-Chauvin, La., was second in landings value with \$71 million worth. Cameron, La., was first in volume, as it has been for almost a decade, with 617 million pounds, down from 674 million in 1985. Most landings there were of industrially-important menhaden. Two Texas ports took dramatic leaps in landed value: Brownsville-Port Isabel went from \$50 million in 1985 to \$69 million last year, while Aransas Pass-Rockport landings went from \$43 million to \$60 million during the same period.

Flying High and Looking Fine:--The news is all good with the new NOAA environmental satellite, GOES-7. NASA's checkout continues without a hitch. It is scheduled to go into operation for NOAA Mar. 25. Beginning Mar. 20, GOES-7 will be moved toward its operational station at 75 degrees west. On Mar. 25 NOAA's second GOES satellite, GOES-6, will start a journey to a new station at 135 degrees west, arriving around April 24.

Interagency Snow Center Planned:--Specialists from the Weather Service, Soil Conservation Service, Agriculture Research Service, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Geological Survey are working toward establishment of a jointly-funded Snow-Hydrology Remote Sensing Center. Planned: an interagency cooperative effort to provide snow cover and liquid water content of snowpacks through the use of data from satellites and the Weather Service's gamma aerial radiation snow mapping program.

State Climatologists At NCDC:--Proposals by State Climatologists John James of Nevada, Glenn Conner of Kentucky, and Dean Bark of Kansas have been chosen from among eight excellent proposals to participate this summer on the National Climatic Data Center's (NCDC) State Climatologist Exchange Program. They will work at NCDC on station history, data quality, and climate summarization projects.

Progress On NEXRAD:--The progress of two competing contractors, Raytheon and UNISYS, for final independent testing prior to selection of a production contractor for Next-Generation Radar (NEXRAD) has been reviewed by the NEXRAD Policy Council (NPC). Members are Richard E. Hallgren, Weather Service director; Brig-Gen. George Chapman, USAF Air Weather Service commander; and Neal Blake, deputy associate administrator for engineering, Federal Aviation Administration. Both contractors appeared well prepared for final operational testing.

NGDC Aids Texas University:--NESDIS` National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) is assisting the Applied Research Laboratory of the University of Texas at Austin in the design of a system to collect and disseminate information about the positioning and operational status of Global Positioning System satellites to industry and other civilian interests. The University, under a contract with the U.S. Air Force, will provide a system including a real-time electronic bulletin board and an archive for retrospective users. NCDC satellite data, especially its anomaly data base which documents natural hazards to satellites, will be discussed with the laboratory in forthcoming meetings.

Flood Expert Honored:--Hill Alder, Weather Service area manager for Utah, has been given a Certificate of Appreciation by the Governor of that state for outstanding service during flood response and recovery operations in 1983, 1984 and 1986.

Blood Test Screening Reminder:--This month the Commerce Health Unit, in conjunction with the National Health Lab, will offer a series of blood tests to Washington metropolitan-area employees. Testing will be for high cholesterol, diabetes, anemia and other ills for which blood can provide diagnostic clues. There will be a \$15 fee, and those using the service are asked to fast after midnight the day of the test. Screenings will be held at the World Weather Building Mar. 19, at HCHB Mar. 24, and NBOC #1 Mar. 25. For further information on times and locations, phone the Health Unit at 377-4088.

Forecasters Get Media Training:--Personnel assigned to the Seattle Weather Service Forecast Office public service unit attended a media relations training workshop staffed by the Office of Public Affairs on Mar. 12. They were addressed by representatives of the wire services, the Seattle newspapers and TV stations. Hal Alabaster, Northwest public affairs officer, briefed the group on the handling of critical issues.

Frank On Hurricanes:--Neil Frank, National Hurricane Center director, testified before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Mar. 12 that the U.S. is more vulnerable to hurricanes than ever before and that unless quick action is taken to solve the problem "the price may be thousands of lives." Frank urged coordinated action by local, state and federal agencies to complete comprehensive evacuation studies of the entire Gulf and Atlantic coastline, develop local evacuation procedures and coastal strategies to minimize structural damage, develop forecast techniques, and develop hurricane awareness programs. He warned that time required to evacuate most hurricane-susceptible areas far exceeds the warning time which can be provided to populations of those areas.

On Film:--Work has commenced on an update of the NOAA film, "Seventh Service," the current, decade-old original film about the NOAA Corps. Research has been undertaken at the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y., where officers enter training.

Fishery Councils Act:--The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, meeting in San Antonio, Tex., has approved an amendment to the Secretarial red drum plan for purposes of public hearings; and requested to extend an emergency rule regarding Spanish mackerel for 90 additional days with a provision that fish taken under the bag limit may be sold only if the state where landed allows it.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council, which will meet in Anchorage Mar. 18-20, will study proposals to reconsider the amount of pollock allocated for domestic annual processing (DAP--fish caught and processed by Americans, with no joint-venture implications) in the Gulf of Alaska; prohibit pollock roe stripping in the Bering Sea; establish a 100-mile DAP zone around Unalaska Island; specify a minimum size limit for sablefish in all waters

off Alaska; and set up a framework to control by-catches of salmon and crab in the Gulf of Alaska.

Helping NASA Dodge Raindrops:--NOAA is working to help NASA's space shuttle dodge raindrops that could seriously damage the vehicle's tiles. A drop hardly larger than a pinhead may endanger the thermal tiles on a spaceflight, and one trip through a rainstorm could do a million dollars' worth of damage. The expensive tiles are on the vehicle to protect it and its astronauts from extreme heat during reentry.

NOAA scientists are seeking remote sensing techniques to identify types of clouds in which the sizes of raindrops can be readily spotted. A NOAA P-3 research aircraft is flying the tiles from a NASA shuttle through rain showers near Cape Canaveral, Fla., and Edwards Air Force Base, California, Dr. C.B. Emmanuel, chief of the science and programs division of the Office of Aircraft Operations, said. Further flights will be made next summer and fall in Florida, according to Jack Barneburg of NASA's Space Flight Center in Houston.

The tiles are fixed to a rack mounted beneath the aircraft's wing, and are observed in flight by a video camera. The angle of exposure of tiles to the flight is varied to simulate tile placement on various parts of the shuttle, and test flights are flown at varying speeds. Under certain conditions, the tile material can deteriorate if struck by drops larger than two millimeters. David Jorgensen and Joe Boatman of ERL are studying the meteorology and cloud physics involved, seeking to develop a remote sensing process to identify the raindrop sizes in a cloud. If NOAA can determine that undesirable damage occurs when the tiles are flown through clouds with characteristics identifiable by radar, shuttle controllers then can delay a launch if such clouds are in the vicinity.

Harassment Case Settled:--The captain of a Korean fishing vessel, charged with sexual harassment of a female Fisheries Service observer aboard his ship pleaded no contest on Mar. 11. Jun Sik Lee was fined \$5,000 in U.S. District Court.

In The Offing:PROTEUS, NWSRFS:--Weather Service hydrologists report significant progress in planning for two advanced projects: PROTEUS (for Prototype Real-Time Operational Test, Evaluation, and User Simulation), and NWSRFS (for NWS River Forecast System). PROTEUS is an interactive hydrologic model system allowing operators to manipulate massive amounts of data to provide maximum information; NWSRFS is a system of models describing the nation's river systems. Plans for both were advanced recently at sessions in Kansas City by the Office of Hydrology, the four contiguous NWS regions and the Alaska region.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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