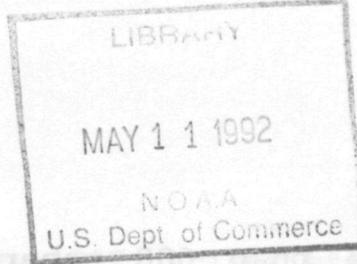




NOAA REPORT



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March 25, 1987

COMING UP

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

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

National Weather Service Directors Conference in Silver
Spring, Md., April 7-9.

17th Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology
in Miami, Fla., April 7-10.

American Meteorological Society/Society of American
Foresters Ninth Conference on Fire and Forest Meteorology in
San Diego, Calif., April 21-24.

Second US/PRC Cruise Completed:--The second joint United States/Peoples Republic of China cruise in support of air/sea interaction studies was successfully completed recently. A PRC research vessel left Gaungzhou on November 15, crossed the Philippine Sea, completed two transects of the equator on its eastward journey, serviced an environmental buoy and put into Australia for installation of a U.S. radar. Then the ship cruised in the Gulf of Carpentaria from January 5 to February 17, taking observations for the Equatorial Mesoscale Experiment (EMEX), an investigation on the role cloud systems play in heating the atmosphere north of Australia and the resulting effect on global climate.

CZ 87 Set for Seattle: "Coastal Zone 87," the world's largest conference on ocean and coastal zone issues will be held May 26-29 in Seattle, Wash. Under Secretary/Administrator Calio and numerous other NOAA officials will speak at the conference which will bring together nearly 1,500 marine specialists from the United States and 40 other countries to discuss the use, protection, and development of marine resources.

More than 600 papers will be presented in 80 separate technical sessions. Subjects to be discussed cover such topics as Congress and the coast, shoreline research and stabilization, public access to the coast, pollution and water quality, and citizen participation in coastal zone management.

Coastal Zone 87 is sponsored by the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Coastal Zone Foundation, NOAA, and 40 other government agencies, businesses, and organizations.

Weather Safety:--The death and destruction brought by tornadoes and how survivors are assisted are the subjects of the latest Sea and Air radio program distributed by Public Affairs this week to 650 radio stations nationwide. Fred Ostby, head of the Weather Service's National Severe Storms Forecast Center discusses a gradual decline in tornado deaths since the 1950's, the main reason tornadoes kill, why people underestimate them, and the proper safety measures to take in a tornado emergency. In addition, Peg Maloy, Public Affairs Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, explains how surviving victims can obtain help in recovering from the effects of these violent wind storms.

Joint Venture Catch Increases:--Through the first two months of 1987, U.S. trawlers participating in joint venture fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands region landed 383,324 metric tons of groundfish. This is a substantial increase over the 53,600-metric-ton-catch landed during this period in 1986 and represents 33 percent of the total joint venture catch taken last year.

NWS Deputy Regional Directors Named:--Under Secretary/Administrator Calio has selected four individuals to serve as Deputy Regional Directors of the National Weather Service. They are: Susan F. Zevin, Eastern Region; X. William Proenza, Southern Region; James H. Henderson, Central Region; and Richard J. Hutcheon, Western Region.

Pollution Studies In San Francisco Bay:--San Francisco Bay is being used by NOAA as a natural laboratory to find new methods for measuring pollution in the marine environment. The best methods discovered will be used by NOAA's national Status and Trends Program to improve future surveys under its current monitoring activities at 150 locations around the United States.

The studies will involve 11 contractors from California, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and British Columbia. They are a result of a nationwide search for ideas about the types of environmental quality measurements that can be made to assess the effects of pollution on coastal and estuarine organisms.

In November 1986 and again in early 1987, scientists sampled starry flounder, a bottom-dwelling flatfish common in the Bay. Tissue samples will be analyzed to determine the types and amounts of toxic chemicals, the degree of many physiological responses to the chemicals, and the prevalence of damage to chromosomes in the fish's cells. Some of the fish will be spawned to determine if reproductive success is impaired by exposure to toxic chemicals. In addition to the studies of starry flounder, a series of tests of sediment quality began last month designed to measure toxic chemicals in the Bay and the effect they may have on marine life.

In both the fish and sediment studies, the scientists expect to find marked differences in the biological response to contaminants at sites that are known to be "clean," and at those that are expected to be most contaminated. Those measures that best reflect this "contaminant gradient," and are relatively inexpensive and biologically meaningful, will be the prime candidates for future use in NOAA's national monitoring efforts.

On Droughts' Predictable Unpredictability:--Dr. Nathaniel Guttman of the National Climatic Data Center caught the media's attention with a paper on "Drought History and Chances of Recurrence" presented at the 1987 Southeastern Drought Symposium in Columbia, S.C., March 4-5. Following his talk, he was interviewed by four broadcast stations and two newspapers. He told the reporters that for the past 91 years, droughts have been a normal feature of recorded U.S. climate. He mentioned the random nature and lack of patterns in how droughts begin and end. Emphasis was placed on the fact that droughts will occur in the future; that precise forecasting of the onset, duration, and severity of droughts presently is not realistic; and that planners should prepare their response to the next drought in advance.

Employee Lauded for Weather Preparedness Work:--Joseph Johnson recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Disaster and Emergency Services Division of the State of Montana. The certificate cited Johnson for his work as National Weather Service Disaster Preparedness Officer at Great Falls, Mont., and his "significant and meritorious contribution to the success of the emergency preparedness program in Montana." Johnson currently is Official in Charge of the weather office in Astoria, Oreg.

Satellite Service at WRC:--Service Argos, a commercial firm which is contracted to provide satellite data interpretation to NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratories and similar services to other users, has leased office space at NOAA's Western Regional Center. The office's director, David Clark, says the move was made "to provide better service and closer liaison to users." Service Argos is involved with processing data from NOAA's polar orbiting satellites.

Paycheck Delays: NOAA employees who receive their paychecks at their worksites may be in for "considerable delays" in delivery of their checks, according to the Office of Administration. The Treasury Department has notified the Department of Commerce that it can no longer justify the expense of sorting and distributing salary checks to multiple designated agents. As a result, approximately 9,000 checks will be delivered to one central location at the Commerce Department. Subsequent distribution to individual worksites throughout DOC will be a time-consuming process. NOAA employees who do not use direct bank deposit or home delivery of their paychecks will be receiving their checks late as a result of this "double-distribution." Management and Budget staff in the Line Offices and the Union have been contacted regarding this change and urged to encourage employees to use Direct Deposit Electronic Funds Transfer (DDEFT) or home (mail) delivery. Line Offices will be furnished a listing indicating which employees need to make the change.

Private Sector Taking Over Weather Recordings:--Private companies are being encouraged to take over telephone weather recordings, a service long provided by the National Weather Service. The Weather Service Office in Spokane, Wash., has found a television station to take over the service in the metropolitan area, and the weather office in Yakima has made a similar arrangement with a local radio station. The firm Weatherline, Inc., is seeking companies in Portland, Oreg., and Reno, Nev., to sponsor the recordings. NOAA has encouraged NWS station managers who still have recording equipment and leased telephone lines to seek private companies to take over this service.

Salmon-scam Investigations:--NOAA attorneys and NMFS agents met in Seattle, Wash., March 17 to coordinate the investigation and prosecution of illegal international salmon trading schemes. In one Lacey Act forfeiture action in Tacoma, Wash., NOAA claims that 594,464 pounds of salmon were brought into the United States after having been illegally exported from Taiwan. Another action filed in Seattle seeks the forfeiture of 208,000 pounds of salmon, seized in Bellingham, that were being falsely labeled "Product of the U.S.A." after having been imported from Japan. NMFS agents also recently seized an additional 300,000 pounds of salmon from the San Francisco-area office of the importer of the Bellingham salmon alleged to be part of the false-labeling scheme. A forfeiture action against this fish will be filed soon.

✓ **Cromwell Comes Home:**--The NOAA Ship Townsend Cromwell arrived at homeport in Honolulu, Hawaii, March 17. The vessel was conducting a biological and oceanographic survey of albacore grounds, including a bathymetric survey and assessment of insular fishery habitat in Niue and American Samoa.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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July 23, 2010