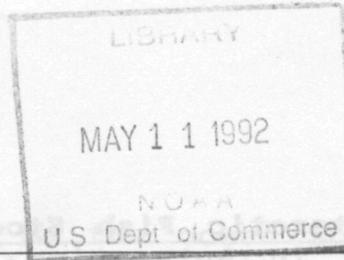


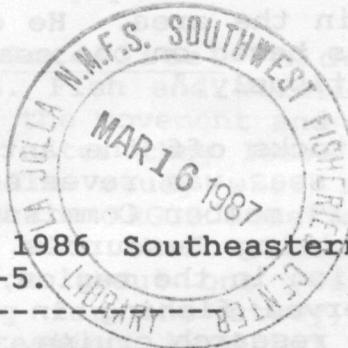


NOAA REPORT



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March 4, 1987

COMING UP

Symposium on the 1986 Southeastern U.S. Drought in Columbia, S.C., March 4-5.

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "1986-1987 El Nino and El Nino Forecast for 1987:" Steven E. Pazan, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, WSC-5, Room 926,, 10:30 a.m., March 6.

Tornado Workshop for news media at the National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, Mo., March 6-7.

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Interdisciplinary Analysis of the Marine Environment:" Dr. Celso S. Barrientos, NESDIS, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., March 13.

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

New Satellite Launched:--GOES-H, NOAA's new environmental satellite, was launched at 6:05 EST on February 26 from Cape Canaveral, Fla. When it becomes fully operational on March 24, the satellite will be called GOES-7. GOES (for Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite) orbits the Earth 22,300 miles above the equator beaming down the images of North American weather familiar to the watchers of television news shows. The new satellite will bring the United States back to the two-GOES system which uses satellites stationed over the Pacific Ocean and over South America to provide nearly complete coverage of the Western Hemisphere. Since 1985, a single satellite - GOES-6- has been shuttled back and forth in its orbit each year to chart hurricanes and ocean storms affecting both coasts. (NOTE: Last week's NOAA Report erroneously stated that the GOES launch has been postponed to March 25. We regret the error.)

Antarctic Fish Stocks May Be Depleted:--Heavy commercial fishing in Antarctica, primarily by the Soviet Union, has substantially depleted fish stocks in the region, according to a survey being conducted by NOAA fisheries scientists. William E. Evans, head of the National Marine Fisheries Service, said substantial decreases in fish populations could adversely affect other marine life in the area. He cautioned, however, that the stock evaluation was based on one season's survey effort and must be interpreted "cautiously."

The loss in stocks off the Antarctic Peninsula and in the Scotia and Weddell seas was revealed in reports from fisheries scientists to the 19 member Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. The Soviet Union is the primary fishing nation in the region, and group of 6 to 12 Soviet trawlers were observed fishing in the survey area during the December leg of the research cruise.

Catches in the South Georgia region, about 1,000 miles east of the tip of South America, increased from approximately 4,000 tons in the 1972-73 season to a peak of a half-million tons in 1979-80. Then they dropped to less than 75,000 tons in 1984-85.

During the early years of harvesting, target species included the cod-like Notothenia, now apparently severely depleted. The commission eliminated fishing for Notothenia in 1984. The stocks of Notothenia in South Georgia waters this season are estimated at one-tenth those observed on an exploratory cruise conducted by West Germany in 1982, Evans said. Data from the survey suggest that icefish, a medium-size, bottom-dwelling species heavily fished in the late 1970s, are depleted or approaching depletion.

The survey is being conducted jointly by NOAA and the Sea Fisheries Institute of Poland on the Polish vessel Prof. Siedlecki. Analysis is underway by U.S. and Polish scientists to confirm the preliminary findings.

Snow Surveys Aid Flood Forecasters:--During the last week of February, NOAA's Airborne Snow Survey Program ran 86 flight lines over portions of Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota to support National Weather Service spring flood outlooks. The group measures snow depths and calculates its water equivalent when melted to aid forecasters during the annual snowmelt flood period. In the next two weeks, the group is scheduled to fly over portions of New York, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Maine, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, and Wyoming to determine snow water equivalents.

Hall Receives AGU Award:--J. Michael Hall, Director of OAR's Office of Climatic and Atmospheric Research, has been presented the American Geophysical Union's Ocean Science Award for

"outstanding and longstanding service to the ocean sciences community." Special tribute was paid Hall's leadership as leader of NOAA's Tropical Ocean/Global Atmosphere (TOGA) effort in developing a "remarkably effective program that is leading towards the first real understanding of global air-sea interaction on climate scales."

Turtle Tracking By Satellite:--Aided by satellite technology, NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will conduct a joint study of the movement and migration patterns of Kemp's ridley sea turtles after they leave the nesting beach at Rancho Nuevo, Mexico. The study will rely on satellite transmitters operated through the ARGOS locating system. Twenty to 25 turtles will be tagged with these transmitters, which are being designed to operate for about one year. The FWS will provide most of the funding for the study, while NMFS will contribute with transmitter testing, handling incoming satellite data, and data analysis.

NOAA Marine Weather Brochure:--The National Weather Service and the Boat Owners Association of the United States (BOAT-US) have agreed to produce jointly a marine weather brochure for recreational boaters. The brochure will discuss the importance of weather to boaters and describe the weather warning and forecast services available from NOAA. The NWS is preparing the text, and BOAT-US will supply graphic art, printing, and provide NOAA with 50,000 copies for distribution to the public.

EMEX Flights Successful:--Drs. Robert W. Burpee, Frank D. Marks, Jr., and John F. Gamache of NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory report that 10 highly successful research missions were completed aboard NOAA's WP-3D aircraft during the Equatorial Mesoscale Experiment (EMEX) from January 14 to February 3. Nine organizations from the United States and Australia participated in this effort to provide useful data for weather prediction and climate studies. The WP-3D flew at midlevels over the waters off northern Australia collecting Doppler radar, microphysics, and radiative flux data. In addition to the data collected for EMEX, unique information about Australian monsoon rainbands was gathered on two flights, including measurements in one rainband through all phases of its growth and intensification.

Frozen Fish Supply Down In January:--The January supply of frozen fish and shellfish held in warehouses across the United States fell nine percent from the previous month to 321.9 million pounds NOAA fishery specialists report. Among the most important products in storage were 40.9 million pounds of frozen blocks and slabs (mostly cod, flounder, haddock, and Alaska pollock), off nine percent from December, and 48.4 million pounds of frozen fillets and steaks (mostly cod, flounder, and ocean perch), off 11 percent from December.

Avalanche Disaster Brings Calls:--Dr. Richard Armstrong of the National Geophysical Data Center in Boulder, Colo., and a staff member of the National Snow and Ice Data Center (World Data Center-A for Glaciology) gave numerous interviews to the news media, including the Associated Press and major Colorado newspapers, and radio and television stations, following a major avalanche disaster February 10. The unusually large snow avalanche claimed the lives of four skiers on Peak Seven of the Ten Mile Range in northern Colorado near the Breckenridge Ski Resort. Dr. Armstrong was able to provide the media with information on the general characteristics of avalanches and avalanche safety.

Mariner's Museum To Maintain Monitor Artifacts:--The Mariner's Museum of Newport News, Va., has been selected by NOAA as the principal museum for the long-term curation, preservation, interpretation, and management of artifacts recovered from the wreck of the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor.

Other groups submitting proposals to maintain a principal Monitor museum will also have an opportunity to participate in the display and interpretation of artifacts. This could include loans of artifacts and the interpretation of specific aspects of the Monitor story.

As custodian of the existing collection of Monitor artifacts and records, the Mariner's Museum will establish a research library, a project archives, and a conservation facility for NOAA's USS Monitor Project. The project will evaluate options for preserving artifacts and recommend what would be done with the shipwreck.

Herbert Kaufman, chief of NOAA's Marine and Estuarine Management Division said, "The Mariner's Museum is the only candidate that meets all published criteria for a principal Monitor museum, including the fact that it already has a facility capable of preserving and interpreting the existing collection of Monitor artifacts, records, research material, and film."

NOAA also is considering a separate proposal from the State of North Carolina to erect a maritime interpretation center at Cape Hatteras, N.C., that would feature the Monitor as the most famous shipwreck in the "Graveyard of the Atlantic."

The Monitor wreck lies in 230 feet of water 16 miles off Cape Hatteras in the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, managed by NOAA.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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July 23, 2010