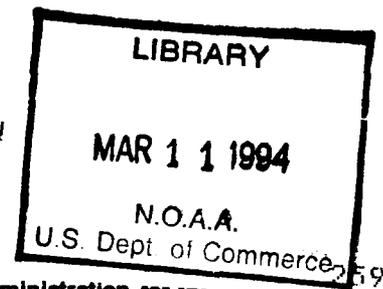




NOAA REPORT

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May 13, 1987

COMING UP

NOAA/U.S. Geological Survey hydrologists' quarterly meeting in Silver Spring, Md., May 13.

Marine Technology Society (D.C. Section) luncheon meeting in Washington, D.C., May 14.

American Geophysical Union spring meeting in Baltimore, Md., May 18-22.

Dedication of new National Weather Service Forecast Office facility in Norman, Okla., May 22-23.

NOAA Awards Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., at Andrews Air Force Base Officers' Club, Md., May 22.

Coastal Zone Expo 87 in Seattle, Wash., May 25-29.

USS Monitor expedition at the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, Cape Hatteras, N.C., May 27-June 9.

Climate Symposium at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, May 27-28.

Public Cautioned Not To Disturb Puget Sound Whales:--The sighting of a pod of 30 false killer whales in southern Puget Sound last week prompted NOAA to warn boaters not to approach or disturb these animals. Vessels should stay at least 100 yards away from any marine mammal, NOAA cautioned, otherwise they may be violating the Marine Mammal Protection Act. People disturbing or harassing marine mammals could be fined up to \$10,000.

The false killer whale, a small toothed whale reaching lengths of 18 to 20 feet, normally are found offshore in tropical and warm temperate ocean waters. Sightings north of Baja

California are rare. The only previous sighting of this species in Puget Sound was a single animal in May 1937. As the species' normal habitat does not include inland waters, it is essential that whales are left undisturbed so that they can find their way out of the Sound, NOAA marine biologists said.

The National Marine Fisheries Service is coordinating the efforts of state organizations and marine mammal experts in the Northwest Marine Mammal Stranding network to assure that all agencies involved are prepared to respond to any problems that may occur with these animals.

Aircraft Icing Forecast Plan Published:--A "National Plan to Improve Aircraft Icing Forecasts," has been published by the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research. The plan describes a national program for improving the detection, monitoring, and forecasting of aircraft icing, a major hazard to high-flying commercial aircraft.

Coastal Management Program Meeting Set:--NOAA will hold public meetings and meet individually with concerned citizens this month in Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and New Hampshire to evaluate the states' coastal management programs. The Pennsylvania meetings are scheduled for May 12-13 under the direction of evaluation team leader Eric Hughes. In South Carolina, the meetings will be held May 18-22, with Debra Malek as NOAA coordinator. The New Hampshire meetings, with Ed Lindelof as team leader, will be held May 18-20.

Paulson Honored by Twin Cities:--The Federal Executive Board of Twin Cities, Minn., recently presented Byron Paulson, of the Minneapolis Weather Service Forecast Office, with a 1987 Civil Servant of the Year Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the community. The group cited Paulson's efforts in setting up snow reporting stations to supply information from areas not covered by the Weather Service's regular weather observing network, and recruiting about 40 radio stations throughout Minnesota to make snow reports.

Awards Luncheon Countdown - One Week:--May 18 is the deadline for tickets to the NOAA Awards Luncheon to be held May 22 at 11:30 a.m., at the Andrews Air Force Base Officers' Club.

PROFS Promotion Planned:--Personal letters have been sent by the Office of Public Affairs to approximately 50 of the country's leading science writers inviting them to view NOAA's Program For Regional Observing and Forecasting Services (PROFS) in operation during the summer months at the Environmental Research Laboratories in Boulder, Colo. PROFS is a highly advanced "desktop weather station" with extremely sophisticated display capability, and is a key element of the weather service of the 21st century. Among early acceptances: NBC-TV's Joe Witte, WRC-TV's Bob Ryan, and Lee Dye of the Los Angeles Times.

May Is High Blood Pressure Month:--Free blood pressure screening will be given NOAA employees in many areas as the nation observes National High Blood Pressure Month in May. High blood pressure, or hypertension, contributes directly and indirectly to over one million deaths a year and it affects approximately one out of every four or five American adults. Many deaths can be prevented if hypertension is detected early and controlled properly. Blood pressure screenings are available from the Hoover Building Health Unit and in the cafeteria during May. Check the Health Unit for times.

New Hurricane Preparedness Videotape:--A new hurricane preparedness videotape has been produced by the South Carolina Educational TV Network with advice and support of the National Weather Service at Charleston. The tape was supported by a grant from the National Ocean Service's Office of Coastal and Resources Management and the South Carolina Coastal Council. It has been sent to all east and Gulf coast weather offices for awareness training.

New Yorkers Welcomed Aboard NOAA Ship:--An open house is planned for the NOAA ship Ferrel May 15-16 at New York's South Street Seaport Museum. The 133-foot survey ship conducts coastal and estuarine circulatory studies off the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from its home port in Norfolk, Va.

NOS Presents Unusual Chart Proposal:--The National Ocean Service has presented to the Interagency Air Cartographic Committee a unique proposal for revision of the Los Angeles Sectional Chart. The proposal, if approved by the IACC, will permit addition of an inset of the Los Angeles area on the LA Sectional Chart, to enable pilots to navigate safely without having to flip to the other side of their chart or use the larger scale terminal area chart. The inset proposal took some 380 hours to develop between its receipt from the FAA in late April and the May 8 IACC meeting. If approved, the inset will be included in July 30, 1987, chart revision.

Cellular Weather:--The National Climatic Data Center recently provided climatological information on Ohio's weather to Rand McNally. The map publishers are producing a cellular (wireless) phone travel guide for a firm located in Ohio, and plan to include climate data for numerous locations in the state.

OUR Begins 1987 Diving Program:--NOAA's Office of Undersea Research (OUR) is beginning its science diving program for 1987. The office provides funding support for over 600 dive-days from May through September, using eight submersibles and six remotely operated vehicles. More than 250 scientists from the federal, state academic, and private sectors are involved in this research, representing all of the major disciplines in oceanography.

Vermont Weather Station Helps Author:--Special thanks were offered the Burlington, Vt., Weather Service Office by Gail Gibbons, author of a children's book about the daily operations of a modern weather office during the four seasons. The Burlington staff provided technical advice for Ms. Gibbons' book, "Weather Forecasting," scheduled for publication shortly.

Marine Technology Society Luncheon:--Captain Al Cheaure, Deputy Oceanographer of the Navy, will be the guest speaker at a luncheon meeting of the Washington, D.C. Section of the Marine Technology Society on May 14. The luncheon meeting will be held at the Channel Inn Restaurant, 650 Water St., S.W., beginning at 11:30 a.m. For reservations call 462-7557.

NGDC Helps New Mexico Celebrate Anniversary:--New Mexico wanted to try something a little different to mark its 75th anniversary so, with some help from NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center, it arranged to have its picture taken. The University of Colorado, which archives satellite data under contract with NGDC, was contacted with New Mexico's request to have a satellite take a nighttime photograph of the whole state as part of its anniversary commemoration. With NGDC coordinating the effort, the Air Force agreed to turn on the visible-band sensor of one of its meteorological satellites on January 6, the night of the anniversary, when participating citizens held lamps toward the sky, burned fires, and lit candles as part of the celebration. A poster showing the state as viewed by the satellite is being produced. U.S. Senator Jeff Bingman of New Mexico has written a letter of appreciation to NGDC on behalf of the state.

McArthur On Acid Rain Cruise:--The NOAA ship McArthur left its Seattle, Wash., home port May 7 to work on the Radiatively Important Trace Species (RITS)/Acid Rain program. The cruise is part of a large national program to assess the natural sources of sulfur and nitrogen to the atmosphere. The program is specifically intended to further the understanding of the role of the ocean in global and regional sulfur and nitrogen cycles. The McArthur will conduct measurements of air and surface water characteristics off the coast of Washington.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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