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COMING UP

American Meteorological Society Conference on Radar Meteorology in Boston, Mass., Nov. 9-13.

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Meeting in Providence, R.I., Nov. 10-11.

International Polar-Orbiting Meteorological Satellites Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, Nov. 12-13.

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "A Non-Equilibrium Thermodynamic Paradigm for the Evolution of Living Systems:" Eric D. Schneider, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., Nov. 13.

Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research in Rockville, Md., Nov. 17.

3rd Biennial Exclusive Economic Zone Symposium in Reston, Va., Nov. 17.

U.S.-Soviet Climate Agreement:--The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to undertake more than 30 joint climate research projects next year, increasing present cooperation in studies of human effects on climate. The agreement was reached by Working Group VIII, U.S.-U.S.S.R. Intergovernmental Bilateral Agreement on Environmental Protection. Alan Hecht, Director of the U.S. Climate Program Office, situated in NOAA, and M.I. Budyko, head of the climate change and atmospheric water cycle department of the U.S.S.R.'s State Hydrological Institute, are co-chairmen of the Working Group. The agreement came after two weeks of discussions among scientists, environmental leaders, and Members of Congress.

Both sides expressed concern over the depletion of stratospheric ozone over the Antarctic and agreed on the importance of continuous space observations, such as those now being conducted by the United States, for monitoring its evolution. Both sides will explore possible areas of joint cooperation to ensure continuation of uninterrupted observations of similar or equivalent quality.

Activities will include:

- Coordination of ozone measurements over the Antarctic, and exchange of ozone data;

- More collaboration on one- and two-dimensional modeling of ozone and other trace gases, with a cooperative program to measure chlorofluorocarbon uptake into Lake Baikal;

- Development of a joint program to calibrate American and Soviet lidars used to measure stratospheric aerosol concentration;

- Development of a joint experiment on Heiss Island (Franz Josef Land) to study the relationship between stratospheric aerosols in the Arctic and their effect on ozone in the stratosphere;

- Beginning discussion of climate change effects on agriculture and hydrology;

- Development of a proposal to measure the release of naturally produced methane from permafrost regions of the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., and an exchange of proposals to initiate studies of past temperature changes in permafrost regions.

- Preparation of a joint publication to assess the understanding of future climate change and its potential importance to society;

- A series of exchanges over the next 18 months to review modern climatic trends and past conditions as a possible basis for projecting climate conditions.

A proposal calling for the organization of a new activity under the agreement to study appropriate response strategies to climate change will be reviewed by both sides for future action.

NOAA Satellite Launch Delayed:--The launch of the next NOAA polar-orbiting weather satellite has been postponed from February to April 1988 as a result of an Air Force launch conflict. NOAA had requested that its satellite be launched by the Air Force on schedule to replace the partially disabled NOAA-9 satellite, which has already exceeded its two-year design life. The

satellite provides important input to global numerical weather models. Scientists have developed new techniques to make the most of NOAA 9's fading capabilities, enabling NOAA to continue providing satisfactory numerical weather forecasts until next spring.

NGS Helps Measure U.S. Crustal Strain:--The National Geodetic Survey and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission have entered into an interagency agreement to determine strain in the crust of the eastern two-thirds of the contiguous United States. A network of 44 Global (satellite) Positioning System stations is planned, and distance measurements are expected to be accurate within 1 part in 1 million. The measurements should provide a fairly detailed picture of deformation occurring in parts of the North American plate, which may help to identify active tectonic structures and to determine rates of deformation. Such information will be valuable in safety studies for current and planned nuclear facilities.

Fish Export Increase Points to Banner Year:--United States exports of fish products jumped sharply by \$372.5 million in August 1987, bringing the total for the first eight months of the year to \$1.125 billion. This represents an impressive increase of 18 percent over the January-August 1986 period, according to William E. Evans, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. Most of the increase reflects improved sales to Japan. Based on these trends, NMFS projects 1987 exports to be \$1.6 billion compared to 1986 exports of \$1.356 billion.

NOAA Featured On "Good Morning, America":--For those of you who don't watch television before 6:00 p.m., NOAA officials, and the NOAA Ships Ferrel and Mt Mitchell, were featured on ABC-TV's "Good Morning, America," at Norfolk's Atlantic Marine Center, Nov. 3. In a program devoted to an examination of environmental quality host Charles Gibson interviewed Charles Ehler, director of the National Ocean Service's Office of Oceanography and Marine Assessment; NOAA Corps Cdr. Burl Wescott, captain of the Ferrel; and Peter Hansen of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Ehler defined the cleansing of United States estuaries as the environmental issue of the next decade; Cdr. Wescott and Mr. Hansen discussed research aboard the Ferrel and the health of coastal fisheries. Dramatic footage of the Ferrel at work off the Georgia coast was a highlight of the segment.

Dr. Hallgren Honored:--Richard E. Hallgren, Assistant Administrator for Weather Services, went back to school Oct. 29-30 to be honored as Alumni Fellow of Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Hallgren received two degrees in meteorology from Penn State - a B.S. in 1953, and a Ph.D. in 1960. While visiting his alma mater, he also presented a seminar entitled "Meteorology-National/International," and held informal meetings with graduate students.

Mexican Fishing Vessel Seized:--The Don Thomas, a Mexican flag, 59-foot modern gillnet fishing vessel, was seized on Oct. 31 while fishing more than 20 miles into the Exclusive Economic Zone off California. Boarded by NMFS and Coast Guard personnel while its gear was in the water, the vessel was discovered to have mostly swordfish aboard, with some shark and sunfish. A citizen of the United States was aboard, apparently directing fishing operations. The vessel is now in custody in San Diego while NOAA's General Counsel works with the U.S. Attorney's Office to negotiate settlement of a forfeiture action.

Frozen Seafood Supply Up:--NMFS reports that the September supply of frozen fish and shellfish held in warehouses across the United States rose five percent from the previous month to 418.9 million pounds. Among the most important products in storage were 77.6 million pounds of frozen blocks and slabs (mostly cod, pollock, haddock, and whiting), up 14 percent from August, and 80.4 million pounds of frozen fillets and steaks (mostly cod, flounder, and ocean perch), up two percent from the previous month.

Constitutional Vignette:--The following item is based on an article by the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, entitled "What If They Held a Convention and Nobody Came?"

When Americans think of the events that brought independence from England, they immediately picture incidents taking place in New England - the Boston Tea Party, the Boston Massacre, Paul Revere's Ride, Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill. It is logical to assume, therefore, that New England took the lead when it came time to write a Constitution for the new United States of America. Such, however, was not the case.

When the Constitutional Convention opened in May 1787, in Philadelphia, only seven states were represented, even though all had been asked to send delegates. Three New England states - Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut - were represented by just one man, Rufus King of Massachusetts.

Even after the Convention met for the first time, and had chosen George Washington of Virginia as presiding officer, King alone was present from New England. He quickly dispatched a note to Jeremiah Wadsworth - a good friend in Connecticut - saying the situation was quite embarrassing and urging other New England delegates to hasten to Philadelphia.

Eventually, others would arrive from New England and elsewhere. But for the time being, the chagrined King was the only delegate from the "Cradle of Democracy."

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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