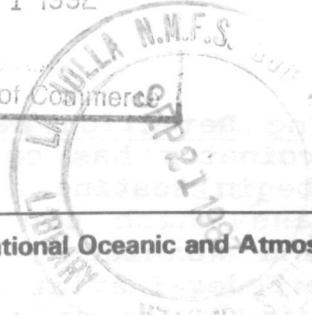




NOAA REPORT

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September 16, 1987

COMING UP

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "An Assessment of the Nearshore Sediment Transport Study:" Dr. Richard J. Seymour, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, WSC-5, Room 926, 1:00 p.m., Sept. 17. (Note unusual time and weekday.)

NOAA-sponsored Peoples Republic of China Ocean Leading Group visit to the United States, Sept. 18-Oct. 2.

National Fisheries Institute Fall Conference and Seafood Marketing Seminar in Orlando, Fla., Sept. 19-22.

National Weather Service Training Program meeting in Norman, Okla., Sept. 21-25.

U.S.-U.S.S.R. Meetings:--A delegation of eight U.S. scientists will meet with Soviet Union scientists this month in Leningrad to exchange information on atmospheric pollution in the Arctic. The sessions, beginning Sept. 21, are conducted under a bilateral agreement on environmental protection, according to Dr. Alan L. Hecht, director of the National Climate Program Office. The meetings mark the first time in recent years when the two nations have considered the problem jointly. NOAA scientists participating are Drs. Russell Schnell and Barry Bodhaine of the Environmental Research Laboratories.

On another front, a Soviet delegation met in Washington Aug. 26-28 and 31 with NOAA, State Department and Coast Guard officials to discuss fisheries relations. Among topics: U.S. interest in access for American fishermen to the Soviet exclusive economic zone in the Bering Sea. Further discussions are planned.

Lightning Detection Network Formed:--NOAA's Office of the Federal Coordinator has coordinated federal and private sector efforts to begin testing a national lightning detection network and data base which could lead to improved severe weather forecasts and warnings. Involved are the National Weather Service, the Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. Air Force, and the private sector's Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Two existing federal lightning detection systems at NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Okla., and the Bureau of Land Management's Boise, Idaho, Interagency Fire Center, will be connected to the State University of New York (SUNY) via dedicated land lines. The University operates yet another lightning detection network supported by EPRI and the National Science Foundation. The data from this combined national system will be archived at the SUNY Operations Center and made available to federal users and EPRI members via a user satellite communications circuit. The proposed demonstration network will provide the first opportunity to both operational and research users to increase their understanding of lightning.

L.A. Sectional-Terminal Charts Reissued:--The Ocean Service responded expeditiously to a request from the Federal Aviation Administration for reissuance of the July 30 editions of Los Angeles Sectional and Terminal Area Charts due to major changes in the area. More than 57,000 sectionals and 16,000 terminal area charts were furnished the FAA by Sept. 3. In the interim, emergency notices with amended terminal control area graphics were sent to the 51,000 subscribers and NOS aeronautical sales agents who had already received or sold the un-amended charts.

That'll Be \$50,000, Please:--The Fisheries Service has issued a notice of violation and assessment carrying a \$50,000 penalty to a California entrepreneur who broke virtually every rule in the Lacey Act. An extensive investigation by NMFS, FDA and state officials determined that he used a bait-gatherer's permit to harvest mussels from piers at a public marina, then shipped them to Chicago for human consumption. Not only did his activities violate California law requiring state certification of all shellfish harvesters and shippers, the mussels contained high levels of bacteria and thus were moved in violation of Illinois law. The mussels also were taken during a red tide quarantine.

NOAA Ship's Crew Rescues Fishermen:--The crew of the NOAA ship Oregon II rescued all four survivors of a submerged sport fishing boat at dawn Sept. 14 in the Gulf of Mexico 20 nautical miles off Clearwater, Fla. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, the four rescued men said they had spent 22 hours clinging to a cooler and their swamped, mostly submerged boat, Irene's Dream, before being rescued by Oregon II. NOAA Corps Cdr. Craig Nelson, skipper of the NOAA fishery research vessel, reported the men appeared dehydrated but in otherwise good condition.

NOAA Scores Twice in Washington Post:--The Washington Post, on Sept. 8, published a major feature on the National Weather Service by science writer Philip Hilts. Generally laudatory in tone (although it pointed out, accurately, that Europe leads us in computer power), the article traced the Service's history from the late 1800s to today's operations, and the new technology on the horizon.

On Sept. 11, an illustrated article on the NOAA-NASA COSPAS-SARSAT search-and-rescue satellite operation was prominently featured, highlighting the service's phenomenal record in lifesaving and the necessity for reducing the plethora of false alarms generated within the system.

Hospitality Planned:-- Numerous NOAA facilities have responded to the Under Secretary's call for open houses at appropriate locations to celebrate NOAA's 17th anniversary. Among them: National Weather Service offices at Raleigh, N.C., Burlington, Vt., Stockton, Calif., Pocatello, Idaho, San Juan, P.R., and the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Fla. The Washington event, now being publicized in area media, will be held jointly by NWS and NESDIS at the World Weather Building Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and show the kiddies how the weather is forecast.

Lending A Hand For The Scouts:--The Weather Service's Omaha, Nebr., Forecast Office has received a letter of appreciation from Cinema Visuals Entertainment for its assistance in filming a trilogy which details levels of advancement in the Boy Scouts of America. The company spent two days filming forecast operations to be shown nationally to Scouts seeking to learn about the Weather Service.

MASC To Receive Grant:--The Mountain Administrative Support Center has been chosen to receive a grant from the Pioneer Fund, established by the Office of the Secretary to improve productivity. The Center will use the grant to support its Quality Circle program.

Units Lauded For Aid In Dolphin Death Investigations:--Dr. Joseph Geraci, noted marine pathologist who led the NOAA-Marine Mammals Commission team investigating the mysterious deaths of bottlenose dolphins along the mid-Atlantic coast, paid tribute to NOAA support prior to leaving for his Ontario headquarters to analyze his data. Dr. Geraci and Dr. Jerry Scott, director of NMFS's Southeast Fisheries Center dolphin program, met with staff members of the Eastern Administrative Support Center and employees of the Ocean Service's Atlantic Marine Center to offer a "well done" for their assistance over the preceding month. Dr. Geraci briefed Fisheries personnel at NMFS headquarters on the progress of his investigation on Sept. 10.

OMB Official To Be Briefed:--Joseph Wright, Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, will be briefed in late September or early October on the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS), which has been designated as one of 17 government-wide Presidential Priority Systems.

Pribilof Seal Harvest Extended:--Assistant Administrator William Evans extended the Pribilof Island fur seal harvest for two days to permit the taking of additional animals during the first week of September. The extension was granted to allow Pribilovians to satisfy their subsistence needs. The extended harvest was terminated, as required by regulations, after five females were taken.

NCDC Assists Fungi Foragers:--The Asheville, N.C., Mushroom Club had a problem: With only one day before its annual Labor Day Weekend Mushroom Foray, with 80 attendees expected from seven states, there was a severe scarcity of mushrooms in the Asheville area due to an unusually dry August. The club contacted the National Climatic Data Center for help. NCDC confirmed that Asheville was indeed the dry spot in the area-wide precipitation pattern. However, using the NCDC rainfall network, the club was able to ascertain the precise locations of recent scattered thunderstorms. The most promising event was located south of the city. With the damp location plotted, the foragers were sent out and an abundance of mushrooms was gathered.

NOAA Ship "Listens" To The Ocean:--The NOAA ship Oceanographer left its Seattle base September 9 to work on a Reciprocal Tomography Experiment. The project is a large-scale experiment in the North Pacific which employs sound to deduce the interior structure of the ocean.

Twelve-Hour Fish-a-thon:--The fishery for Pacific halibut in the Gulf of Alaska opened for 12 hours Sept. 2 to harvest the remaining quota of 8.3 million pounds. A trip limit of 25,000 pounds per vessel was imposed to keep within that quota.

Fish Conservation Problems Subject of Radio Program:--The striped bass population along the Atlantic Coast is dwindling. The redfish supply in the Gulf of Mexico is strained. And Atlantic swordfish stocks are declining. In the latest Sea and Air radio program produced by the Office of Public Affairs, Dr. William Evans, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, discusses the various causes for the decline in these fish supplies and the steps biologists are taking to help them make a comeback. The program will be distributed this week to about 650 radio stations nationwide.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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