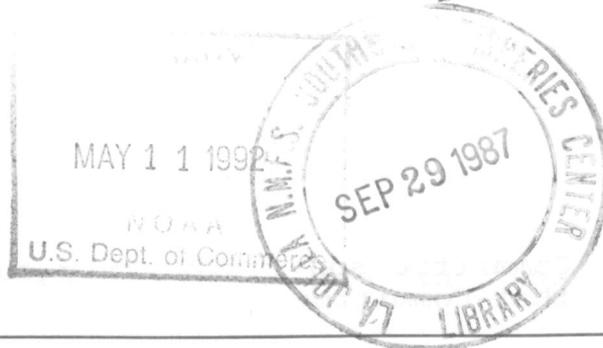




NOAA REPORT



NOAA Report is an administrative document, issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the information and use of agency personnel.

September 23, 1987

COMING UP

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

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

Federal Employees Retirement System briefing in Room B841, HCHB, Washington, D.C., 9:00 to 12 noon, Sept. 24.

GOES I-M Program Review at Ford Aerospace and Communication Corp., in Palo Alto, Calif, Sept. 29-Oct. 1.

American Meteorological Society Executive Committee and Council meetings in Boston, Mass., Sept. 30 - Oct. 1.

Joint Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commissions fall meeting in Key West, Fla., Oct. 19-22.

Statement on U.S., Iceland Whaling Negotiations:--The following is a statement issued September 16, 1987:

Following the June 1987 meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in Bournemouth, U.K., officials of the Republic of Iceland and the United States Government entered into a series of consultations on scientific research involving the taking of whales. An agreement between the two Governments was reached on September 16 which contains the following points:

1. For 1988 and thereafter, the Government of Iceland would submit its research program for review by the IWC Scientific

Committee and would carry out the scientific recommendations of that Committee.

2. The Government of the United States would not certify (under the Pelly or Packwood-Magnuson Amendments) the Government or nationals of Iceland for the 80 fin whales and the 20 sei whales taken in 1987, nor for the whales taken in 1988 and thereafter in the Icelandic program of scientific research, so long as the Government of Iceland complies with the provisions of paragraph one.

3. The United States will work with Iceland and other IWC Commissioners to review and make recommendations regarding the structure of the IWC Scientific Committee's process for the review of research permits, so as to build confidence in that process and its scientific basis.

Officials of both Governments expressed their readiness to proceed with the consultations contemplated under paragraph three of this agreement.

NOAA Ship Visits Long-Closed Port:--The NOAA ship Surveyor arrived in the previously closed Soviet port of Provideniya in the Bering Sea September 20 for a two-day visit. The 292-foot oceanographic research vessel, commanded by NOAA Corps Capt. Walter F. Forster, II, made its "friendship call" at Provideniya for rest and recreation for its crew, which has been conducting environmental surveys in the Chukchi Sea. The Surveyor is the first foreign ship to visit the Siberian port in 60 years.

Satellite Detectives:--NOAA satellite experts are helping track down a garbage spill which, in mid-August, saw debris indicative of hospital/laboratory wastes washed ashore along a 50-60 mile stretch of New Jersey shoreline. New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection has asked the NESDIS Assessment and Information Services Center to assist them in identifying the origin of the spill and determining how it reached their beaches. The Center is helping State authorities analyze data collected by NOAA's polar-orbiting satellites for the two-week period bracketing the pollution event. Analysis of the satellite data for sea surface temperature and turbidity fields, in conjunction with mass transport modeling and analysis of data, may provide scientists with information about transport mechanisms responsible for carrying the debris onto the New Jersey shore and the path the material followed.

NOAA Proposes New California Marine Sanctuary:--NOAA proposes to designate Cordell Bank off Point Reyes, Calif., as a national marine sanctuary, placing the area under NOAA's management and protection. Hearings will be held on the proposed sanctuary's combined draft environmental impact

statement/management plan Sept. 29-30 in Bodega and San Francisco.

Cordell Bank, which lies on an underwater plateau 300-400 feet below the surface, consists of a series of steep-sided ridges and narrow pinnacles rising from the edge of the continental shelf to within about 115 feet of the surface. Abundant nutrients combine with high light penetration and a wide range of water depths to produce a unique biological community of subtidal and oceanic algae, invertebrates, fish, marine mammals, and sea birds.

Other national marine sanctuaries managed and protected by NOAA: Point Reyes-Farallon Islands and the Channel Islands off California, Fagatele Bay in American Samoa, Flower Garden Banks off Texas, Looe Key and Key Largo off Florida, Grey's Reef off South Carolina, and the site of the wreck of the Civil War ironclad Monitor off North Carolina.

NOAA Special Achievement Award Medals:--R. Adm. F. D. Moran, NOAA Corps Director, has announced the presentation of NOAA Special Achievement Award Medals for sustained superior performance to Cdr. David B. MacFarland, Jr., of the Atlantic Marine Center; and Lt. Cdrs. Daniel S. Eilers and David J. Tennesen, of the Office of Aircraft Operations.

1987 Tornado Occurrences To Date:--The number of tornadoes so far this year is 661, according to unofficial statistics from the National Weather Service. The figure is considerably lower than it was this time last year when we had 835 tornadoes. The death toll is higher, however with 41 - last year at this time there were 15 deaths. (This figure became the total for 1986--the lowest since records keeping began in 1916.) The higher death toll recorded this year was mainly due to a tornado that struck a community center in Saragosa, Tex., on May 22, killing 30 persons. About three-fourths of the deaths recorded so far this year were caused by this storm. The total deaths by state are: Florida, 1; Michigan, 1; Mississippi, 6; Texas, 32; and Minnesota, 1.

NOAA Employee Heads Federal Executive Association:--Benny Gullach, Deputy Meteorologist In Charge of the Weather Service Forecast Office in Omaha, Nebr., has been named president of the Omaha-Lincoln Federal Executive Association. The organization coordinates participation by federal agencies in civic and community affairs. One such effort recently resulted in more than \$38,000 worth of food being distributed to area food banks.

Winter Weather Workshop Speakers Set:--Experts in several fields will tell how it's done at the Office of Public Affairs 1987 Winter Weather Workshop for TV weathercasters and print

press scheduled for Oct. 23-24 at LaGuardia Airport in New York. Featured at the event will be Cliff Crowley, head of the New York Weather Service Forecast Office; Dr. Thomas Karl, National Climatic Data Center, Asheville, N.C.; Dr. James E. Hoke, Short Range Modeling Branch at the NWS National Meteorological Center; Jim Volkommer, in charge of the Portland, Me., Weather Service and Steve Thomas, deputy chief at New York; Eugene Legg, Satellite Services Division, NESDIS; and Marianne Jackson, Assistant to the Region 1 FEMA director. If there is sufficient media interest, NOAA's P-3 Orion research aircraft will be made available for demonstration flights. As in all NOAA Public Affairs workshops, filmed interviews will be arranged with the scientists for weathercasters to air in their home cities. The event is being arranged by Don Witten, NWS public affairs officer.

Dam Safety Exercise:--NOAA was there to lend a hand when the Garrison Dam, a huge federal structure on the Missouri River, was threatened by large inflows to the reservoir recently. Actually the threat was all on paper - an exercise in dam safety conducted by the Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the State of North Dakota and several county emergency warning organizations. The Weather Service Forecast Office in Bismarck, N. Dak., and the Missouri Basin River Forecast Center provided simulated weather and hydrologic data to increase the realism of the simulated threat to Garrison Dam.

Alaska Coastal Program To Be Examined:--NOAA will hold a public meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, and conduct interviews in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks, the week of October 5 to evaluate the Alaska Coastal Management Program. General areas of interest, according to evaluation team leader Ed Lindelof, include the extent to which the state is implementing and enforcing its federally approved coastal program and adherence to the terms and conditions for financial assistance awards.

Overnight Weather Service On Television:--The National Weather Service reports that KPTX-TV, Channel 9, in Midland, Tex., transmits a "live" picture of the Midland National Weather Service radar continuously during its sign-off hours, which extend from approximately midnight to 6:00 a.m. Simultaneously, it carries Midland's NOAA Weather Radio broadcast as the audio part of the transmission. To minimize wear on electronic and mechanical components, most television stations keep their transmitters "powered up" during non-broadcast hours, but either do not send out a signal or run a test pattern. KPTX-TV's all-night weather show, therefore provides a valuable public service at no extra cost to the station.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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