



# NOAA REPORT

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September 9, 1987

## COMING UP

U.S. Global Sea Level Observing System meeting in Washington, D.C., Sept. 8-9.  
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International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific meeting in Beijing, China, Sept. 8-12.  
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World Wilderness Congress in Denver and Estes Park, Colo., Sept. 9-18.  
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Mississippi River Commission low-water inspection trip down the Mississippi River, September 12-18.  
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NOAA-sponsored Peoples Republic of China Ocean Leading Group visit to the United States, Sept. 18-Oct. 2.  
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**Great Lakes Marine Services To Be Upgraded:**--A joint effort to improve marine services for the Great Lakes, involving several NOAA elements is under way. Highlights of the program include a cooperative effort between the National Ocean Service and the Weather Service Office of Meteorology to focus marine weather information, warnings, coordination, and user outreach for the American portion of the Lakes; NOS-NWS cooperation with the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) to improve wind and wave models and data collection; improved flow of ice data between the NOAA-Navy Joint Ice Center and GLERL; and a week-long training seminar for marine forecasters at GLERL, with instruction to be provided by GLERL, NWS and the NOS Office of Ocean Services.

**NOAA Investigates Heat Transport:**--NOAA scientists are examining ways in which heat is transported by the oceans from the tropics to northern latitudes, influencing global climate, during a cruise now under way in the southwestern North Atlantic.

The scientists, from the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, are aboard the NOAA ship Researcher studying the part currents play in heat transport along the continental shelf from the Bahamas to Brazil. Their research supplements observations focussed on the Florida Current, conducted during the past two years, according to Dr. Robert L. Molinari.

"We now have the capability to monitor Florida Current transport without extensive ship-board observations," he said, "and we can use expensive ship time now to focus upon other promising areas."

NOAA seeks, through its Subtropical Atlantic Climate Study, increasing understanding of the dynamics of North Atlantic Ocean circulation and the role of ocean circulation in global climate.

**Winter Workshop Agenda Set:**--Agenda for the Office of Public Affairs' 1987 Winter Weather Workshop for TV weathercasters and print press is nearing completion. Featured at the event, to be held Oct. 23-24 at LaGuardia Airport, will be Cliff Crowley, MIC at 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, NWS National Meteorological Center; Jim Volkommer, MIC at Portland, Me., and Steve Thomas, Deputy MIC 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, the P3 will be made available for demonstration flights. As in all other OPA 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.

**EEZ Five-Year Survey Plan Issued:**--A five-year plan describing the status and anticipated progress of the NOAA bathymetric survey program in the Exclusive Economic Zone from 1988 to 1992 has been prepared by the National Ocean Service. The plan contains a brief history of bathymetric mapping, the needs and benefits of the program, the technical approach to producing the survey, and the resources assigned to the program. Sections of the plan deal with geographical areas to be surveyed, NOAA ships assigned to the program, capabilities of multi-beam survey systems, classification of survey data for national security, and the management and quality assurance of survey data.

**Profiler Performance Simulated:**--A study by the Environmental Research Laboratories' Wave Propagation Laboratory indicates that the future Wind Profiler Network will improve short-range numerical weather prediction and has strong implications for operational forecasting. WPL conducted a simulation to assess the effects of Profiler observations on

short-range numerical prediction. Simulated Profiler data generated by computer model and three-hourly wind rawinsonde data from an interagency field project were used in prediction models, and compared. Early results indicate that short-range numerical predictions, using the simulated Profiler wind field, are better than those using data currently available from the rawinsonde network. Temperatures derived from wind fields can be significantly more accurate than radiometric temperatures, but the derived temperatures are not as accurate as those from rawinsondes.

**NODC Tries Desktop Publishing:**--The summer issue of the Mariners Weather Log was prepared by the National Oceanographic Data Center using the Macintosh desktop publishing system. Improvements in layout, design, and typography made possible by the new system not only make this issue better looking and easier to read, according to its editor, Richard M. DeAngelis, but also required fewer pages.

**NOAA Forecasters In Puerto Rico Commended:**--The Center for Disease Control and the U.S. Public Health Service of San Juan, Puerto Rico commended the "invaluable" forecast assistance provided by NOAA's San Juan forecast office during a recent aerial spray operation designed to lessen the potential for epidemic dengue and dengue hemorrhagic fever this year. The National Weather Service and the U.S. Air Force Reserve worked together on the project.

**Aquarius Promotion Planned:**--Preliminary planning is under way at the Office of Public Affairs to publicize operations of NOAA's state-of-the-art habitat, Aquarius, now nearing completion, in November off St. Croix. The world's most sophisticated underwater base of operations, it will house aquanaut-scientists for two-week periods. Developed and outfitted by NOAA's Office of Undersea Research and Fairleigh Dickinson University, the habitat will be moveable to other undersea areas after an initial deployment of one to two years in the Caribbean.

**Floods Produce Grim Statistics:**--A recent study shows that floods have caused more deaths in the United States since 1980 than any other natural hazard, the National Weather Service reports. During 1986, for example, the 208 flood fatalities far outnumbered the 91 deaths attributed to hurricanes, tornadoes, and lightning.

**Telephone Security:**--Developments in computers and microwave intercept technology have made monitoring telephones relatively easy, even from remote locations, according to Commerce's Security Director Michael N. Cassetta. NOAA employees are cautioned not to use regular telephones to discuss sensitive or classified information. Do not discuss anything on these phones you do not want overheard.

**On The Air**--Scripting is under way for the next taped NOAA radio program, The Sea And The Air. Featured will be ERL's Dr. Dan Albritton, discussing the ozone puzzle; and John Robinson, NOS/Seattle, describing the CAMEO (Computer-Assisted Emergency Management of Operations) system which has gained national acclaim among disaster operations managers.

**Industry Seeks NOAA Data**--NESDIS's National Geophysical Data Center reports marked increases in industrial requests for marine geological and geophysical data over the past month. The rise probably is due to rising world oil prices, allowing oil companies to resume development of exploration plans in remote areas.

**DOT Requests Nine Terminal Control Areas**--In the wake of recent aircraft near-misses, the Department of Transportation has asked the National Ocean Service to construct new terminal control areas restricting private flying at nine major airports: Dulles International, Baltimore-Washington International, Orlando, Tampa, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Memphis, Charlotte, N.C., and Houston. NOS's Aeronautical Charting Division will compile and publish seven new terminal area charts and provide associated technical support to the Federal Aviation Administration. The first chart will be due in February 1988 and the last one in July 1988.

**West Faces Critical Wildfire Situation**--The Weather Service and other Federal agencies have been battling an explosive wildfire outbreak in the west with California, southern Oregon and Idaho the hardest-hit. Even worse than the historic 1977 disaster, 1300 fires were fought by 15,000 to 16,000 Federal employees, with state and local aid. Fourteen air transportable mobile units were dispatched--a record. One unit had to be temporarily abandoned; Dave Sandoval of the Sacramento Weather Service Office, the fire weather forecaster, returned to find it scorched but usable. It was promptly put to work. Early this week, changing weather lessened the threat to a degree. On Sept. 3 Joe Witte, NBC-TV Today Show weatherman, did a feature on the Weather Service's fire weather operation, citing recent advances in technology and strongly urging those outdoors to take extreme precautions with fire.

**Flood Safety Effort in Texas**--July's South Texas flash flood disaster, in which ten teenagers died, has generated a local safety drive. John Patton, Weather Service hydrologist at the San Antonio Weather Service Forecast Office, went to the public with warnings that the treacherous Texas hill country streams do not have to reach flood stage to kill those in the path of the water. Patton said that the crests move so rapidly --with no way to communicate to campers where the flood rise is at any given moment--that a river can rise 10 to 12 feet in 5 to 10 minutes.

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# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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