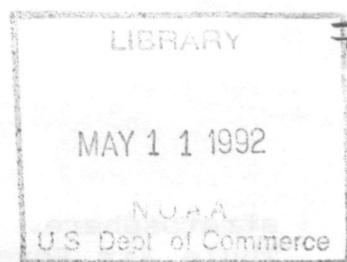




NOAA REPORT



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

February 1, 1988

COMING UP

68th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Anaheim, Calif., Jan. 31 - Feb. 5.

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Meeting in La Jolla, Calif., Feb. 3-4.

World Meteorological Organization Bureau Meeting in London, U.K., Feb. 8-11.

Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Boston, Mass., Feb. 11-15.

National Fish and Seafood Promotional Council Second Meeting in San Diego, Calif., Feb. 14-20.

Seafloor Geysers:--NOAA scientists are studying the origins of a geological process that sends massive amounts of hot fluids into the ocean from cracks in the seafloor. Called megaplumes--a "soup" of mineral grains and dissolved minerals and gases--they are up to 12 miles wide and a quarter-mile high. According to Edward T. Baker of the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, they may have a major influence on ocean chemistry. The process, whose mechanisms are not yet understood, is different from that which causes continuous leaking of hot fluids from seafloor thermal vents, he said. NOAA investigators have twice located the megaplumes on the Juan de Fuca Ridge, off the coasts of Washington and Oregon. They are rich in silica, manganese, and iron leached by hot seawater from the rocks of the ocean crust.

Arctic Ozone Layer Study Planned:--NOAA researchers, who for two years have studied the role of chemicals in formation of the ozone hole over the Antarctic, left last week for Greenland to determine whether similar processes are occurring in the Arctic ozone layer. The team, lead by Dr. Susan Solomon, will use the same techniques utilized in the Antarctic, measuring ozone and reactive nitrogen, chlorine, and bromine compounds in the

stratosphere. Measurements will be taken during February from Thule Air Force Base. The data collected will be the first of its type for the Arctic stratosphere.

Final Maneuver for an Aging Satellite:--NOAA engineers maneuvered an aging geostationary weather satellite into its ideal - and final - position January 26. Thrusters were fired on GOES-6, 23,000 miles over the Pacific, to eliminate an inherent north-to-south wobble in the spacecraft's orbit. Similar "inclination" maneuvers are performed three to four times annually on geostationary satellites to ensure accurate cloud tracking for weather forecasts. This maneuver nearly depleted the diminished fuel supply on board GOES-6, which was launched in April 1983 with a design life of five years.

Trawling Survey Program Is 25:--The Northeast Fisheries Center recently marked the 25th year of its bottom trawl survey program. Since 1963, the center has conducted over 60 surveys of the distribution, abundance, biology, and environment of the Northwest Atlantic's living marine resources. Typical recent surveys take 45-55 days to complete, according to the Center's Thomas R. Azarovitz. Scientists sample fish and invertebrate populations and collect environmental data at 300-400 ocean "stations." The resulting samples and data are immediately made available to interested parties after the survey, and are stored for later detailed research.

Miami Center To Handle Pacific Storms:--NOAA's National Hurricane Center in Miami, Fla., has been given responsibility for hurricane forecasts and warnings for the eastern Pacific (east of 140°W), services formerly provided by the Weather Service Forecast Office in San Francisco. The transfer of responsibility was announced at the 42nd Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference held Jan. 12-15 at Homestead Air Force Base, Fla. Other items of primary interest concerned the impact of the loss of hurricane reconnaissance flights over the western Pacific and the Department of Defense's efforts to mitigate this loss of data. Richard Hagemeyer, Director of the National Weather Service Pacific Region, headed the NOAA delegation at the conference.

Two New England Haddock Fishing Areas Closed:--In its yearly effort to protect spawning haddock, the NMFS Northeast Region is closing two fishing areas off the New England coast. From February to May, fishermen will be prohibited from catching haddock in the Great South Channel area about 35 miles east of Cape Cod and the northeast peak of Georges Bank, about 150 miles offshore. Surveys by Fisheries Service biologists show that populations of mature haddock traditionally congregate near Georges Bank and in the Gulf of Maine during this time of year. The closure aims to reduce any disturbance by fishermen that could have a negative effective on the spawning and keep the haddock from being caught before they spawn.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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