



NOAA REPORT

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U.S. Dept. of Commerce

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January 19, 1988

COMING UP

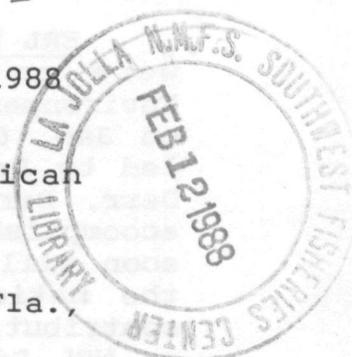
3rd Ocean Sciences Meeting of the American Geophysical Union in New Orleans, La., Jan. 18-22.

Annual U.S. Power Squadron Meeting in Miami, Fla., Jan. 21-24.

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.

Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Boston, Mass., Feb. 11-16.



NOAA Satellites Provide Early Famine Warning:--A space watch of African rainfall and vegetation patterns by NOAA satellites provided the key initial clues that drought and famine would return to regions of Ethiopia again this year. Scientists at NOAA's Cooperative Institute for Applied Meteorology at the University of Missouri, Columbia, use satellite and land-based measurements to support the Agency for International Development's African Famine Early Warning System. The first tip-off to the impending drought came from observations of reduced rain-producing cloudiness last July from NOAA's polar-orbiting satellites. NOAA's role in drought impact assessment has been highlighted in recent news stories concerning the Ethiopian famine.

Anti-Reflagging Act Benefits U.S. Fishermen:--On January 11, President Reagan signed the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Anti-Reflagging Act of 1987, closing several loopholes in the nation's fisheries laws which allowed foreign firms to form U.S. subsidiaries, obtain U.S. documentation for their existing fish processing fleets, continue to employ predominantly foreign

crews, and still qualify for the domestic processor preference under the Magnuson Act. The action amended the Vessel Documentation Act to require that the controlling interest in corporate-owned vessels be held by U.S. citizens, and revised manning requirements to require that not more than 25 percent of a crew may be non-U.S.-resident aliens.

ERL Lab Celebrates 20th Year:--Over 150 employees and guests were on hand to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Environmental Research Laboratories' Wave Propagation Laboratory on Jan. 6 in Boulder, Colo. The celebration was organized and led by Dr. Steven F. Clifford, WPL's new Director. Dr. Vernon Derr, Director of ERL, noted the many significant WPL research accomplishments, including the development of Doppler radar which soon will be installed at National Weather Service sites across the nation, and other modern systems expected to make major contributions to NWS forecasts. Dr. Gordon Little, who retired as WPL Director about a year ago and now is a senior research fellow with the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research in California, returned to Boulder for the celebration.

Tornadoes Killed 61 in '87:--Tornadoes claimed 61 lives in eight states last year, according to National Weather Service figures. Although the toll was still below the 35-year average of 90, it was four times that of 1986, when deaths dropped to record low of 15. Texas was hardest hit, with 44 dead; Arkansas and Mississippi recorded 6 each; single deaths occurred in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, and Minnesota. The largest single outbreak nearly obliterated Saragosa, Tex., killing 30 of the community's 185 inhabitants.

Beeton Retains Chairmanship of Lakes' Group:--Pleased with the direction taken by the Great Lakes Science Advisory Board under the co-chairmanship of Dr. Alfred M. Beeton, Director of NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, the International Joint Commission has extended his term as co-chairman of the group through Dec 31, 1988, when his original 3-year appointment to the Board ends. Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreements between the United States and Canada, the International Joint Commission has special responsibilities and functions related to research in water quality of the Lakes. The prestigious Science Advisory Board determines the adequacy, effectiveness, and responsiveness of United States and Canadian research requirements of the Agreements.

NOAA Diver Training Facility Expanded:--The NOAA Diving Program is consolidating its facilities at the Western Regional Center, Seattle, Wash. The consolidation includes additional recompression chambers, classrooms, and a diver training tower. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-March.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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