



NOAA REPORT

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February 22, 1988

COMING UP

Meeting of the U.S. Advisory Committee for the U.S. Section of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission in La Jolla, Calif., Feb. 23.

Premiere of the NOAA film, "NOAA Corps - The Seventh Service," and reception in Washington, D.C., Feb. 29.

Program for Regional Observing and Forecasting Service (PROFS) meeting in Camp Springs, Md., March 1.

To My Fellow Employees:

I have submitted my resignation, effective February 26, to President Reagan, after 27 exciting months with NOAA.

I am going to assume the presidency of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council with mixed emotions -- with pleasure at an opportunity for another kind of challenge, and with regret at leaving a superb Federal organization.

Before coming to NOAA, I had no way of knowing what an immensely talented and dedicated group of people, over a rich variety of demanding disciplines, are contained in our agency. Over the months, I have come to know you, and to respect and admire your professionalism and outstanding service to NOAA and our country.

I am grateful you have let me be a part of NOAA, and I hope I have been able to make a contribution to its work. I look forward, with great anticipation, to following your continued success from afar.

My very best wishes to you all.

J. Curtis Mack, II

Reception To Honor J. Curtis Mack, II:--A farewell reception in honor of Assistant Secretary J. Curtis Mack, II, is scheduled on February 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Officers' Club at the Bethesda (Md.) Medical Center. Tickets are \$14. Contact Donna Franklin, 377-3567.

Japan Certified for Whaling:--Secretary Verity has certified that whaling by Japan under a contested research permit has diminished the effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission's conservation program. Certification means that Japan's present and future fish allocations in U.S. waters (presently, there are none) are reduced by at least half, and the President has discretion to embargo fish products imported from Japan.

Correction:--The following is from the Marine and Estuarine Management Division of the NOS Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management:

A number of errors were included in an item in the February 8, 1988, NOAA Report concerning the grounding of the U.S. Navy target vessel "Tortuga" on San Miguel Island within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. At this time, the U.S. Navy has not reached any conclusions concerning a preferred alternative for the vessel's disposition. The U.S. Navy has expressed its interest in working cooperatively with other Federal and those State agencies which have an interest in this matter. A report on salvage options, which is being prepared under contract and is to include an estimate of salvage costs for various removal alternatives, has not yet been submitted. An environmental assessment will be prepared during the next few months on proposed alternatives regarding disposition of the vessel. The on-site resource information necessary for preparing this environmental assessment will be collected in coordination with NOAA's damage assessment effort for purposes of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. NOAA's National Ocean Service and National Marine Fisheries Service are cooperating with the National Park Service and the U.S. Navy in these efforts. Approximately 100 feet of the stern broke away at the time of the initial grounding and is separated by a short distance from the remainder of the vessel. The major winter storm of mid-January appears to have had negligible if any effects on the grounded vessel, but a conclusive determination must await a physical inspection.

Save That Date:--Secretary Verity will be NOAA's honored guest at the premiere of the film "NOAA Corps: The Seventh Service" Feb. 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commerce Department auditorium. The screening will be followed by a wine-and-hors d'oeuvres reception in the lobby. All are welcome; tickets are \$10 per person to cover the cost of the reception.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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