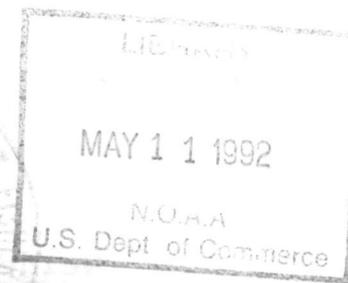
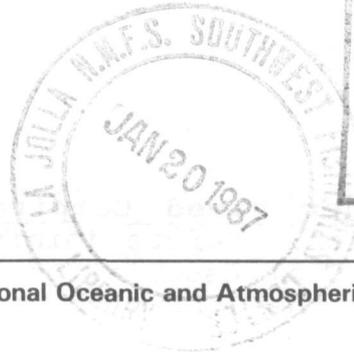




NOAA REPORT



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

January 12, 1988

COMING UP

Atlantic Marine Center Command Seminar in Norfolk, Va., Jan. 10-14.

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

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

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

Dr. Peterson Confirmed as Chief Scientist:--On Dec. 19, the Senate confirmed nomination of Dr. Melvin N. A. Peterson as NOAA's Chief Scientist. Since 1971, Dr. Peterson has been director and principal investigator of the Deep Sea Drilling Project at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at San Diego, Calif. He has held a number of positions at the University of California facility since joining Scripps as an assistant-associate professor of oceanography in 1962.

NOAA Men Honored:--Vernon E. Derr, Director of the Environmental Research Laboratories, received a 1987 Presidential Rank Award, and Bruce C. Douglas, chief of the NOS Geodetic Research and Development Laboratory, was awarded the rank of Meritorious Executive in Washington, D.C., ceremonies recently.

Dr. Derr, along with other winners, received \$20,000 and recognition from President Reagan for extended exceptional performance in Government.

"Each of you is a tribute to the fact that throughout our Government, we've got top-quality professionals getting the job done," the President said.

Mr. Douglas' award for outstanding contributions to science and technology came mainly as a result of his leadership on the NOAA GEOSAT satellite altimeter project.

Weiher Named Comptroller:--Rodney Weiher is NOAA's new Comptroller. Before joining NOAA, he was vice president for the National Coal Association and before that, chief of the Interior Branch at the Office of Management and Budget.

Monitor Article Stirs Response:--More than 330 letters to the National Ocean Service from readers across the nation were generated by the article, "Can We Salvage The Monitor?", Dec. 20 in Parade Magazine - and they continue to come in. Writers ranged from school children to descendants of the Civil War ironclad's crew. Many youngsters wanted to know more about the ship, and some respondents offered suggestions for protection of the nation's marine sanctuaries.

Laser Sensor To Be Tested:--The National Data Buoy Center is conducting a 3-month evaluation of a new infrared laser sensor at the Chesapeake Light Station 20 miles off the Virginia entrance to the Bay that NOAA engineers hope will provide more efficient and reliable measurements of wave heights from fixed offshore platforms. Placed at a 90 degree angle from the water, the device sends a laser pulse that reflects off the ocean surface and can measure the height and period of passing waves. Measurements from the sensor will be compared against those from a wave staff currently used to detect wave data. These staffs must be placed in the water and can suffer extensive damage from the waves, leading to costly repairs. If successful, the laser instruments will be installed next year as part of the Coastal Marine Automated Network (C-MAN) of remote data collection stations that provide meteorological and oceanographic data on wind speed and direction, air and sea temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, and rainfall for marine weather forecasts.

EEZ Flyer Proves Popular:--Responses to a Beaufort Sea Exclusive Economic Zone Summary flyer produced by the National Geophysical Data Center have been enthusiastic. The first request, from a petroleum industry representative, hailed the flyer as "the type of publication that the petroleum industry really needs: timely, concise and comprehensive." The flyers first appeared at an Information Transfer Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, and were immediately cited by attendees as an example of a good method of advertising data by NOAA.

Cyclone Workshop:--At the request of the World Meteorological Organization, the National Weather Service's Dr. Chester Jelesnianski told the Second Regional Workshop on Cyclone Storm Surges, held in Calcutta, India, Dec. 14-19, of his computer modelling work on this dangerous phenomenon. Dr. Jelesnianski is one of the world's leading experts in hurricane storm surge modeling. His efforts developed two storm surge models: SPLASH (Special Program to List the Amplitudes of Surges from Hurricanes) and SLOSH (Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes). Both models are general in nature, according to Dr. Jelesnianski, and could be applied to the Bay of Bengal area, if adequate

topographic and bathymetric data are available. In the past, cyclones (or hurricanes, as we call them) have been extremely devastating in the Indian Ocean region, with much damage and loss of life attributable to storm surge, the huge dome of water driven ashore by storm winds.

NOAA Works With NASA, NSF on Methane Study:--The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research's Geophysical Monitoring for Climatic Changes (GMCC) program will provide gas standards to NASA for a major project to measure methane in the Arctic. Methane, an important "greenhouse" gas which has been monitored by GMCC for over 8 years, has shown a steady increase on a global basis. To understand this increase, NASA will mount an Arctic field project in which GMCC will provide the gas standards against which NASA measurements can be compared. GMCC also will provide logistical support at the Barrow Alaska Observatory.

Twenty-seven Million Peso Penalty:--The U.S. Attorney's office has settled the Government's case against the Mexican gillnet vessel Don Tomas, which was seized by the U.S. Coast Guard Oct. 31 for fishing inside the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone off San Diego, Calif. The vessel owner agreed to a forfeiture of catch and payment of penalties, resulting in a settlement valued at \$35,000. The vessel was returned to the owner after receipt of the payment.

NOAA Official Elected to SETAC:--Usha Varanasi, recently appointed Director of the Environmental Conservation Division of NOAA's Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center in Seattle, has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC). Founded in 1979, SETAC is a growing, 1400-member professional organization dedicated to fostering an integrated approach to the study of toxins in the environment. Selected by a nominating committee of environmental experts from industry, academia, and government, Varanasi became one of three people on the 12-member board representing a government agency.

U.S. Troll Fishery on Albacore:--Prospects for establishing a U.S. troll fishery on albacore in the South Pacific appear to be excellent, according to NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Center which saw 45 U.S. fishing vessels depart from West Coast ports from San Diego to Alaska and Hawaii to fish for the tasty tuna and, at the same time, help NOAA. The fishermen are scheduled to conduct albacore tagging, make oceanographic measurements, and keep logbook records on fishing efforts and catch for the Center. Dr. Izadore Barrett, who heads the La Jolla, Calif., fishery facility, says high catch rates, high total catches, and relatively good weather conditions, combined with the South Pacific area's ability to sell catches and support vessel needs, indicate that it is economically feasible to operate there.

Intra-agency Cooperation:--The Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory has provided the National Oceanographic Data Center access to the Equatorial Pacific Information Collection (EPIC) data management system so that the NESDIS component can evaluate the potential utility of such a system for its own use. EPIC was developed by PMEL's Nancy Soreide to provide easy access to the large volume of oceanographic data which has been collected as part of the Laboratory's participation in numerous projects over several years. In addition to data archival and retrieval, EPIC has been used with a system of analysis and display programs which provide many of the procedures used in PMEL's routine analyses of these data.

Weather Extremes Published:--Meteorologists with the National Weather Service and at the National Climatic Data Center frequently are asked to name the cities in the contiguous states that are hottest, windiest, rainiest, and snowiest. A quick reference guide has been devised, using data from the most recent edition of Comparative Climatic Data for the United States. To help settle bets, here are some of the cities with the most-ext:

Hottest (mean temperature °F) - Key West, Fla.; 77.7.
 Coldest (mean temperature °F) - International Falls, Minn.; 36.4.
 Driest (precipitation in inches) - Yuma, Ariz.; 2.65
 Wettest (precipitation in inches) - Quillayute, Wash.; 104.50.
 Windiest (mean speed mph) - Blue Hill, Mass.; 15.4.
 Snowiest (snowfall in inches) - Blue Canyon, Calif.; 243.2.
 Sunniest (% of possible sunshine) - Yuma, Ariz.; 90.
 Cloudiest (number of cloudy days) - Quillayute, Wash.; 242.
 Rainiest (number of days with rain) - Quillayute, Wash.; 212.
 Least Rainy (number of days with rain) - Yuma, Ariz.; 17.

Satellite Imagery Shows Ozone Hole:--The ozone hole above Antarctica, seen from the NOAA-9 polar-orbiting satellite, is the cover on the Dec. 21 issue of Aviation Week. A red area shows high ozone in all directions several hundred miles away from the South Pole region. The pictured ozone formed a distinct circle around a 3000-4000-mile "ozone hole" area directly over Antarctica, where there is little ozone in the atmosphere.

NWS Man Lectures in Ethiopia, Kenya:--Gary M. Carter, chief of the Synoptic-Scale Techniques Branch at the NWS Office of Systems Development, lectured at the Regional Area I (Africa) Seminar on Modern Weather Forecasting, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, recently. A total of 27 participants and lecturers from 19 countries attended this meeting, held to promote use of numerical weather prediction products in Africa. Carter presented a similar lecture at the Institute for Meteorological Training and Research in Nairobi, Kenya.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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