

# NOAA Report



August 13, 1990

## COMING UP

NOAA/U.S. Geological Survey Committee on Hydrology  
Meeting in Silver Spring, Md., Aug. 14.  
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National Weather Service Soil Conservation Service  
Technical Group Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah,  
Aug. 14-15.  
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International Symposium on Remote Sensing and Water  
Resources in Enschede, Netherlands, Aug. 19-24.

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NOAA on Scene of Galveston Oil Spill:--The NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator from the National Ocean Service's HAZMAT program arrived on the scene of the Galveston Bay (Tex.) oil spill within 24 hours after the tanker Shnoussa collided with three barges. The barges began leaking oil into Galveston Bay after the crash on July 28. NOAA issued an initial assessment of marine resources at risk from the incident the next day, and subsequently prepared a map of priority resources at risk. NOAA continues to provide weather and sea-state updates and other scientific supports in the area. As many as six NOAA officials have been at the scene at once to advise the Coast Guard in its response and clean-up efforts. The total spill is now estimated at 700,000 gallons, and the estimated economic loss from the temporary closing of the ship channel to traffic alone is \$1.5 million per day.

Condos Corralled for Poor Coastal Policies:--A \$1 billion condominium development proposed for Davids Island, in New York's Long Island Sound, has been withdrawn because the plan failed to meet standards set by the Coastal Zone Management Act.

The New York Coastal Management Program used the Act's federal consistency review provisions to halt the development. Concerns centered on how the development--31-story high rises, an 800-boat marina and breakwater, a heliport, limited public access with a 3,465-foot bridge--would affect water quality, public access and visual aesthetics.

GOES Delays Make National News:--Public Affairs handled a number of national media requests for information surrounding a newly found problem that threatens to further delay the GOES-NEXT weather satellite program.

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National Weather Service assistant administrator Dr. Elbert Friday and NESDIS assistant administrator Thomas Pyke were quoted by the national news media last week about the problem, a design flaw in the satellite's mirrors which causes the mirrors to warp when they are heated, as they would be by sunlight in outer space. The complication may set back the launch of GOES-NEXT for up to two years.

Although the current GOES-7 satellite used for weather photography and storm predictions is expected to last at least two more years, a backup plan has been developed, using polar-orbiting and European satellites and limiting fuel consumption on the GOES-7 to extend its life.

Soviet Cadets Meet, Greet, Eat:--Eighty-eight Soviet cadets from the training ship *Druzhba*, currently touring the east coast, visited Washington last week. The *Druzhba* ("friendship" in Russian) took part in a joint Soviet-American training cruise, partly sponsored by NOAA, from Odessa on the Black Sea to Baltimore, with further stops in New York, Massachusetts and Maine.

NOAA Public Affairs arranged a tour of the White House for the cadets on Thursday, August 8, while the ship was still docked in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Following the tour, the cadets met and exchanged gifts with Commerce Secretary Mosbacher and NOAA Administrator Knauss. The hungry cadets then had lunch at the Commerce Building cafeteria, where they met and ate alongside many surprised and delighted Commerce Department employees.

NOAA provided four NOAA Corps officers as part of the American contingent of the training crew: Lt. David A. Cole, Lt. Joanna F. Flanders, Lt. Craig McLean, and Lt. Timothy B. Wright.

The 365-foot *Druzhba*, a three-masted square-rigged ship, is one of the world's largest sailing vessels. Its next stop is New York City's South Street Seaport, where it will dock and be open to the public from August 14 through the 21st.

Data Center Turns 25:--The Boulder-based National Geophysical Data Center, a world repository of information on earthquakes, tsunamis, snow and ice, solar activity and other natural phenomena, celebrated 25 years of serving the scientific community last week with a day-long scientific seminar and public open house.

The symposium included presentations by NOAA Deputy Under Secretary Gray Castle, and a number of scientists, including NOAA's Dr. Vernon E. Derr. The public open house included guided tours and demonstrations of how the massive amounts of data available at the center can be used for studying various principles, such as global climate change.

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# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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