

NOAA Report



February 12, 1990

COMING UP

National Severe Storms Lab Program Review, Norman, Okla.,
Feb. 13-14

United Sport Fishermen Winter Meeting, Miami, Fla.,
Feb. 13-14

American Association for the Advancement of Science
Meeting, New Orleans, La., Feb. 15

Workshop on the Use of Satellite Derived Vegetation
Indices in Weather and Climate Prediction Models, World
Weather Building, Washington, D.C., Feb. 26-27

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Meeting,
Washington, D.C. Feb. 28-March 2

New Fisheries Head Named:--Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere John A. Knauss announced the appointment of
Dr. William W. Fox Jr., a marine biologist with broad experience
in fisheries management and research, to lead the National Marine
Fisheries Service.

Fox will serve as Assistant Administrator for NOAA responsible
for managing, conserving, and protecting living marine resources,
including shellfish and mammals, within waters 200 miles from the
U.S. coastline.

"Bill Fox brings to NMFS the unique qualities of fisheries
expertise combined with a family background in the practicalities
and problems of the seafood industry," Knauss said. "With
experience that includes 10 years' previous NOAA service, he is
well-versed in the serious challenges posed by overfishing and
environmental degradation."

Before taking the NOAA post, Fox was a professor for seven
years at the University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and
Atmospheric Science, where he directed a joint NOAA/university
research institute. He administered programs emphasizing research

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on the ocean-related aspects of climate change and the fisheries aspects of ocean ecosystems dynamics, and coordinated the NOAA Sea Grant program.

"The increasing demand on our fish stocks for recreational use and seafood is a concern for everyone," Fox said. "Since replacing the foreign fleets, our fishermen have been competing among themselves for an ever-shrinking supply of fin-and shell-fish in a marine environment acutely susceptible to man-made abuse and pollution. Commercial and recreational fishermen must share in the task of conserving fish stocks so they can be replenished and maintained at healthy levels, and in preserving their estuarine and ocean habitat."

NOAA Schedules Two Site Visits:--NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management is conducting two site visits to Florida and the Northern Mariana Islands this week.

Coastal experts will hear local views on the operation and management of the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Southern Florida.

The site visit, part of a routine evaluation process, will include interviews and meetings with interested parties.

Areas of interest for the evaluation team include the status of the reserve's management plan, delineation of its boundary, interaction between the reserve and Conservancy Inc., and ongoing research and education efforts.

There are 18 National Estuarine Research Reserves in 15 states and Puerto Rico, protecting nearly 300,000 acres. The reserves reflect different coastal regions and estuarine types and provide opportunities for education, environmental monitoring, and scientific research.

Coastal experts will also conduct a site visit on the Northern Mariana Islands to hear local views regarding the implementation of the Northern Mariana Islands Coastal Resource Management Program (CRMP).

Areas of interest for the evaluation team include:

Efforts to assure that there are adequate, qualified staff to deal with the complex issues related to development in the commonwealth;

Implementation of the coastal permit process and the status of proposed modifications to the permit process and operating regulations;

Efforts to provide effective enforcement of commonwealth laws and regulations, particularly the penalty system and early detection of violations;

Coordination of the CRMP with the commonwealth's new zoning law;

Status of designation of and policies for areas of particular concern, particularly those related to wetlands,

Implementing the provisions of federal consistency, which ensure consistency of federal activities of federally permitted activities with the CRMP;

NOAA Installs New Broadcast Service:--The National Weather Service has installed a nationwide satellite-based replacement system for broadcasting severe weather warnings, watches and other weather-related information,

Called the NOAA Weather Wire Service, the new system will deliver information by means of high-speed, low-cost satellite earth stations and will be available at uniform cost to users such as the news media and private forecasters.

The Weather Wire is capable of providing information to subscribers throughout North America, regardless of time, weather or geographic location. In addition to the news media and general public, state and local emergency management authorities use the service extensively. NOAA has provided one terminal to a selected agency in each state so that officials can obtain warnings, watches and forecasts that are vital to public safety and well-being.

The new wire is accessed by small satellite earth station and output printer and replaces an old system that disseminated information via low-speed, higher-cost teletype lines. It now provides nearly instantaneous and continuous delivery of over 800 weather products from more than 50 Weather Service forecast offices and national centers to about 1100 subscribers.

The last Weather Service earth station in the continental U.S. segment of the service was installed in August. In November and December, telephone and teletype circuits of the old NWWS were decommissioned in Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, California, Nevada and Arizona, completing the transition from teletype to satellite.

NOAA also is extending the system to Alaska. Site surveys have been completed for facilities in Puerto Rico, and future plans include expansion to Hawaii.

Salmon Recalled From Market:--The National Marine Fisheries Service has found that cold-smoked salmon is contaminated with the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes* and recalled the fish from the market in Western Washington. Canadian products have also been found to contain the bacterium and have not been permitted into U.S. markets.

The primary symptoms of *Listeria* infection are meningitis, abortion, and prenatal septicemia. Pregnant women, infants, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems are high risk groups for infection, with a mortality rate ranging from 20 to 39 percent.

So Far, A Winter of Contrast For D.C.:--The National Weather Service reports that December of 1989 was the second coldest December ever recorded in the Washington, D.C. area with an average temperature of 27.9 degrees Fahrenheit, eleven degrees below normal. Meanwhile, last month was the mildest January in the area during the past 40 years with an average temperature of 43.6 degree Fahrenheit, 8.4 degrees above normal. It was the fifth warmest January since data were first recorded in 1871. The December-January departures from normal average temperatures of 19.4 degrees is the greatest deviation of any two successive months in Washington.

NOS To Produce New Nautical Charts:--The National Ocean Service will produce three waterproof nautical charts of the central Chesapeake Bay area with better resistance to refolding, wet conditions and everyday wear. They can be marked easily with soft pencil or erasable pen and then wiped clean and still retain their quality finish. The charts will be available to the public at a small price increase in April 1990.

Hydrologists Eye Volcano:--Recent eruptions of Redoubt Volcano located near the south-central coast of Alaska in the Aleutian Range just west of Cook Inlet are causing partial but rapid melting of a glacier surrounding the higher portions of the volcano which could lead to an oil spill, according to National Weather Service hydrologists.

The heat generated during the eruptions causes rapid partial melting of the glacier into the Drift River, the main drainage of the Redoubt Volcano. After one eruption and the subsequent flow, the course of the river's main flow was changed because of the large amount of sediment deposited.

The new flow went directly through an oil storage and terminal facility, forcing it to close and the shutdown of all oil pumping in the large oil field nearby. A large flow down Drift River could topple or damage some of the storage tanks and cause an oil spill in Cook Inlet.

The situation has remained unchanged since the last eruption, January 2. In an effort to minimize the possibility of an oil spill from another eruption, oil is being unloaded from the tanks frequently.

URI Joins NOAA Library Network:--The Sea Grant Depository of the University of Rhode Island has become the newest member of the NOAA Library and Information Network. The Network now includes 35 libraries and information centers.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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