

NOAA Report



July 9, 1990

COMING UP

Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite
Quarterly Review in Greenbelt, Md., July 10.

Next Generation Weather Radar Program Council
meeting in Rockville, Md., July 13.

International TOGA Scientific Conference in
Honolulu, Hawaii, July 16-20.

NWS Transition Management Meeting in Easton, Md.,
July 17-19.

Sea Grant Sponsors World's Largest Clam Farm:--A decade of Sea Grant-sponsored aquaculture research may result in the world's largest clam farm opening in South Carolina this fall.

NOAA Sea Grant has provided \$1.1 million over the past ten years to the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium to support advances in hard clam mariculture, including refining nursery and field grow-out systems and encouraging hard clam growth.

International Mariculture Research is seeking permits to build the 9,000-square foot hatchery and nursery, and expects to lease 4,000 acres of mud flat from the state of South Carolina to grow a special variety of littleneck hard clam. If the \$6.5 million mariculture facility is completed this fall, the company hopes to produce 46 million shellfish annually by 1994.

Increased domestic aquaculture production will contribute to reducing the national trade imbalance. It is also expected to bring new jobs and increased revenue to nearby Charleston, S.C., which was hit hard by Hurricane Hugo last year.

SWAMP to Use Doppler Radar in Monsoon Study:--NOAA's Southwest Area Monsoon Project (SWAMP) will use airborne Doppler radar to in the fore-aft scanning technique made for improved coverage of squall lines and convective complexes. This is the first time Doppler radar will be used for such studies in thunderstorms.

Broad mesoscale thunderstorm convective complexes form west of the Sierra Madres over northern Mexico during the evening. Little is known of their organization and total rainfall because of sparse radar and rain gauge coverage. NOAA's WP-3D airplane

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will gather such data with its tail Doppler radar and on-board meteorological instruments.

SWAMP, a month-long project begun last week, is studying summer monsoons over the southwestern U.S. and northwestern Mexico. Monsoons, seasonal land-sea winds, blow from sea to land in summer and reverse themselves in winter. The summer monsoons appear to fuel thunderstorms and related severe weather, and may contribute to severe weather as far east as the Great Lakes.

SWAMP is a cooperative project between forecasts and scientists of the National Weather Service, NESDIS Satellite Applications Laboratory, National Severe Storms Laboratory, University of Colorado's Cooperative Institute for Research in the Environmental Sciences, Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Salt River Project and Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Enseñada, in Mexico.

Weather Service Employee Wins FAA Award:--Fred Foss, meteorologist-in-charge at the NOAA's Federal Aviation Administration Center Weather Service Unit in Longmont, Colo., recently received FAA's Advanced System Acquisition Director's Award. FAA cited Foss for his contributions in the acquisition of weather processing equipment slated for installation in FAA centers. Some NOAA weather service units are based in FAA installations.

Publication Wins Association Kudos:--A publication produced under the direction of the NOAA Office of the Chief Scientist by the Alaska Sea Grant College Program was recognized for outstanding content and presentation by the Notable Documents Committee of the American Library Association's Government Document Roundtable. The publication, *Persistent Marine Debris: Challenge and Response, The Federal Perspective*, was among only 20 documents selected by the committee nationwide.

Spacecraft Launch Delayed:--The launch of the NOAA-D spacecraft will be delayed until at least April 1991 due to the replacement of the nitrogen regulator and relief valve system on the craft's launch vehicle. NASA believes the current regulator and relief valve system present a safety hazard to launch pad workers. NOAA-D is a polar orbiting satellite.

New Air Turbulence Index Introduced:--NESDIS scientists have developed a new measure of clear air turbulence to be used to brief airline crews before transatlantic flights. The Air Turbulence Index uses water vapor imagery from NOAA's geostationary satellite to locate, track and predict clear air turbulence. The index has been adopted for use by NOAA and the Canadian Meteorological Center.

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