

NOAA Report

NE1100
OPERATIONS BRANCH (A-List/354)
ROCKWALL Room 600
6001 EXECUTIVE BLVD
ROCKVILLE, MD 20252



June 4, 1990

COMING UP

Coastal Zone 91 Conference Planning meeting in Long Beach, Calif., June 6.

Joint Meeting of the National Research Council Committees for NWS Modernization and Meteorological Analysis/Prediction Research in Washington, D.C., June 12-13.

American Meteorological Society 20th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology in Boulder, Colo., June 20-24.

NOAA Awards Luncheon at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Va., June 22.

Biennial Canada/United States Hydrological Operation Multipurpose System Steering Committee meeting in Ottawa, Canada, June 25-26.

1990 Hurricane Season Opens:--Noting that the 1988 and 1989 saw two of the strongest and most destructive hurricanes in history, Federal preparedness experts speculated on the nation's ability to cope with a new era of dangerous storms as the hurricane season opened June 1.

Grant Peterson, Associate Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Dr. Robert Sheets, Director of the National Weather Service's National Hurricane Center at Coral Gables, Fla., held a press conference there to urge millions of coastal dwellers and visitors to prepare to protect themselves. Most have never experienced a direct strike by a hurricane.

Last year Hurricane Hugo, which caused the most damage of any in U.S. history, raked the Leeward Islands, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico before coming ashore near Charleston, S.C.

"We have been through a comparative lull in hurricane activity in Florida during the past two decades, with a similar lull for East Coast storms until Hurricane Hugo. If Hugo is an indicator of things to come, we may see a return to a period of hurricane activity similar to the 1940s and 1950s, when powerful and

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE • National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

destructive storms regularly struck Florida and the East Coast," Sheets said.

Hugo's damage on the mainland has been estimated at \$7 billion and another \$3 billion in the Caribbean. But because of early warnings and preparedness, the total death directly associated with Hugo numbered 49--21 on the U.S. mainland. An estimated 300,000 people were evacuated from the East Coast, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands before the storm struck.

Peterson pointed out that the low number of casualties showed that lives can be saved. FEMA's hurricane preparedness program, which assists the hurricane-prone states and communities and prepares plans for evacuating coastal areas vulnerable to surge flooding, is effective in saving lives, he said. Also, proper planning for new coastal development is needed to reduce future property damages. In South Carolina, evacuation planning based on FEMA's guidelines is credited with saving many lives during Hugo.

Together, the 1988 and 1989 seasons produced more intense hurricanes than any other two-year period since the 1960-61 seasons.

"Continued coastal population growth and the possibility of more intense hurricanes making landfall in the U.S. will most certainly lead to more and more costly hurricane damage and potentially large loss of life. However, if warnings are needed and proper preparedness plans developed, the death toll can be reduced," Sheets said.

Sheets emphasized that a \$2 billion U.S. weather system modernization now underway will improve the National Weather Service's hurricane warning capability. Application of the Doppler effect in the Next Generation Weather Radar (NEXRAD) will allow it to "see" inside storms, and will allow forecasters to issue better warnings of inland flooding from hurricanes.

Two geostationary (GOES) weather satellites normally are positioned over the Equator to provide a broad view of the United States, its coastal waters, and the Pacific and Atlantic breeding grounds for winter storms and hurricanes. At present, only one GOES is fully operational. Dual-satellite coverage will be assured throughout the remainder of this century with the procurement of five new-design, longer-life geostationary weather satellites. The first is scheduled for delivery in mid-1991.

Gulf Shrimpers' TEDs Compliance Is High:--Compliance with sea turtle protection regulations by shrimp fishermen was found excellent during a recent series of 73 vessel boardings in the Gulf of Mexico, according to NOAA Fisheries.

Under the Endangered Species Act, sea turtles are protected by NMFS regulations requiring the use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) which permit turtles to escape shrimp nets through trap-door devices.

Of the 73 boardings made between May 21 and May 24 by NOAA and Coast Guard agents, the highest compliance rate - 80 percent - was recorded by an enforcement group from Mobile, Ala., with a 65 percent rate recorded by the New Orleans enforcement group.

Commercial and recreational vessels were boarded in the Gulf-wide operation. Boardings occurred from Key West along the entire northern Gulf of Mexico to the Texas-Louisiana border. The most active fishery was between Mobile and Lake Charles, La., because of a 60-day shrimp closure of state and federal waters off Texas. Another heavy concentration of trawlers was observed along the Barataria Bay, La., coastline, with additional concentrations off Mobile Bay, Ala.

William W. Fox, Jr., NOAA Assistant Administrator for NMFS termed cooperation by shrimp fishermen "very good," with some shrimpers reporting high catches while using TEDs.

"We are very pleased with the compliance rates, and we look forward to even higher rates as the season progresses through the summer months," he said.

Sea Grant Review Panel Named:--Commerce Secretary Robert A. Mosbacher has announced the appointment of seven new members and the re-appointment of two members to 3-year terms on the national Sea Grant Review Panel.

The panel is an independent citizens' advisory committee made up of individuals with diverse backgrounds in marine affairs that advises the Secretary of Commerce, NOAA's Administrator, and the Director of the National Sea Grant College Program on scientific and administrative policy.

New members of the panel are (alphabetically):

Ronald C. Baird, Worcester, Conn. director of corporate relations at Worcester Polytechnic and director and president of the Schuster Corporation, an investment and manufacturing holding company.

Wayne V. Burt, Corvallis, Ore., professor emeritus, Oregon State University.

Marne A. Dubs, New Canaan, Conn., consultant to oil, chemical, mineral, and industrial products industries and member of the advisory council on marine affairs to the president of the University of Rhode Island.

Otto Klima, Jamesville, Va., retired vice-president and division general manager of the General Electric Company.

Arthur E. Maxwell, director of the Institute for Geophysics and professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin.

Carl H. Savit, Houston, Tex., consultant and adjunct professor of geology and geophysics at Rice University, Houston, Texas.

Eugene Shiels, Houston, Texas, energy consultant and retired executive vice-president and director of Zapata Corporation.

Members re-appointed to 3-year terms on the panel are: William F. Cochrane, Beaufort, S.C., president of ALCOA South Carolina, Inc., and Maumus Francois Claverie Jr., New Orleans, La., an attorney.

Other panel members include: Richard B. Allen, Wakefield, R.I., commercial fisherman; Peter Dunbar, Dunedin, Fla., assistant to the governor of Florida; Stanley R. Murphy, of Seattle, Wash., former professor of physics at the University of Washington; Benjamin Rathbun, Noank, Conn., charter fishing boat owner/operator; Saul B. Saila, Narragansett, R.I., former professor of fisheries biology at the University of Rhode Island; and Roger Thomas, Sausalito, Calif., owner/operator of a commercial passenger/fishing fleet.

Established by congress in 1966, the National Sea Grant College Program is a partnership of government, university, and industry working to preserve, develop, and wisely use the nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The program sponsors marine research, education, and advisory and extension services through a nationwide network of colleges and universities.

New Hampshire Coastal Program Evaluation Set:--A National Ocean Service team will conduct a site visit to New Hampshire from June 11 through 15 as part of an evaluation of the state's coastal program. Areas of interest for the evaluation team include the extent to which the State is implementing and enforcing its approved coastal management program and the adherence to the terms and conditions for financial assistance awards. The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management group, headed by Edward Kruse, will conduct a number of interviews and meetings with interested parties as part of its evaluation.

Two Arrested For Lacey Act Violations:--Two fishermen from Mississippi were arrested recently for unlawfully catching, possessing, transporting, and selling red drum. The fish were caught in Louisiana and taken through Mississippi for sale in Texas, a violation of the Lacey Act. The arrests came as a result of a six-month undercover investigation by NOAA Fisheries jointly with conservation law enforcement agencies from the three states involved. The multistate investigation was undertaken when numerous complaints that illegal red drum were being harvested and sold in interstate commerce. If convicted, the fishermen face a maximum penalty of a fines up to \$20,000, five years in prison, or both for each count.

PLEASE SHARE THIS COPY OF NOAA REPORT WITH OTHERS IN YOUR OFFICE.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ERRATA NOTICE

One or more conditions of the original document may affect the quality of the image, such as:

Discolored pages

Faded or light ink

Binding intrudes into the text

This has been a co-operative project between the NOAA Central Library and the Climate Database Modernization Program, National Climate Data Center (NCDC). To view the original document, please contact the NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring, MD at (301) 713-2607 x124 or Library.Reference@noaa.gov

HOV Services
Imaging Contractor
12200 Kiln Court
Beltsville, MD 20704-1387
July 23, 2010