



November 13, 1990

## NOAA to List Delta Salmon Species as Threatened

The winter run of chinook salmon in the Sacramento River in California should be listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), according to a final rule published by NOAA.

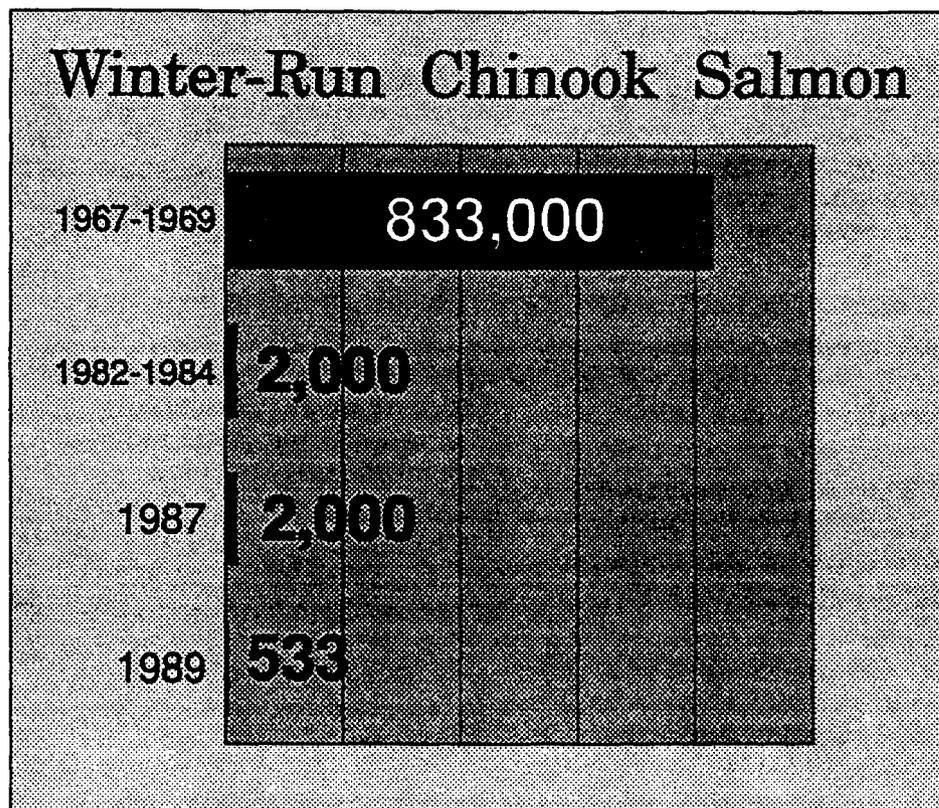
With the current listing as threatened, no direct take of winter-run chinook salmon by sport or commercial fishermen will be allowed. However, an incidental take may be allowed under sections 7 and 10 of the ESA. During severe drought conditions, NMFS scientists will be closely monitoring water levels in the Sacramento river to ensure that water distributed for agriculture and development does not increase the threat to the chinook.

The estimated size of the winter run has fallen from an average of 84,000 fish in the late 1960s to 533 fish for 1989, despite favorable weather conditions. Run size in 1990 is expected to be even lower. Because of the low return in 1989, NOAA's National Marine

### Storm-Spotting Satellite Nears New Location

NOAA'S GOES-East weather satellite will assume winter storm observing duties November 29, at 108 degrees west longitude, 22,300 miles above the equator, after a 32-day journey through space.

GOES-East—Geostationary Operational Environmental



**Salmon Stocks Decline:** The winter run of chinook salmon in the Sacramento River has dropped from 83,000 in the mid-1960s to less than 600 in 1989.

Fisheries Service (NMFS) determined the species was threatened, and instigated an emergency rule on August 4, 1989.

NMFS first received a petition from the American Fisheries Society to list the winter run of chinook salmon under the ESA in 1985. ☉

### Coming Events

- Opening of NWS Science and History Center in Silver Spring, Md., Nov. 19.
- NWS Modernization and Restructuring Seminar in Raleigh, N.C., Nov. 29-30.
- American Geophysical Union Meeting in San Francisco, Ca., Dec. 7.

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## NOAA-Funded Discovery Could Cut Genetic Research

The cost of genetic research could drop dramatically as a result of new findings by NOAA-sponsored Minnesota Sea Grant researchers.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota have found that using inexpensive fertilized fish eggs in genetic research provides the same information as expensive mammal eggs. For example,

the Beta-Actin gene found in carp is nearly identical in genetic organization and regulation as the same gene found in mice. But transgenic fertilized fish eggs—eggs with extra DNA, which stores genetic information—cost \$3, while transgenic mice embryos can cost \$300 to \$3,000 each. The fish eggs are also easier to store, move, grow and collect than mammal eggs.

Genetic researchers are currently looking for clues to genetic diseases such as hemophilia, multiple sclerosis and certain forms of cancer. ☉



A Key Sanctuary: Congress has designated a portion of southern Florida as a National Marine Sanctuary.

## Airborne Computer to Aid in Storm Forecasting

NOAA scientists have successfully tested an airborne hurricane research computer workstation which can give researchers more complete information about a storm as it flies through it, making forecasts more accurate.

The system, which will be implemented aboard the NOAA WP-3D hurricane research

aircraft in 1991, gives a vastly improved description of the storm in real time by composite radar analysis and profiles of temperature, pressure and wind.

In combination with a new aircraft-satellite data link, the new workstation is expected to improve hurricane track forecasts and estimates of wind and rain from storms about to hit land. ☉

## Florida Keys Named Marine Sanctuary

A Florida Keys sanctuary of approximately 2600 square nautical miles has been named a National Marine Sanctuary by an act of Congress.

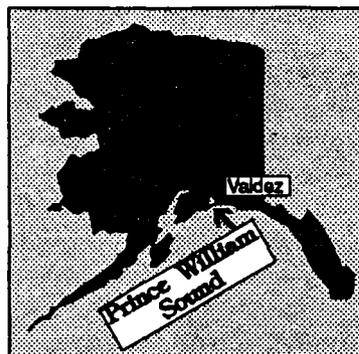
The new Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary extends 200 miles along the Atlantic coast, from the most northeastern point of the Biscayne National Park to the Dry Tortugas. The sanctuary also includes part of Florida Bay on the Gulf of Mexico side of the Keys.

The legislation restricts certain commercial vessel traffic and prohibits oil and gas leasing, exploration, development or production. It also requires a comprehensive management plan and regulations within 30 months. ☉

## NOAA Employees Honored for Valdez Work

The Commandant of the Coast Guard has recognized six NOAA employees for their work during the Exxon Valdez oil spill operation.

**Jerry Galt and Nicole Hammett** received the Distinguished Public Service Award, the Coast Guard's highest recognition; **Cdr. Burl Wescott and Lt. Joe Talbott** received the Guard's highest peacetime award for uniformed services; and **Debbie Payton and Debra Simecek-Beatty** received



Six Came Back: NOAA employees were honored for their work in Alaska, the agency's second highest award for public service. All work for NOS's Hazardous Materials Response Program. ☉

## Pageant Contestants' Frolic With Dolphins Earns Warning

A Gulfport, Miss., aquarium has been charged with violating the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) by NOAA by letting beauty pageant contestants swim with captive dolphins.

The warning was issued in response to a July 2 incident, when several contestants from the Miss Teen U.S.A. pageant were allowed to swim with captive dolphins at the Marinlife Oceanarium in Gulfport, Miss. Marinlife is not one of the four facilities in the U.S. allowed to conduct swim-with-the-dolphin programs.

Only four facilities hold permits allowing swim-with-the-dolphin activities under an experimental program. Viola-

tors of the rule incur not only warnings, but fines, penalties, and possible revocation of permits allowing them to hold captive animals for public display.

Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, NOAA is responsible for ensuring the overall well-being of marine mammals in U.S. waters. The MMPA requires NOAA to issue and regulate permits for the public display and research of marine mammals.

The warning followed NOAA's ruling this past summer granting an extension to the four facilities of permits allowing swim-with-the-dolphin programs to continue through 1991. The ruling set new provisions designed to protect animals more effectively from potential abuse from their human swimming companions as well as to safeguard and better inform the public of the potential risks of injury involved. ☉

### GOES Goes West

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Normally two GOES are in orbit, GOES-West watching the Pacific to the International Date Line, and GOES East the Atlantic, to the coast of Africa. GOES East was moved to a central position over the U.S. after the failure on January 21, 1989, of the imaging instrument aboard GOES-West.

While the loss of one satellite shrinks east-west coverage on about 1500 miles, the European METEOSAT and Japanese GMS meteorological satellites assist in providing advance warning of storms approaching the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. GOES-East will continue performing double duty, commuting back and forth each season, until a new satellite can be launched in 1992. ☉

### NMFS Agent Named Top Gun

**Suzanne Montero**, a Special Agent in Charge of enforcement in the southeast region for NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service in Miami, has been awarded the 1990 Julie Y. Cross Memorial Award, which recognizes "an outstanding woman in the field of Federal law enforcement."

Montero, the first female NMFS Special Agent in Charge, coordinates the turtle excluder device enforcement effort among the various federal and state agencies cooperating on the project. She manages the largest maritime enforcement area in the contiguous 48 states--from North Carolina to Texas, including U.S. territories in the Caribbean.

The annual award is given by the Interagency Committee on Women in Federal Law Enforcement, sponsored by the Departments of Justice and Treasury. The award is named in memory of U.S. Secret Service Agent Julie Y. Cross, who gave her life in the line of duty in 1980. ☉

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# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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