



October 9, 1990

NOAA Collects Honors on 20th Anniversary

NOAA celebrated its twentieth year in a grand style. Here's a few notes on what we did, and how the world took notice:

Stamps of Approval: The U.S. Postal Service released two sets of stamps with marine motifs in two public ceremonies, and NOAA played a role in each. The "Creatures of the Sea" commemorative series (right) was issued at the Baltimore Aquarium on October 3rd, NOAA's anniversary, and Deputy Under Secretary Gray Castle represented NOAA. Castle was joined by other senior government officials, in tribute to NOAA's role as protector of the species pictured on the stamps.

Another block of marine mammal stamps was issued the next day, October 4th, at Washington's National Aquarium, in the Commerce Department building. As part of the ceremony, NOAA is sponsoring a "Whales on Wheels" program for school children, featuring

Naugie, the Naugahyde Whale, a 10-foot replica of a pilot whale.

Hold the Presses: The broadcast and print media also showed interest in NOAA's 20th anniversary. Segments showcasing NOAA aired on

Good Morning America and the Today show, and a Washington all-news radio station, WTOP, aired four pieces on NOAA line offices throughout the day on the 3rd. NOAA also received a congratulatory message on the

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Celebrations at Sea: The U.S. Postal Service issued four stamps honoring marine mammals protected by NOAA, at ceremonies Oct. 3rd at Baltimore Aquarium. The issue coincided with NOAA's 20th anniversary celebrations.

New Volcanoes Found on Pacific Ocean Seafloor

NOAA and Oregon State University scientists have discovered a line of new volcanoes on the Pacific Ocean floor about 300 miles off the Oregon coast.

Formed from seafloor eruptions within the past decade, several are more than 100 feet high and half a mile wide, and may be related to gigantic

bursts of hot, mineral-rich water--megaplumes--discovered by NOAA in the area in 1986 and 1987 during investigations of seafloor hot springs.

Seafloor pictures taken in the area a year ago, and deep-sea topographic surveys made last August, showed new cones of fresh lava that did not

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Coming Events

- Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Meeting in Portland, Me., Oct. 11-12.
- Fisheries presentation at Fish and Wildlife Service's Upper Level Management Development Program Training in Leesburg, Va., Oct. 16.

New Pacific Volcanoes

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appear in 1981 surveys. In August the NOAA research team dove onto the area in the submersible Alvin, and found that fresh lava flows extend into, and cover, a large fracture that had cracked the older seafloor.

Seafloor is Spreading

The investigators believe the seafloor in that area of the southern portion of the Juan de Fuca Ridge is actively spreading, which produces increased volcanic activity. Scientists do not know how often such volcanic eruptions occur, because monitoring technology is only now becoming available.

TED Watch

During the week of September 19-25, observed compliance with TED regulations in the Gulf of Mexico averaged 92 percent.

Little-Known Fish Seen as Key Protein Source

Supplies of tilapia, a fish unknown to most Americans but widely eaten throughout the rest of the world, may soon increase due to aquacultural research conducted with NOAA support at the University of Hawaii's Sea Grant program.

Hawaiian researchers, with input from scientists in Canada and China, have been able

to breed tilapia that yield 25 percent more edible meat with no increase in the amount of feed required. The feed, however, must be supplemented with natural fish hormones, and the fish itself must be raised in clean saltwater.

Where tilapia is a part of the daily diet, it provides more animal protein than any other source, including beef, poultry and pork.

Int'l Agreement to End Dolphin-Tuna Catch

The twelve countries involved in tuna purse-seine fishing in the eastern Pacific have agreed to reduce sharply the number of dolphins their fleets catch and kill.

The long-term goal of the international program, agreed to in late September at a meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, is to reduce the dolphin catch nearly to zero.

The program includes these

elements:

- limit dolphin mortality
- 100 percent observer coverage
- research to improve fishing technology to reduce dolphin mortality
- training for high standards of performance, national research.

The countries involved were Costa Rica, France, Japan, Panama, the U.S., Vanuatu, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Mexico and Venezuela.

Short Takes

Hot Young Scientist Works for NOAA: Dr. Susan Solomon, a scientist in NOAA's Environmental Research Laboratories, was featured in an article touting "America's Hot Young Scientists" in the October 8th issue of Fortune magazine. Dr. Solomon developed a promising theory to explain how so much atmospheric ozone was disappearing over Antarctica, and then organized a data gathering expedition there. Currently, she is working on ozone depletion over the Arctic.

Baldrige Turns 20: The NOAA ship Malcolm Baldrige, a 278-foot oceanographic research ship based in Miami, will celebrate its 20th anniversary on October 12th with a shipboard reception for Baldrige crew and Miami-area scientists who have participated in scientific cruises aboard the ship. The ship was commissioned in October 1970 as the Researcher, and was renamed in honor of the late Secretary of Commerce in March 1988.

Media Spotlight Shines on NOAA's 20th Birthday

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front page of the American Meteorological Society's newsletter.

"Earth Systems Agency": NOAA Administrator Dr. John A. Knauss and Commerce Deputy Secretary Thomas J. Murrin accepted a plaque honoring "NOAA, the earth systems agency" for 20 years of distinguished service to the nation at a reception hosted by the Marine Technology Society at their annual meeting on September 27.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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