

July 1, 1991

Project More Than Two Years Behind Schedule

NOAA Panel to Examine GOES Alternatives

NOAA Administrator John Knauss has named an emergency task group to examine solutions to the problems plaguing the Geostationary Environmental Satellite (GOES) program, now more than two years behind schedule.

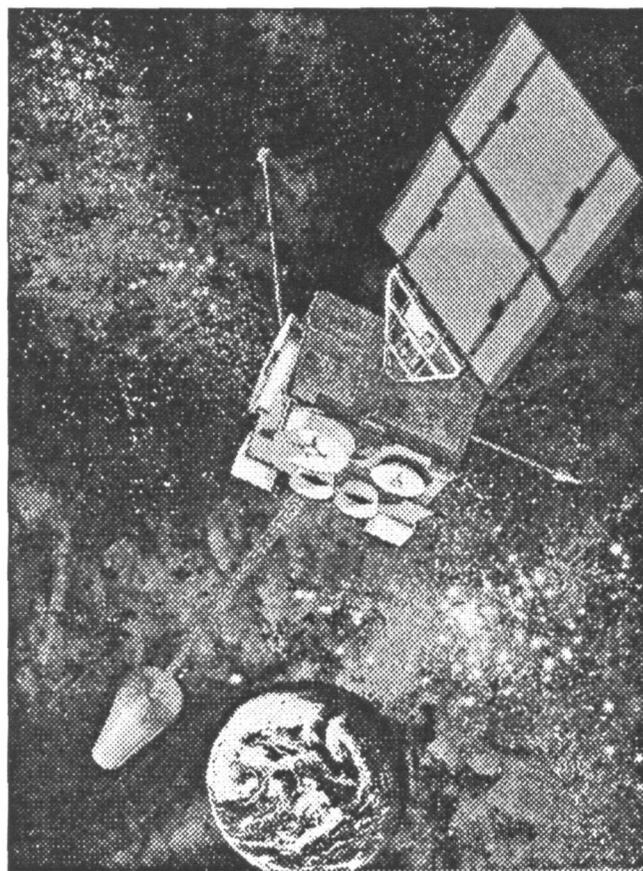
Russell Koffler, NESDIS deputy assistant administrator for satellite and information services, will head the team, which will report its findings to Knauss in three weeks.

Delays by GOES contractors—Loral Space Systems/ITT Aerospace Optical Division—have put the program's development far behind schedule. With only six months before scheduled instrument delivery, GOES is still evidencing defects, which greatly impair its usefulness. After an original pro-

jected launch date of 1989, contractor delays have pushed the current projected launch date to late 1992.

Continued contractor delays could leave the country without any geo-stationary satellite capability and a total loss of GOES data, severely curtailing the NOAA National Weather Service's ability to protect public safety through severe storm forecasts and warnings.

All this is further complicated by the



NOAA Administrator John Knauss has appointed an emergency task group to quickly finalize available options to provide a backup to the nation's lone geostationary satellite (GOES), above.

Knauss to Keynote Coastal Zone Conf.

NOAA Administrator Dr. John Knauss will be one of the keynote speakers at Coastal Zone '91, the world's largest conference on ocean and coastal management issues, beginning next week.

The conference, to be held in Long Beach, California, is expected to draw about 1,500 scientists, engineers, policymakers and interested citizens from over 50 countries. NOAA is one of the conference sponsors.

Coastal Zone '91 will spotlight a wide range of issues, including oil spill preparedness and response, coastal hazards, global

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short remaining life expectancy of the present GOES-7, which could expire as early as February 1992, the end of its normal five-year life. GOES-7 is currently the only GOES in operation.

Among solutions being considered by the emergency task group are possible discussions with Japanese and Europeans to use foreign in-

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500 Years of Data Studied

Interagency Study to Look at Climatic Patterns

Did the ash from a great volcanic eruption in 1815 lower the earth's temperature, and could a similar cooling reduce the greenhouse effect? NOAA is coordinating an interagency project to study 500 years of climatic data to find the answers to these and other questions.

The study will focus on two key periods—from 1680 to 1715, and 1790 to 1825. The first period included very low sunspot activity, which scientists think may have meant a slight decrease in energy radiated by the sun. The second period saw the Tambora volcano's massive eruption in 1815, which pumped volcanic ash into the upper atmosphere which carried it around the world. The ash lowered global temperatures, making 1815 what some scientists call "the year without summer."

"Climatic patterns on the yearly-, decadal- and century-scale are among the most relevant to future climatic change, and probably the least well understood," said Jonathan Overpeck, a program manager with NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC). "We want to check out the physical record to see what these cooling events actually

did, and what they could mean if comparable events happen in the future."

Physical Records Checked

Among the physical records scientists will check are tree rings, lake and marine sedi-

As the data records are being compiled, computerized simulations of global climate change will be run at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies to examine the possible causes of climatic change during the more than 400-year period of global cooling from 1450 to 1890, called "The Little Ice Age." These causes include increased volcanic activity, less solar energy reaching the

Among the physical records scientists will check are tree rings, lake and marine sediment, corals, ice cores from glaciers, and historical documents. 'We'll look at anything we can get our hands on,' one said.

ment, corals, ice cores from glaciers, and historical documents. "We'll look at anything we can get our hands on," Overpeck said. The diverse types of records insure the project will look at many areas around the world, he added.

earth, and changes in the way heat is moved in the oceans from the equator to the poles. The results of the simulation will be compared to the data the project is collecting.

Funded by NSF Grant

The project is funded by a grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation. The scientists involved in the project, dubbed ARRCC (Analysis of Rapid and Recent Climatic Change) include Overpeck; Gordon Jacoby, Columbia University; David Rind, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York; Ray Bradley, University of Massachusetts; Malcolm Hughes, University of Arizona; and Lonnie Thompson, Ohio State University. ☺

Knauss Names Emergency 'No-GOES' Panel

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orbit geostationary environmental satellites which would be moved over the US.

The GOES program collects infrared and visible images every half hour from geostationary orbit above the U.S. These images are used by NWS forecasters to observe cloud patterns indicating the formation of storms, storm intensity, movement and growth. Forecasters and safety experts consider this information imperative to protect the public against loss of life and property.

Joins Former Honorees Mosbacher, Powell, Spielberg

Earle Gets Award, Addresses Honor Students

NOAA's chief scientist Dr. Sylvia Earle received the Golden Plate award from the American Academy of Achievements, last week in New York City, for her outstanding work in oceanography, the sciences, and public service. Also honored was Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf.

The Academy's honorees are those who have "made a sig-

nificant difference in today's world through individual effort" in their chosen field. Former honorees include General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and America's highest ranking military officer; Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher; Diane Sawyer, broadcast journalist; Steven Spielberg, motion picture producer and director; General Chuck Yeager, famed test pilot and first man to break the sound barrier; Tom Clancy,

author; Steven J. Ross, co-chairman of Time-Warner Inc.; and Tom Selleck, motion picture and television actor.

Speaks to H.S. Students

Each year, the Academy invites 50 men and women of exceptional accomplishment—25 new guests of honor and 25 distinguished past award winners—to share their experiences with 450 of the nation's most outstanding high school honor students. ☺

NMFS Issues Swordfish Emergency Amendments

Emergency regulations to protect and restore the dwindling Atlantic swordfish population which went into effect last month have been amended to allow a minimum carcass length.

Previously, the emergency regulations only looked at the swordfish's weight.

The regulation now say that no more than 15 percent of the total number of swordfish landed from each commercial trip can be less than 31 inches dressed carcass length, or less than 41 pounds dressed carcass weight. The plan will allow fishermen harvesting swordfish from the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea three million pounds dressed weight during each of two six-month periods from January to June and July to December. Swordfish entanglement net fishermen will be limited to a 40,785 pound quota per season. Fishermen using other commercial gear have a nearly three million

pound quota. Once the quota is reached, swordfish landing is prohibited except for a two fish per trip bycatch limit.

Recreational fishermen may only use rod-and-reel gear and must also comply with the minimum size or weight restrictions. ☺

NOAA C'est Tres Parisienne!

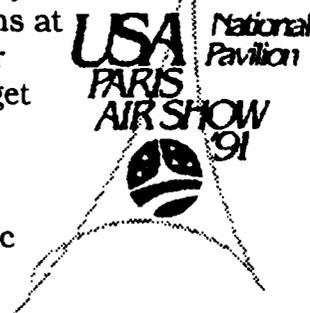
Paris has a lot going for it—world famous museums, wide boulevards, and strong coffee. And for two weeks last month, the City of Lights was also graced by a display of NOAA photographs at the 39th Paris Air Show at Le Bourget Field, where Lindbergh completed the first solo trans-Atlantic flight.

The photographs, measuring as large as 3 foot by 6 foot, were displayed just inside the entrance of the Air Show's USA National Pavilion, which is

sponsored by the Department of Commerce.

The photographs gave the visitors to the best-attended Paris Air Show in history views of the recent NOAA-D launch, an artist's conception of the NOAA TIROS satellite, and a blowup of the famous NOAA satellite picture of Hurricane Hugo in action.

Nearly one million business and public visitors attended the Paris Air Show, many of whom came to see the F-117A fighter plane, also known as the Stealth. ☺



Coxe Named Director of Ocean, Coastal Resource Mgmt.

Trudy Coxe, former executive director of Rhode Island's Save the Bay organization, has been named director of NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. The office administers the federal coastal zone management program, providing grants to the states and territories to manage their coasts. The office also runs a system of marine sanctuaries and estuary reserves throughout the coastal United States, and oversees a program that regulates deep seabed mining.

One of Coxe's first duties is as a speaker at the Coastal Zone '91 conference in California next week.

Coxe was with Save the Bay since 1977 and served as the 16,000-member organization's director from 1979 to 1990. 🌐

Coastal Ocean '91 Conference Opens in Calif. Next Week

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climate change and rising sea levels, offshore oil and gas activities, pollution and water quality, coastal wetlands protection, citizen participation in coastal zone management, fisheries management, and shoreline research and stabilization. The conference will also highlight the challenges and opportunities facing coastal and ocean resource programs in the state of California.

Among the NOAA speakers at the meeting will be Chief Scientist Sylvia Earle, Deputy

Under Secretary Gray Castle, and Trudy Coxe, newly appointed director of NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management.

From its beginning in San Francisco in 1978, the Coastal Zone conference series has evolved into an in-depth exchange of information and ideas to identify and solve coastal and ocean-related problems.

The conference runs from July 8 to 12. 🌐

Coming Events

July 1991

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Change of Command, Discoverer; Seattle	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7	8 NWS Modern. Coordinating Grp., Washington	9 Geographic Information and Spatial Data Exposition.	10 Risk Reduction Mtg., Silver Spring	11	12	13
14	15 House Sci., Space & Tech Subcmte: Tornado Forecasting	16	17	18	19 TRW Forum Colloquium, to discuss NWS mod. with employees, academics, and aerospace reps., Los Angeles	20

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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July 23, 2010