NOAA REPORT

Vol. IV, No. 8 September 1995

Communities Join National Meeting On Future Sustainability: The Commerce Department's National Teleconference on Sustainable Communities linked more than 100 communities with business, government and environmental leaders around the country earlier this month in an unprecedented event to further underscore the Clinton administration's commitment to promoting sustainable development as a national goal and generating greater public understanding about its connections with environmental health and the economy.

News Briefs

The teleconference linked solution-oriented community leaders via satellite with an audience of business, government, environmental and community leaders in Washington, D.C., and showcased communities that have succeeded in achieving sustainable economic development solutions to problems they faced.

"This teleconference is a national call to arms for the future of our communities," Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown said. "The conference [focused on] an issue that is critical to our future competitiveness and our future economic and social prosperity—sustainable community development," Brown said.

OAR Scientist Honored: Dr. Susan Solomon has been elected as a foreign

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Making Good Progress In a Difficult Situation

D. JAMES BAKER

I know that everyone is worried about what the future will hold. These are uncertain times, and we are all under extra stress with no clear resolution of budget and dismantling issues that are being pushed by the Congress. Responding to these issues is disruptive and time-consuming.

But I think we are making good progress in a difficult situation. I want you to know that we greatly appreciate your efforts to make our case and to continue providing superb services to the public. I and other members of NOAA's leadership are doing everything we can to educate the Congress about the impacts of the decisions that they are making. We are working hard to minimize disruption as we continue to provide essential public services.

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THE BUDGET BATTLES

A Time of Great Challenge

RON BROWN

As we have known for some time, this Fall will be a time of great challenge when the valuable work we do on behalf of the American people will be questioned and tested, externally and internally, particularly on Capitol Hill. But I am confident that these questions will be answered with resounding support for our Department and our work.

The next phase of the battle over whether the Federal government will play an affirmative role in promoting the competitiveness of American industry and the prosperity of the American people has now begun. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee made drastic cuts in our budget—cuts which would

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Top Net Pages Honored at WebShop '95

NOAA's best World Wide Web Home Pages on the Internet were recognized during WebShop '95 at NOAA Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., June 13-14. The conference brought more than 500 NOAA employees together to share ideas for taking advantage of the Internet's World Wide Web as a new communications tool.

"NOAA people are pioneering new ways on the Internet to make environmental data and information products easily available to the public," said Don Cote, who had the lead in organizing WebShop '95. "WebShop is only our first attempt at bringing some of NOAA's creative people together to stimulate more ideas and uses of Web Home Pages."

Cote, director of Office Systems Engineering at NOAA's Environmental Research Lab in Boulder, Colo., said the success of the workshop was due to the willingness of NOAA's experts from the field and headquarters to share their experiences and knowledge about the Web. This openness and sharing will enhance the quality of all NOAA's offerings on the Web and continue NOAA's leadership in information services.

During the two-day conference, participants presented more than 30 papers on topics related to building home pages and descriptions of some of the innovative approaches and uses of the World Wide Web. Sessions focused on management issues such as using the Web for educational outreach, and on technical issues such as software tools and page design techniques.

The National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) Home Page took home top honors as the best NOAA Home Page among all NOAA line offices. The WebShop organizing committee reviewed more than 100 NOAA Home Pages for originality, impact and presentation. A best home page in each line office was also recognized at the event. The WebShop '95 Awards for the best home page in each line office went to:

NOAA Headquarters: The GLOBE Program—Home Page and Data Server (http://www.globe.gov/)

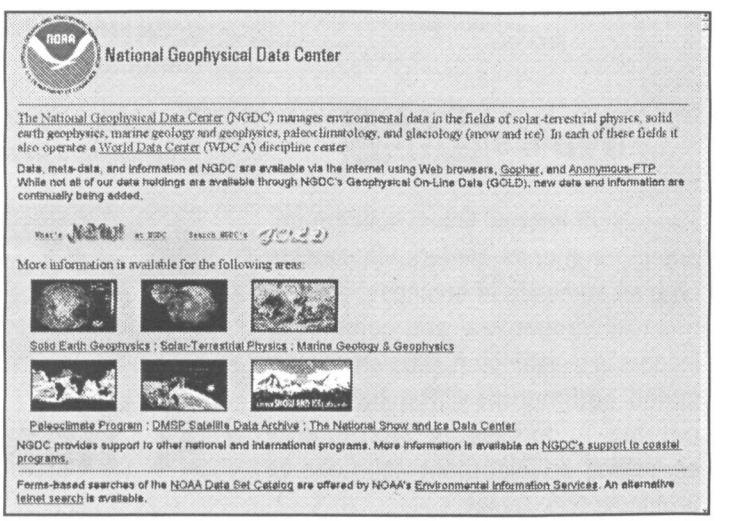
NESDIS: The National Geophysical Data Center Home Page (http://meridian.ngdc.noaa.gov/ngdc.html)

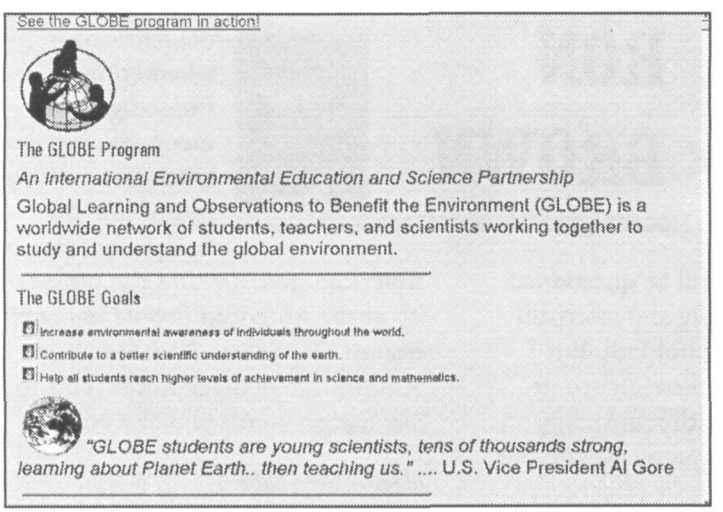
NMFS: The Northeast Fisheries Science Center Home Page (http://gopher.wh.whoi.edu/noaa.html)

NOS: Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management—National Estuarine Research Reserve System Home Page (http://www.nos.noaa.gov/ocrm/srd/nerrs/)

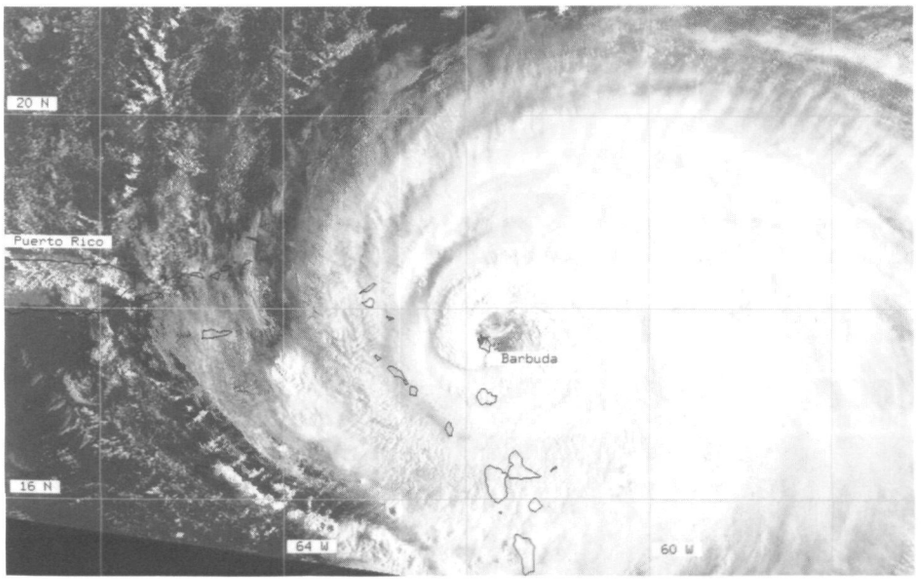
NWS: Talahassee, Fla. National Weather Service Office (http://thunder.met.fsu.edu/nws/public.html)

OAR: Space Environmental Lab Home Page (http://www.sel.bldrdoc.gov/)





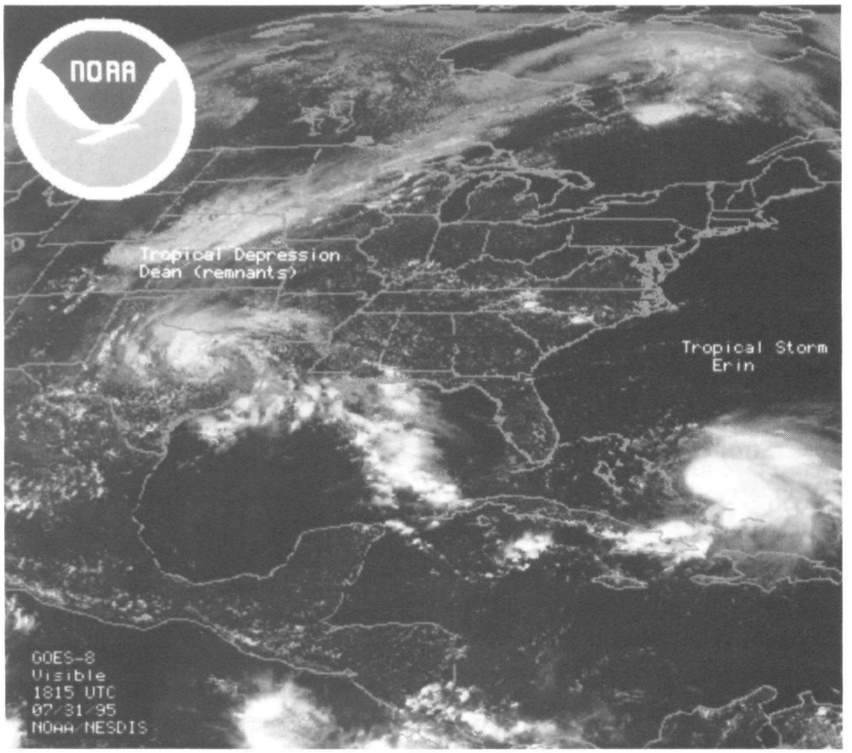
The National Geophysical Data Center Home Page on the World Wide Web (above) *was voted best NOAA page at the WebShop '95 conference recently. The home page for GLOBE* (left) *won honors for best NOAA Headquarters home page.*



'Cane Mutiny

1995 is quickly becoming one of the most active hurricane years ever. These pictures, taken by NOAA satellites, show just how large and powerful these storms can be. Next issue: the Parade of Storms.

Hurricane Luis (left) approaches the Virgin Islands, with its eye near Barbuda. This false color image, processed from visible and infrared data, was taken on September 5 at 7:15 am Eastern time, when Luis had sustained winds of 125 knots with gusts to 140.



This GOES-8 visible data image, taken on July 31 at 2:15 pm Eastern time, shows Tropical Storm Erin approaching the Bahamas, and the remnants of Tropical Depression Dean over Texas and Oklahoma. Erin had sustained winds of 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. Erin was officially classified a hurricane the next day.

Earth & Sky Radio Update

Here's the schedule for Earth & Sky Radio spots for September and October that are sponsored by or related to NOAA:

Corals: Oct. 3
Coral Reef Restoration: Oct. 4
Waterworld: Oct. 30

The Washington, D.C., affiliate for Earth & Sky is WDCU-FM, 90.1, airing Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. For the station nearest you, or for a copy of the scripts, call Jeanne Kouhestani at 202/482-6090 or e-mail her at *jeannek@pa@noaa* (Banyan) or *jkouhestani@hq.noaa.gov* (Internet).

Focus On...

Teacher at Sea Program

Teachers Nationwide Get Hands-On Research Experience Aboard NOAA Ships

Teachers from across the country are using their summer leave to participate in a Federal program that will give them hands-on experience in scientific research and nautical charting aboard government-owned ships—experience they will carry back to their classrooms in the fall.

Called *Teacher at Sea*, the program pairs educators with scientific and survey missions carried out by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on board ships operated by NOAA's commissioned service, the NOAA Corps. Teachers of any subject, from kindergarten to college, can apply.

"This program has been extremely successful for several reasons," said Rear Admiral William L. Stubblefield, director of the NOAA Corps. "It addresses the strong desire of teachers to gain 'real world' experiences to bring back to their classrooms, and to update their skills in scientific research. It also provides the NOAA labs with eager volunteers for their field projects. It boosts the scientists' and ship crews' morale to have someone on board who is curious about every aspect of their jobs and excited by every detail of the cruise. It's a win-win situation."

Sixth-grade teacher Karl Beighley from Southwestern Wisconsin Community Schools was the first teacher to participate in the program this year. Aboard the *Miller Freeman*, under the guidance of Chief Scientist Jeff Napp of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Beighley assisted with the three-week FOCI (Fisheries Oceanography Coordinated Investigations) program in the Bering Sea. During 12-hour shifts, he helped count larval pollock, collect ocean temperature and salinity data, record fishery data, preserve samples, wash nets, operate computerized nets, and other tasks. Meanwhile he observed everything that was going on around him.

Teachers Bill Floering (left) and Karl Beighley (right) bringing in an ocean temperature gauge on the NOAA Corps Ship Miller Freeman.

"For me, everything was new and different, and I never found it tedious. Living in southern Wisconsin, we're about as far from any ocean as you can get. I had no idea what is involved in this kind of research, and I gained an appreciation of what NOAA scientists are doing," Beighley said.

Beighley plans to share what he has learned with his students, and has begun to plan a unit on oceanography—something he's never had an opportunity to teach before. "I'll be trying to tie all I've learned from this trip into it," he said. "There are so many factors that affect the life cycles of fish, like water temperature, what they feed on, what feeds on them, even the weather halfway across the globe. Everything is interconnected, and that's the most important message I want my

students to get." *Teacher at Sea* began in 1990 as a joint venture between NOAA's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, Va., and the Virginia Marine Science Museum in Virginia Beach, Va. From just one participant the first year, it has expanded to both U.S. coasts and includes 42 participants this year. Applicants are rated by a review panel on how they intend to incorporate their experiences into their classroom curricula. Successful applicants can choose from several research missions ranging from one to three weeks, and only have to pay for their transportation to and from the ship. The program costs taxpayers nothing, but ultimately many people, including students, gain.

"In exchange for their shipboard experience, qualified applicants must agree to write a mini-unit of three lessons or classroom activities based on some aspect of their experience at sea, and either write an article or conduct a presentation at an educators' conference of some kind," according to Judy Sohl, who has coordinated *Teacher at Sea* out of NOAA's Office of Educational Affairs in Seattle, Wash., since 1992.

Sohl, who has a strong background in science and education, believes wholeheartedly in the program and has thrown all her efforts into making it successful. As a result, more and more teachers have been able to participate. "We want to spread the benefits of the program to as large an audience as possible," Sohl said.

Beighley will accompany Sohl to the 1996 National Science Teachers Association convention in St. Louis in March, and will share his experiences with other teachers there. He said that being chosen by NOAA to participate in the program was a great honor, and is grateful to his school board for giving him three weeks off in May to enrich his experience, and paying for a substitute to cover him.

"The program itself is a great thing," Beighley said. "Hopefully my experience will help me teach my students that there is more to the world than our own little corner of it."

—Jeanne Kouhestani

Brown: A Time of Challenge

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severely hamper American global competitiveness and our important work at Commerce. While it is encouraging that the Appropriators rejected the dismantling of the Commerce Department, this bill and many of its provisions are wholly unacceptable.

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee yesterday also approved a measure that includes a provision to dismantle the Department as part of a larger bill. This measure and others like it, however, amount to nothing more than box shuffling. They do not save the American taxpayer a single dime and in fact extract real costs in our ability to carry out functions for U.S. economic growth, now and in the future. The press today noted that Republican proponents of this overall bill are far from united on this dismantling proposal, which is consistent with information which I have been receiving directly.

It is important to keep in mind that the actions taken recently are individual steps in what is a long and complex legislative process. I remain confident that our efforts on Capitol Hill are moving forward and our message is getting through.

To prevail, we must remain focused as a Department. It is imperative we maintain our resolve, our drive and our commitment to the very important work we do. As the President has stated, any legislation to dismantle the Department will be vetoed. If we continue working together during these difficult days, I am certain the Department will continue serving the American public in the future as strongly as it does today.

Diversity Council Addresses Vital Issues

The NOAA Diversity Council addressed three core issues at its July meeting that will impact the NOAA-wide Diversity Plan and facilitate the achieving of diversity in the Department of Commerce.

One issue was the finalizing and approving of the NOAA-wide Diversity Survey. The 51-question survey was distributed this month by direct mail to all NOAA employees.

Members of the NOAA Diversity Council designed the survey in order to obtain a base line of diversity knowledge, attitudes, and practices within NOAA. In order for diversity to become an integral part of the workplace, managers, supervisors, and employees must have a good understanding of the concepts of diversity and practice them on a daily basis.

The survey will be conducted again in 1997, and the results of that survey will be compared to those of this year's survey to determine how much improvement has been made.

Another core issue addressed at the meeting was the importance of having diversity resources readily available to NOAA employees in the Department of Commerce Library and in the NOAA Library.

A Diversity Resources Center recently opened in the Department of Commerce Library, which is located in Room 7046 of the Herbert C. Hoover Building. Establishing the Center was a joint effort of the Departmental Library and the Office of Civil Rights.

"Good Selection" of Materials

"There is a good selection of resource materials available in the Diversity Resources Center, and more are being purchased," said Vera Whisenton, the Department of Commerce Library Director. "Our Center is unique—no other Federal government library has such a facility."

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The Department of Commerce Library staff has compiled a listing of Diversity Resources Center holdings and a selected bibliography on diversity issues.

The collection includes books, periodicals, reports, and videocassettes. A resource on CD-ROM, *Ethnic NewsWatch*, provides users access to minority and ethnic newspaper, magazine, and journal articles.

Available to All

While Diversity Resources Center materials are primarily for reference rather than loan, they are available on inter-library loan to all Departmental employees. Personal loans of these materials to Departmental employees are made on a case-by-case basis.

The NOAA Central Library, on the second floor in SSMC3 in Silver Spring, does not have a diversity section at this point. However, Library Director Carol Watts is interested in building one if funds can be obtained. Suggestions for titles can be forwarded by Banyan e-mail to Steve Quillen, the NOAA Library Collections Development Librarian (Steve Quillen@Lib@EOC4.

NOAA Mentoring Program

The pilot NOAA-wide Mentoring Program was a third core issue discussed at the meeting.

"For the past several months, NOAA has been exploring the idea of establishing a mentoring program," said Dick Oliver, NOAA's Training Officer.

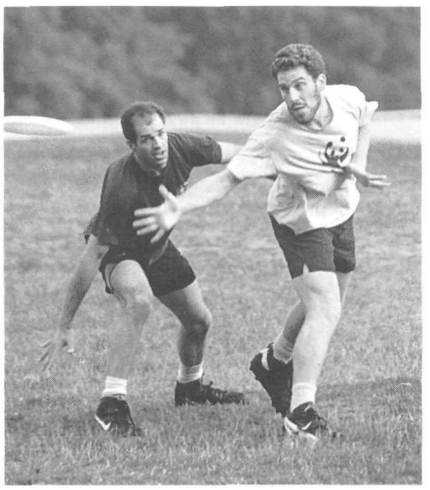
At the meeting, Oliver provided an analysis of the three mentoring program proposals that had been submitted to him. He discussed the mechanisms needed to establish the programs, the minimum standards for operation of each program, and each program's anticipated costs. Oliver will obtain solicitations from qualified vendors and present them at the Diversity Council's September meeting.

—Janet Amber

With NOAA Leads, Commerce Team Takes Ultimate Title

Frisbee as a sport? You bet! The newest in corporate league sports is Ultimate Frisbee. This game of running and jumping after a Frisbee disk combines lacrosse, basketball and football into a non-contact, highly aerobic sport with no referee to call violations!

And NOAA employees excel at the sport. The Department of Commerce's Ultimate team won the Washington, D.C., area Division I Corporate League Championship on Tuesday, Aug. 15, after an undefeated season. NOAA took the game, 15-9, against the World Wildlife Fund in sweltering 95-degree heat. Most players on the Commerce team are from NOAA, who as a separate team last summer won a Division II championship title of their own. This year's title tops off a second undefeated season, with a two-year record of 21-0.



Neil Christerson, NOAA (left), forces the World Wildlife Fund offense to a "dump" (sideways pass), keeping the team from advancing down the field.

Ultimate Frisbee began as a sport about 25 years ago, and is growing in popularity. Today the game boasts a national Ultimate Players Association with 8,000 members and even has a World Flying Disc Federation that sponsors competitions in dozens of countries.

Perhaps the best element of Ultimate Frisbee is the spirit of the players. Every Ultimate Frisbee player respects fellow players to such an extent that rather than using referees, players make the calls and trust the calls of fellow players, with the implicit assumption that nobody in Ultimate would try to cheat, no matter how competitive the game gets.

The best way to see how Ultimate is played is to go watch a local tournament. The Internet has a listing of pickup games around the country. To find one near you, check the Internet's World Wide Web at *http://www.hacks.arizona.edu/~hko/pickup/pickup1.html.* In the Washington, D.C., area, you can call the Washington Area Frisbee Club Hotline at (301) 588-2629.

'We're Making Good Progress in a Difficult Situation'

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The end result of recent actions was positive for NOAA. Part of our FY 1996 budget request was restored by the Senate Appropriations Committee, giving a better balance to the overall budget. We are still well below the 1996 request, but coming closer to the FY 1995 enacted level. The worst case scenarios involve downsizing that will affect at least some parts of NOAA with RIFs. These are a direct result of anticipated budget reductions. We continue to try to minimize the impacts of downsizing, and will keep you informed. In this vein, I have directed that general information on the RIF process be placed on the OA Tackboard and that an electronic mailbox be established to allow you to direct questions about RIF and related downsizing issues to our Human Resources Management Office for a timely response. The Banyan e-mail address to use is hrm-qa@HRMO@OA.

An Integral Part of Commerce

We continue to support NOAA's role as an integral part of the Department of Commerce (DOC). On Capitol Hill, the Abraham bill, companion to the Chrysler bill, was amended to ensure that NOAA would remain intact if DOC were to be transferred into a Trade Department. In any case, the President has promised to veto any bill that dismantles the Department. He and the Secretary continue to oppose the bills offered to dismantle or reduce the scope of the Department and any of its bureaus, including NOAA, and are gaining support for a more rational approach to examination of the structure of the Federal government.

In the past few months, I and the other NOAA leadership have been travelling to NOAA facilities around the country to give our view of the status of these issues and to hear from employees about their concerns. I've been impressed with the professionalism and maturity of the response, and the great help that everyone has provided to get out the message about the important things that NOAA does. We are essential to the Nation, and people are beginning to recognize it. On September 12 in a House Science Committee hearing, Rep. Boehlert (NY) said that "NOAA is a magnificent agency." I couldn't agree more.

We will continue to work on your behalf, and we appreciate your support.

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associate of the Academy of Sciences of France. Dr. Solomon, a senior scientist at OAR's Aeronomy Laboratory, is an international expert in the study of the depletion of the ozone layer. Her pioneering theoretical and observational work led to major breakthroughs in our understanding of the causes of the Antarctic ozone hole. She led the National Ozone Expeditions to Antarctica in 1987 and 1988, where she made pivotal measurements that provided the first definitive clues linking human made chemicals to the cause of the ozone hole. Her research has illuminated the processes that deplete the ozone layer in the world's polar regions and in the more populated middle latitudes.

News Briefs

Fishing for a Complement (to Dinner): Americans ate more seafood in 1994 than in 1993—consuming more than 3.93 billion pounds of domestic and imported seafood in 1994, or 15.2 pounds per person. That is an increase of 76 million pounds over the 3.85 billion pounds Americans consumed in 1993, according to statistics compiled by NMFS.

NMFS officials said that the per capita consumption level of 15.2 pounds per person represents a modest increase of 0.2 pounds over the 1993 level. Americans have consumed approximately 15 pounds of seafood each year since 1985, and chowed down on a record 16.2 pounds each in 1987.

Imported fish and shellfish comprised 54 percent of the seafood consumed in the United States in 1994. U.S. exports declined for the second year by one percent.

Doppler Radar Saves Lives and Property

It is widely known that Doppler Weather Radar is a superior tool for detecting severe storms and tornadoes, but its skill in detecting high winds as well was evidenced over the Labor Day weekend in Jackson, Miss.

The WSR-88D Doppler weather radar can detect wind flow patterns associated with gust fronts, cold fronts, outflow boundaries and any other discontinuity in air masses. The radar is also a wind profiler that gives wind readouts at differing levels of the atmosphere.

Over the Labor Day weekend, the Doppler radar was put to the test. A four-day air show was being held at the Jackson airport. The show featured hot air balloons, sky divers, and civilian and military aircraft.

Daily Briefings Based on Doppler

Daily briefings given by the staff at the Jackson Weather Service field office to the event coordinator were largely based on the Doppler weather radar readings. The weather during the first three days of the air show the weather was fairly benign.

On the fourth day, the air show was to begin at 10 am and continue through the late afternoon. Around 9:10 am, the Doppler weather radar began to pick up strong winds about 50 miles north of the Jackson airport. The Doppler radar indicated winds around 50 miles an hour and they were moving south at about 50 miles an hour—this would place strong winds over the Jackson airport about the time the air show was getting into full swing.

The staff at the Jackson NWS office began alerting airport officials and event coordinators around 9:40 am, giving them continual updates. At 10:10 am, the winds, with gusts of 35 miles per hour, moved across the Jackson airport.

Because the Doppler weather radar was able to detect the approach of the strong winds, the air show was able to shut down and get all aircraft on the ground and properly tied down before the winds hit. In addition, vendors were able to get tents and other equipment tied down.

The airport staff, event coordinators, and vendors were very appreciative of the job done by the Jackson office. Without the use of the Doppler weather radar, this outflow boundary could have arrived at the airport totally undetected, injuring many people and causing much property damage. Thanks to the Doppler weather radar, only one tent was blown down.

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RECYCLED PAPER

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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