

NOAA REPORT



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New NWS Science Chief Named:

Gregory Mandt has been appointed chief of the Science Division for the National Weather Service's Office of Meteorology. Mandt, formerly the program manager of NOAA's Polar Satellite Program at NESDIS, will lead the Science Division in developing requirements for all systems supporting observations, forecasts, dissemination, training, and professional development activities. He will also be working closely with the research community to ensure that the latest scientific advances are applied to the entire NWS

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forecast process and are linked to NWS's efforts to improve weather services for the entire nation.

U.S. Negotiates Historic Tuna Compliance Measures:

An historic provision, proposed and negotiated by the United States at the annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, establishes for the first time in an international fishery management organization a program for compliance with fish catch quotas by member nations. The United States considered compliance by both member and non-member countries to be the highest priority issue at the 1996 meeting of ICCAT. A major problem for ICCAT has been the lack of compliance with catch limits. With declining stocks, the compliance problem is magnified.

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S. GITTINGS (MAIN PHOTO); GENE DRIES (INSET)

Little Texas Down Under at Flower Gardens

Del Gray, drummer for the popular country band Little Texas, leads the charge on a recent dive at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. Gray joined fellow band members Dwayne O'Brien (inset: left) and Duane Propes (inset: right), and NOAA's Chris Ostrom and Steve Gittings (inset: second and third) on a fish census of the Texas sanctuary, hosted by the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF).

The band is planning a benefit concert in 1997 to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary, the 25th Anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuaries, the International Year of the Reef, and REEF. ☺

Federal Partnership to Clean NW Waters

Two Federal agreements led by NOAA will create and enhance habitats for fish and wildlife injured by years of pollution in Washington state's Commencement Bay.

The Federal trustees, in cooperation with the city of Tacoma, have agreed to collaborate in developing and implementing five marine and freshwater restoration projects, beginning one each year over the next five years.

NOAA administrator D. James Baker went to Tacoma to announce the restoration agreements in mid-October.

Under the second agreement, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will make available three separate parcels of aquatic lands, more than eight acres, in Commencement Bay for habitat restoration projects. WDNR will also provide in-kind services to assist in developing the restoration projects and will work with the trustees to identify corrective measures needed to benefit the broader Commencement Bay environment.

The proposed agreements settle claims for injuries to natural resources resulting from hazardous substance pollution. The natural resource trustees act under authorities granted by the Superfund Act and other Federal, state and tribal laws.

Kantor Hails 'Partnership'

Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor said in a letter to Washington state Congressman Norm Dicks, "This announcement exemplifies the Clinton Administration's commitment to working with local communities to rehabilitate our precious natural resources—a partnership that will lead to beneficial growth well into the 21st century."



NOAA administrator Dr. D. James Baker puts the final piece in the puzzle announcing the Federal agreements to clean up Commencement Bay in Washington state.

"These agreements are a shining example of what the trustees can accomplish on behalf of the public through the damage assessment and restoration process," said Baker. "It demonstrates a strong commitment to a healthy environment while avoiding expensive litigation. The public wins, the city wins and the environment wins."

Under the agreement between the trustees and the city of Tacoma, the city will provide the property, funds and services needed to construct and maintain the habitat restoration projects in cooperation with the

trustees, and will provide funds and services to support further natural resource injury evaluation and restoration planning efforts. In addition, the city has agreed to operate a pollution reporting hotline for five years, to provide funds to be used by the Indian tribe trustees for enforcing environmental regulations and other natural resource-related matters and to reimburse the trustees for a portion of the costs they have incurred in studying and documenting the impact of pollutants upon the area's natural resources.

—Matt Stout ☺

Corps Capt. Becomes ACSM Fellow

NOAA Corps Captain Lewis Lapine, Director of the National Geodetic Survey, was recently elected a Fellow of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping—quite an honor, as Fellows are limited to one-half percent of the membership.

Capt. Lapine was instrumental in helping the profession leap forward by integrating mapping techniques with the global positioning system, and implementing this new mapping technology in the public and private sectors. ☺

Sea Squirts Invade San Francisco!

Keeping Invasive Species at Bay

Floods of new organisms being dumped into our coastal waters are creating an “ecological roulette wheel,” according to invasive species expert Andrew Cohen.

During a NOAA sponsored forum on marine and coastal aquatic nuisance species, Cohen, of the University of California at Berkeley’s Energy and Resources Group, revealed that more than one and a half million gallons of ballast water is discharged every hour into U.S. waters. Ballast water, carried by cargo ships to maintain stability at sea, transplants more than 3,000 stowaway species of marine plants and animals to U.S. ecosystems every day. The Nation’s experts gathered for the marine forum to examine the growing economic and ecological threats posed by this influx of invasive species.

After the forum, Cohen and fellow invasive species researcher Jim Carlton led Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force members on a field tour to get a closer look at invasive species, such as Asian clams, green crabs (see inset graphic), sea squirts and other “fouling organisms.” The tour and forum were part of a meeting convened by the task force, co-chaired by NOAA and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS). The November 13-15, 1996 meeting was held at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. San Francisco was dubbed the “most invaded ecosystem in North America” in a 1995 report by Cohen

and Carlton to NOAA’s Sea Grant program and FWS.

Prevent and Control

“As the lead federal agency responsible for protecting our coastal marine resources and managing commercial and recreational U.S. fisheries, NOAA has a significant interest in addressing the problem of invasive species,” said Sally Yozell, NOAA’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, who organized the marine forum to spotlight the impacts of invasive species on NOAA’s trust resources.



“We need to learn how to prevent and control ANS introductions to ensure healthy coasts and oceans for our present and future generations.”

Increased invasions by non-native aquatic species and imported water-borne viruses, and the devastating impacts associated with them, received national recognition with the recent passage of the National Invasive Species Act. Calling for a widespread effort and more national research for ways to prevent and control such invasions, the bill authorized \$29 million annually for nonindigenous species effort and mandated an 18-month ballast water management demonstration program to be overseen by the departments of Commerce and Interior.

—Catherine Anderson

ERL Scientists at Symposium

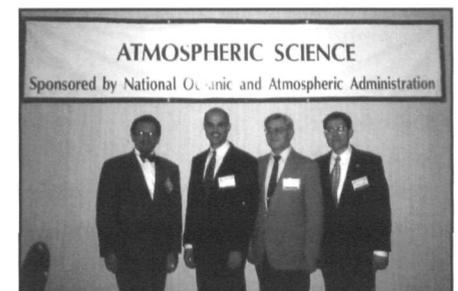
Preparing Minorities for Science Careers

Meteorologists from several Environmental Research Laboratories participated in an Atmospheric Sciences Symposium at the 1996 Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Annual Conference. The symposium was organized and chaired by Dr. John Cortinas Jr., a meteorologist at the National Severe Storms Laboratory, to introduce students and professionals to the field of atmospheric science.

The symposium exposed attendees to several areas of research within several Environmental Research Laboratories: Dr. Fernando Caracena, from the Forecast Systems Laboratory, spoke about microburst research; Dr. Carmen Nappo, from the Air Resources Laboratory, spoke about turbulence and diffusion research; and Dr. Raul Lopez, from the National Severe Storms Laboratory, spoke about lightning research.

Additionally, all the scientists spoke with many students about how to prepare for careers in science.

Over 1000 students and professionals attended the SACNAS Conference that took place in Los Angeles in late October.



ERL scientists Carmen Nappo, John Cortinas Jr., Fernando Caracena and Raul Lopez spoke at the symposium.

Focus On...

Doug Hall Leaves NOAA After Four Eventful Years

After nearly four years as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Deputy Administrator of NOAA, Douglas K. Hall is leaving his post to return to the Nature Conservancy as Chief Operations Officer. During his tenure at NOAA Hall led many important efforts in the conservation arena with a particular focus on the crisis facing our Nation's fisheries. In addition to his oversight responsibilities for fisheries issues, Hall also actively directed efforts related to the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the Damage Assessment and Restoration Program.

"Doug Hall has been the best Assistant Secretary and Deputy Administrator NOAA has ever had," said D. James Baker, Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of NOAA. "Doug brought with him a clear vision of what we could do to promote NOAA's responsibilities to predict and protect our natural environment. His leadership will be sorely missed." (In the interim, NOAA General Counsel Terry Garcia has been appointed to Hall's posts as Assistant Secretary and Deputy Administrator.)

As Hall departs, *NOAA Report* asked him to reflect back on the past four years and share some of his thoughts.

NOAA Report: What are the accomplishments of which you are personally most proud?

Hall: First, we have made significant progress in the conservation of the Nation's fisheries over the past four years, and we are seeing some signs of recovery and rebuilding of severely depleted stocks. Unfortunately, some of these problems had been ignored for over a decade, and we are in a deep hole. In the Northeast, we have imposed tough conservation measures and provided financial assis-

stance to displaced fishermen.

In the Pacific Northwest, we took enormous strides forward by taking a science-based approach to managing this very complex problem. The

result is a more stable and inclusive management process.

Second, we have made progress in protecting and enhancing NOAA's budget. A lot of agencies have seen sharp cutbacks in their budgets, but we have managed to avoid significant cuts and in some areas actually achieve significant increases. Fisheries, for example, has had a funding increase of about one-third since the beginning of the Administration.

The modernization of the National

"Doug Hall has been the best Assistant Secretary and Deputy Administrator NOAA has ever had," said Baker... "His leadership will be sorely missed."



Weather Service has been our top priority and is on track despite tough budgetary pressures. We have also seen increases for research, the sanctuary program, and mapping and charting.

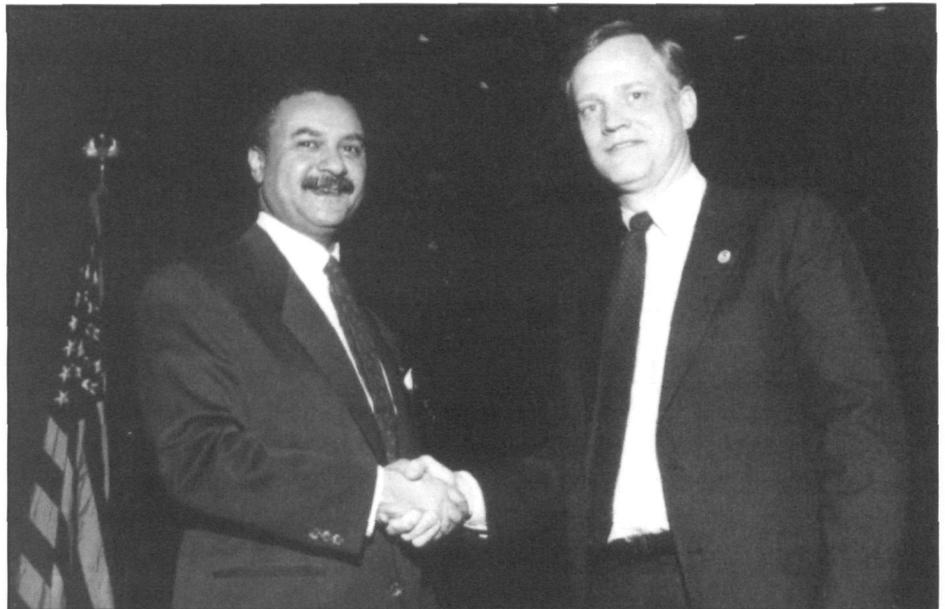
Across the board, we are a stronger agency. And I believe NOAA is enjoying a new prominence and a larger role in addressing environmental issues from both a science and policy perspective.

What have been the biggest challenges you have faced over the past four years?

Without a doubt, dealing with the lack of resources. Historically, the agency has been underfunded, and we inherited budgets in many areas that were far too low and unfortunately serve as the baseline for all new budget initiatives or proposals. We have been fairly successful thus far, but Federal agencies are facing the toughest budget times ever. That makes communicating the importance of NOAA's mission all the more important in coming years.

NOAA provides vital services to the public every day, from weather forecasts to maps and charts, but it will take a concerted effort to keep that information front and center when budget decisions are made. The agency must also be willing to set priorities, reallocate resources, and look for new ways of doing business that involve partnerships with entities outside the government.

Dealing with shrinking budgets will



Doug Hall joined then-Commerce Secretary Ron Brown at their initial meeting with NOAA employees in the Commerce Department auditorium in 1993.

continue to be a big challenge for NOAA and other federal agencies. To deal with it you have to set priorities, and in some cases that means re-allocating resources. In other cases it means forming new partnerships and opportunities. Agencies that set clear priorities and look for the most creative and effective means of delivering services will be poised to be most successful in the future.

Another obvious challenge was the effort to dismantle the Commerce Department and split NOAA apart. However, this actually provided many benefits because it forced us to communicate with the public, Congress and other key stakeholders

much more effectively than we had in the past.

It is important to stop every once in a while and ask some basic questions like. What is our purpose? Why is this work important? What benefits does it provide for the Nation?

I believe the strong support NOAA has received in the face of one of the most severe tests in its history is a testament to our success in answering these questions.

In many ways, the past four years have been a tough time, but I think NOAA is a better agency as a result of the experience.

What has been the most memorable

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Fisheries Gains Calif. Naval Facility

A former U.S. Naval reserve center was transferred to NOAA in a ceremony held in late October in central California. The Naval Reserve Center, Pacific Grove, was designated for closure in March 1993 and was formally deactivated by the Navy in April 1994. NOAA has been working to acquire the property since late 1993.

The transfer ceremony was officiated by Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy William Cassidy, Jr. and NOAA General Counsel Terry Garcia. Other speakers included Steven Honigman, General Counsel of the Navy, Nancy Foster, Deputy Assistant Administrator of NOAA for Fisheries, Congressman Sam Farr, a strong supporter of marine sciences, and Mayor Sandy Koffman of Pacific Grove. The transfer ceremony was followed by tours of the facility, which included poster and computer displays describing NOAA's cooperation with the Navy, and research of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

"The Monterey Bay region has an excellent reputation for research and education in the marine sciences, and NOAA is proud to contribute to this effort and to be at the forefront of working to understand our environment and its resources," said Garcia. "The NOAA Fisheries group that will occupy this building and the NOAA weather forecast office in Monterey both cooperate extensively with the Navy's operational activities here to benefit both agencies."

"The Department of the Navy is gratified that it has been able to contribute this excellent resource to the important marine research that is already being conducted in the Monterey Bay area," agreed Cassidy, who oversees Naval base conversions.



Terry Garcia, NOAA General Counsel (left) receives the key to the building for the new Pacific Grove NOAA facility from Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy William Cassidy, Jr. (2nd from right). Assisting with the transfer were Mayor Sandy Koffman of Pacific Grove and Congressman Sam Farr (right).

"Today's transfer of the Naval Reserve Center facilities at Pacific Grove to NOAA is a wonderful example of our ability to convert Defense facilities for civilian use in a manner that will enhance the community and the region."

The Pacific Grove facility is now the home of the Pacific Fisheries Environmental Group (PFEG), part of National Marine Fisheries Service's Southwest Fisheries Science Center. The group has been located on the Monterey Peninsula for 27 years and was first housed in a trailer on this same site, going on to move seven times among temporary facilities before returning to Pacific Grove. PFEG scientists use data and information on ocean conditions generated by the Navy's Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center and provide oceanographic data, analyses, and research in support of NOAA's mission of fisheries management and advancing marine fisheries predictions. Changes in ocean conditions affect the

productivity of many fisheries, and PFEG's research contributes to the understanding of fisheries fluctuations.

The 4½-acre property has an interesting history. It was first acquired by the Coast Guard in 1870 as part of the Pt. Piños Lighthouse, which is a stone's throw from the new NOAA facility. The current building on the site was constructed in 1952 to serve as an air interceptor training facility for Navy pilots and ground personnel during the Cold War.

In 1963, the site was deactivated as a training facility and became home for the Naval Fleet Numerical Weather Facility, used as a computing and reporting center for meteorological analysis. Eleven years later, the site became the home of a Naval reserve unit which drew 100 reservists from the San Francisco Bay area for monthly training activities. Eight active duty Naval personnel worked there full-time to maintain the site and conduct training until its closure in 1994. ☺

Baker: 'His leadership will be sorely missed'

Hall Says Goodbye to NOAA

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event during your tenure?

It would undoubtedly be the death of Secretary Ron Brown and our other Commerce Department colleagues. His death has had a huge impact on the Nation, the department, NOAA and me personally. But perhaps more importantly, his death has served as a reminder of what a short time we may have to make a contribution. Many people who worked with Ron Brown have re-dedicated themselves to public service and to making a difference in the lives of others. His death was a great loss, but his life was a great gift that is still being experienced by many, many people.

What do you see for NOAA in the future?

NOAA has a bright future. The agency enjoys strong bipartisan support for its mission and there is widespread public support for the services we provide. And our mission—to predict and protect—puts us right in the middle of some of the key issues and challenges that will be facing the Nation in the 21st century. These are issues that relate to national security as well as to the environment. For example, environmental degradation can lead to significant social problems, as we have seen in many parts of the world. NOAA can help us be prepared to manage scarce water resources in this Nation and around the world.

As a well known and well respected science agency, NOAA is uniquely

poised to help answer the most critical questions which will confront us in the future.

As you leave NOAA, what will you take away from the experience?

I have learned how to operate more effectively and efficiently in a very complex political and policy environment. I have learned the critical importance of always remaining true to scientific data as criteria for making important decisions. But most of all I will have memories of working with some of the most dedicated and talented individuals with whom I have ever had the privilege to work.

What parting thoughts would you like to leave with all NOAA employees?

Be proud of the work you do. Your role as public servants is vital to our Nation. The first job my dad had was with the Tennessee Valley Authority helping to build the Kentucky Dam. It was an incredible achievement that changed the economy of the whole region by bringing electricity to a previously poverty-stricken area. To me this has always demonstrated the power of positive change the federal government possesses. We should all cherish that power. We should make sure it is carefully used, but we should never be shy about what we do in service to the public. Public service is an honorable and noble profession, and we should be proud to be part of it.

Finally, you should know and believe, as I do, that NOAA is one of the best agencies, with the best people, and one of the most important missions in all of the Federal government. I am proud to have been associated with so many fine individuals. ☺

NOAA is one of the best agencies, with the best people... I am proud to have been associated with so many fine individuals.



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WMO Awards Two: Dr. Dusan Zrnica of NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Okla., and Dr. Alexander Ryzhkov of the NOAA-Cooperative Institute for Meteorological Studies at the University of Oklahoma, have received the Vaisala Award from the World Meteorological Organization Nov. 5 in recognition of their work using polarimetric radar data to improve rainfall estimation.

Joint Institute Director Named: Dr. Guy A. Meadows has been named the director of the NOAA-Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystem Research in Ann Arbor, Mich., the only NOAA joint institute with direct responsibilities for research in fresh waters. CILER is affiliated with the University

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of Michigan, Michigan State University, and NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, promoting collaborative research between NOAA and university scientists from throughout the Great Lakes basin.

NWS Employee's Outstanding Effort: Robert Chartuk, of East Moriches, N.Y., was honored with the NWS Modernization Award for his outstanding efforts to keep communities informed of county warning area transfers, commissioning activities, certification efforts, and other NWS modernization and associated restructuring requirements. In addition to his normal duties, Chartuk, a public affairs specialist at the NWS Eastern Regional Headquarters, assumed the responsibility of handling all user community notification activities required under the modernization and associated restructuring plan. ☺

Pilots Laud *Rude* Efforts in TWA Crash

When navigating a 1000-foot ship through a narrow waterway, with bare inches of under-keel clearance, a marine pilot must have every detail on the local nautical chart memorized, and completely understand local tides and currents.

It is no wonder, then, that NOAA—whose National Ocean Service's Office of Coast Survey provides pilots the critical charts and information on tides and currents they need—was the only Federal agency invited by the American Pilots Association to participate in its 1996 national convention. In mid-November, 350 marine pilots from across the country met in Charleston, S.C., to discuss safety and navigational issues.

The keynote speaker for the convention was National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman Robert Francis, the man in charge of the TWA Flight 800 crash investigation. In his address, Francis cited the valuable side-scan sonar work performed by the NOAA ship *Rude* during the two-week period after the crash. Several pilots seconded his praise for the *Rude*, and reiterated the valuable service that NOAA provides to its nautical charting customers.

NOAA was represented by Dave Enabnit, deputy chief of Coast

1996 Hurricane Season Marks Near Record

A near record number of major hurricanes punctuated an active season of Atlantic tropical cyclones this year. Thirteen named storms produced nine hurricanes, six of them with wind speeds exceeding 110 mph, according to the National Hurricane Center. "This puts 1996 easily within the top ten percent of our 110-year record," said Bob Burpee, NHC director. ☺

Survey's Marine Charting Division; Jim Dixon, chief, Atlantic Operations Section; and NOAA Corps Cmdr. Nick Perugini, chief, Atlantic Hydrographic Branch. The NOAA team erected a booth that showed off the latest products and services provided by the Office of Coast Survey. Many pilots were interested in finding out about NOAA's electronic charting program. Others wanted to know how to request modern hydrographic surveys for their region. Many pilots were very interested in the Physical Oceanographic Real Time System, or PORTS, a system that enables mariners to access real time tide and current information. The NOAA representatives addressed the full convention, giving a status report on Coast Survey activities.

As a result of NOAA's participation in this convention, the pilot who is driving that 1000-foot ship through a narrow channel now has a better understanding of the navigational information provided to him by the Office of Coast Survey. ☺

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