



See pages 4 and 5.

Guess Who's Turning 30



Jon-Christopher Bual/OPM for NOAA

Gene Loudon (left) and David Miller of NOAA's Office of Public and Constituent Affairs review the latest Year 2000 rollover information from NOAA facilities on New Year's Eve.

Life Behind the Government's Y2K Desk

—By Jana Goldman

On New Year's Eve everyone held their breath, then let out the collective sigh of relief that was sighed around the world as the clock stuck midnight and there were no major computer problems.

Planes did not fall from the sky, missiles were not deployed from underground silos, water flowed from municipal taps and ATMs did not (sadly) spew out unrequested \$20 bills.

The world had lived through what was predicted by some to be a major technological disaster. Thanks to upgrades and monitor-

ing, the major computer systems performed beautifully.

No one was watching this more intently than the volunteers who staffed the Joint Public Information Center, located in an unassuming downtown Washington, D.C., office building. Public affairs professionals from all government agencies, including four from NOAA, sat behind computer screens in a half dozen rows of tiny carrels.

Only a half wall separated the JPIC staff from the media. The continued on page 7

NOAA Employees Help Santa Claus Help the Homeless

Santa Claus got a helping hand in December from employees of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction in Camp Springs, Md.

On Dec. 22, NCEP staff delivered gifts contributed by NCEP employees and other NOAA staff to Shepherd's Cove, a shelter in suburban Washington, D.C., helping bring a merrier Christmas to over 50 homeless children and their mothers.

Organized by NCEP director's secretary Linda Burroughs, with help from operations officer David Caldwell, employees in early December decorated a Christmas tree in the director's office with cut-out angels, each bearing a child's name and a gift each child had requested. Then employees continued on page 7



James Partain/NOAA

Nicole Vanderzon is one of about a dozen Santa's helpers who wrapped gifts for Shepherd's Cove shelter.

Bernie Greene: A Life at Sea

—By Jeanne Kouhestani

The smell of salt air, halyards singing in the overhead, a swaying deck beneath his feet. These are the indelible memories of a life at sea for NOAA's own "ancient mariner," Bernard J. "Bernie" Greene, now chief quartermaster aboard the NOAA hydrographic survey ship *Rainier*.

Greene has held some of the agency's least traditional jobs during his 37 years before the mast with NOAA and its predecessor agencies.

He began his civilian federal career with the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in June of 1963 without consciously deciding to be a mariner. He needed a job, and a friend told him about one that happened to be available aboard the hydrographic survey ship *Surveyor*. He started as engine wiper, the lowliest of jobs on the ship, which required cleaning up oil spills, cutting deck plates and doing any other distasteful type of work no one else wanted to do.

He was soon promoted to the position of quartermaster, where he performed a number of navigation-related duties on the ship's bridge.

Shortly thereafter, when C&GS became part of the Environmental Science Services Administration, Greene sailed around the world as quartermaster aboard *Oceanographer*, a new, first-of-its-kind oceanographic research ship.

Next came the newly commissioned *Rainier*, a hydrographic survey ship, the advent of NOAA in 1970, then *Fairweather*, another hydrographic survey ship, where he served 17 years until the ship's decommissioning.

When the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill despoiled Prince William Sound in 1989, Greene was pulled from his new assignment aboard the fisheries ship *Miller Freeman* and returned

to *Fairweather*, which was re-commissioned for a year to help deal with the spill.

"The spill was pretty bad," Greene recollected. "There was oil all over the place. *Exxon Valdez* was on the reef and leaking very badly. *Fairweather* would move from place to place and anchor for awhile so the scientists could go out on small boats to do their work. When I wasn't helping getting the ship from one place to another, I stood anchor watch for security and to make sure the ship didn't move."

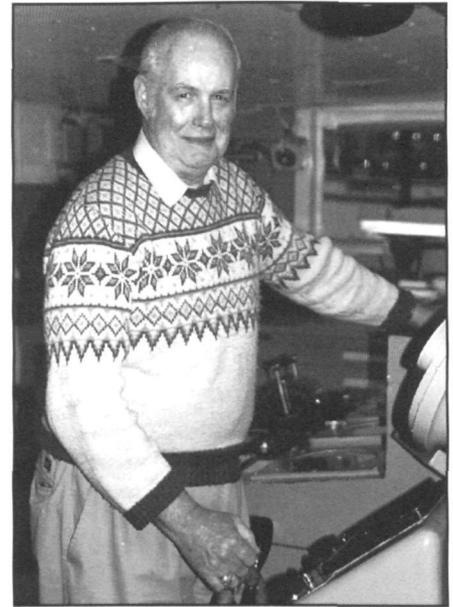
From *Fairweather*, Greene went to the oceanographic research ship *Discoverer* for about 10 years, until it was decommissioned in 1996, and then went back to *Rainier*.

As *Rainier's* chief quartermaster, he assists the navigation officer with many duties, perhaps most importantly, making the track lines that tell the ship where to start and where to finish its journey each day.

Greene has worked with most of the marine center directors and admirals during his career, and helped train many NOAA Corps officers and wage marine crew members on standing a safe and effective bridge watch.

Of the many changes that have occurred during his life at sea, most notable to Greene is the difference technology has made in how mariners do business. During his younger years, a good mariner was defined by how well he could read the stars and use the navigation instruments of his trade. Today, improved radars, the global positioning system and computers make these skills less important, if not obsolete.

"It's what made good mariners way back then—knowing your stars, knowing how to fix your position with a sun azimuth and sextant, checking currents and



Lt. Mark Wetzler/NOAA

Chief quartermaster Bernard Greene.

tides. Now it's all on a computer. I can get a full year's worth of tide and current information just by logging on. With GPS, we always know our exact position. It's easier than before, but I think we've lost something, too," Greene said.

During his long career at sea, Bernie Greene has maintained a family life with a wife and two daughters—the oldest of whom has preceded her father in retiring! "My being away so long has been especially hard on my wife," Greene said. "She's the big boss, God bless her. She had to raise the girls alone and make the tough decisions. She's done a fantastic job."

Bernie Greene has outlasted three NOAA ships. "I just love going to sea," Greene said. "The best things about it are the people I work with and the different places I see. And I've been at it so long, it's like having a second home. I keep saying each year that I'm going to retire, but it's hard to let go."

He says maybe next year he'll retire. But maybe not. ☺

This is the first in a series of profiles of men and women who have been employees of NOAA since its inception on October 3, 1970.

NOAA Team Responds to EgyptAir Crash

—By Robert Chartuk

When Egypt Air flight 990 bound for Cairo inexplicably fell from the sky off Rhode Island Oct. 31, 1999, NOAA personnel were at the top of the "go-to" list of experts called on for search and recovery.

The NOAA response team arrived at the EgyptAir command site within 48 hours of the crash and quickly put numerous assets into play.

The NOAA hydrographic survey ship *Whiting* steamed to the crash site 40 miles off Nantucket from Delaware Bay under the command of Lt. Cdr. Gerd Glang. Running their first survey line at 4:30 a.m., *Whiting's* crew found the airliner's major debris field on the first pass, a feat duplicating that of *Whiting's* sister ship, *Rude*, during the JFK, Jr., response.

At a command post set up at Newport Naval Base, Cdr. Steve Barnum served as NOAA on-scene coordinator, with Lt. Cdr. Emily Christman as deputy, splitting their time between NOAA activities and providing critical data to the Navy, Coast Guard and National Transportation Safety Board staffers, including NTSB Chairman James Hall. At their side was another aviation crash veteran, Lt. Shep Smith, and a National Ocean Service hydrographic survey team that interpreted *Whiting's* data.

Coordinating NOAA efforts from Washington, D.C., Capt. Sam DeBow put the entire crash response operation into motion. A veteran of the TWA flight 800 and JFK, Jr., recovery efforts, DeBow went on national television to tell the NOAA story as the EgyptAir response unfolded, and provided



Jeanne Kouhestani/NOAA

At the EgyptAir 990 joint agency operations center, (left to right) Lt. Cdr. Emily Christman and Cdr. Steve Barnum, NOAA Corps, coordinated Whiting's search for wreckage while the Marine Prediction Center's James Hoke and David Feit provided critical marine weather reports to the search and recovery team.

regular updates to NOAA headquarters, the Department of Commerce and the White House.

Before long, all eyes focused on another area of NOAA expertise—the weather.

As an anxious world waited for word from the search and recovery team, the Atlantic Ocean showed a side the NOAA staffers know too well: an intense low pressure system whipped up dangerous 50-knot winds and 20-foot seas that drove *Whiting* and Navy survey vessels from the crash site after only a day of search operations.

Backed by a team of meteorologists at NOAA's Marine Prediction Center in Camp Springs, Md., the center's operations director, David Feit, quickly became the command post's focal point. Looking ahead more than two days, the center forecast a brief weather window when wind and waves would recede to safer levels. The timing of this forecast was critical since it was a ten-hour cruise to the crash site and an even longer return trip

through threatening seas.

Based on the NOAA forecast, recovery operations were resumed. In the black of night, with winds still howling, *Whiting* and two Navy ships headed back out of Narragansett Bay in anticipation of the promised calm.

"NOAA forecasters made a real impact on an event of intense national concern," Feit said. "Much of the planning for the recovery effort was based on our input."

With *Whiting* back in business during the six-hour weather window, another NOAA specialty—hindcasting—was put into play. Specialists from the Ocean Service's Office of Response and Restoration, represented by Lt. Cdr. Christman, in conjunction with the Hazardous Material Response and Assessment Division in Seattle, factored in winds, waves, tides and currents to help estimate where any floating debris could be found.

Also chipping in was the Ocean
continued on page 6

Focus On...

NOAA Celebrates 30 Years of Service

—D. James Baker

NOAA will celebrate its 30th anniversary as a federal agency on October 3, 2000. While we are relatively young as an organization, we have a rich history spanning nearly two centuries. Our 30th anniversary is an important milestone for NOAA as we enter the 2000s with a firm commitment to describe and predict changes in the Earth's environment, and to conserve and wisely manage the nation's coastal and marine resources.

During the upcoming year we will be celebrating the accomplishments that are the direct result of the vision and dedication of the people of NOAA. An important part of this celebration is a 30th anniversary Website which will showcase our most important asset, the NOAA family.

At our annual awards ceremony in December I announced our 30th anniversary as the opportunity to begin to build the next generation of scientists and environmental stewards. We will carry out that task by directing outreach efforts to the education community throughout the country.

As a NOAA employee, you can play a significant role by actively participating in events conducted at your facility, whether it be an open house or a visit to your local schools.

So get involved. Share your experience with folks in your community. Let them know what you are doing on their behalf and tell them about NOAA, its mission

During the upcoming year we will be celebrating the accomplishments that are the direct result of the vision and dedication of the people of NOAA.
—Administrator D. James Baker



Ronald Bell/DOC

NOAA Administrator D. James Baker



Brad Halter/NOAA

Don Neff (left), the Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory's South Pole station chief for the 1999/2000 winter-over, and lab director David Hofmann extend New Year's and NOAA anniversary greetings from the South Pole Jan. 1, 2000.

and goals. We have a wide variety of tools available for you and the best place to start is on the anniversary homepage at <http://www.30th.noaa.gov>.

Also be sure to let us know the activities your office is involved with during the year. Take photos of your events and send them, along with a description of the

activity, to David Miller in NOAA's Office of Public and Constituent Affairs at David.P.Miller@hdq.noaa.gov.

We have a lot ahead of us as we usher in the new year and our 30th year of service to the nation. Enjoy yourself, get involved and celebrate our accomplishments while we look forward to a bright tomorrow. ☺

Highlights in NOAA History

The following is a sampling of highlights in NOAA's 30-year history. For a more complete listing, see the NOAA anniversary home page at <http://www.30th.noaa.gov>.

Oct. 3, 1970 - NOAA established.
Dec. 31, 1971 - U.S. commercial whaling ends, due in large part to National Marine Fisheries Service conservation findings.
April 30, 1974 - SMS 3 satellite provides NOAA with first real-time continuous space weather observations.
Jan. 30, 1975 - The site of *U.S.S. Monitor* wreck off Cape Hatteras, N.C., is designated the nation's first national marine sanctuary.
Oct. 16, 1975 - GOES 1, the first geostationary weather satellite providing day and night imagery of the Earth's surface, is launched.
Dec. 16, 1976 - NOAA leads scientific response to spill of *Argo Merchant* off Nantucket, Mass.
March 16, 1978 - NOAA's Spilled Oil Research Team conducts joint Franco-American assessments of *Amoco Cadiz* oil spill off French coast.
Feb. 1, 1979 - NOAA Sea Grant Intern Program, now called the Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship, is initiated.
June 1980 - NOAA Ship *Oceanographer* is the first U.S. government vessel to visit China for ceremonial start of joint U.S.-China oceanographic and climate research.
Dec. 9, 1983 - The National Marine Fisheries Service files the first claim for natural

resource damages from hazardous contamination of the New Bedford, Mass., harbor.
March 24, 1989 - NOAA Ship *Rainier* serves as the

Miami, Fla. **June 21, 1993** - North American Vertical Datum of 1988 is approved for federal surveying and mapping activities.
Sept. 29, 1993 - A team of aquanaut-scientists completes the first mission in the *Aquarius* seafloor habitat in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.
June 16, 1994 - Following successful conservation measures, the National Marine Fisheries Service removes the Pacific gray whale from the threatened and endangered species list.
Jan. 23, 1996 - NOAA Ship *Malcolm Baldrige* completes NOAA's first around-the-world science cruise.
July 1998 - NOAA's Tropical Atmosphere-Ocean array of buoys in the Pacific Ocean measures record high sea surface temperatures, revealing the onset of a massive El Niño/Southern Oscillation that will have dramatic impacts on weather worldwide.
May 3, 1999 - National Weather Service advance tornado warnings in Oklahoma City, Okla., are credited with saving 600 lives from category 5 tornadoes.
July 28, 1999 - The deployment of AWIPS at 152 forecast offices tops off the modernization of the National Weather Service . . .



command post during NOAA HAZMAT assessment and clean up of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, the largest in U.S. history, off Alaskan coast.
June 2, 1989 - North American Datum of 1983 is approved for federal surveying and mapping.
Jan. 15, 1992 - NOAA Ship *Mt. Mitchell* begins environmental assessment of the 1991 Persian Gulf oil spill.
May 18, 1992 - Following repeated collapse of New England ground fishing stocks, National Marine Fisheries Service begins large-scale ecosystem study of Georges Bank.
Aug. 22-26, 1992 - Warnings go out in advance of Hurricane Andrew, which knocks out the radar at the National Hurricane Center in

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Egypt Air

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Service's Office of Coast Survey, which provided a map detailing the layout of the ocean floor at the crash site. The map, or "mosaic," enabled the Navy salvage ship *Grapple* to anchor safely in the debris field without disturbing the wreckage.

Joining the NOAA team at Newport, R.I., were Peter Stone and Carl Kammerer from the Ocean Service's Center for Operational Oceanography Products and Services, which validated ocean current profiles dating back to the 1920's, and collected additional real-time data detailing currents at the crash site. The two specialists were escorted out into the Atlantic aboard Navy ships to put their vital information into the hands of the crash response leaders.

Another NOAA "team member," a National Data Buoy Center weather buoy already anchored just 17 miles from the crash site, provided critical information to the search and recovery team.

"We constantly monitored the data on sea conditions and weather, provided on an almost minute-by-minute basis by buoy 44008," Cdr. Barnum said. "It was just one of the many assets that established NOAA as an integral part of the EgyptAir mission."

Also on hand at Newport was NOAA Fisheries agent Kevin Flanagan, who helped respond to local fishermen worried about the possible closure of fishing areas and retrieval of lobster pots and other gear.

Lobster gear played into the recovery effort in another way when *Whiting's* side-scan sonar "towfish" became entangled in gear and its plastic tail cone broke off, forcing the crew to come up with an immediate and creative fix.

"Operating at night in ten-foot-

plus seas, chief engineer Martin Rose, with assistance from the crew, machined a new tail cone from the chief steward's plastic cutting board," explained Lt. Cdr. Glang. "The make-shift part ended up more resistant to damage than with the regular tail cone and is a real credit to the ingenuity of my crew."

Back at the disaster operations center, Jeanne Kouhestani and Robert Chartuk, both from NOAA's Office of Public and Constituent Affairs, were on hand to discuss NOAA's role and capabilities with the media.

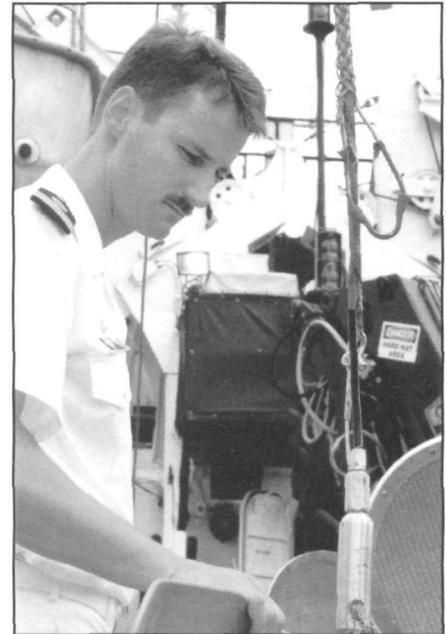
"From answering reporters' questions to posting NOAA materials on our Web pages, Public Affairs went into overdrive to highlight NOAA's numerous activities," said OPCA Director Barbara Semedo. "I am particularly proud of Cdr. Barnum of the NOAA Corps, who represented NOAA to the national media and stood side-by-side with Chairman Hall during both public and private briefings."

"NOAA has done an incredible job. We couldn't have done it without you."—NTSB Chairman James Hall.

With the NTSB overseeing the recovery operation, NOAA personnel spent considerable time with Chairman Hall and even accompanied him on a briefing with flight 990 family members.

The importance of forecasts from the National Weather Service office in Taunton, Mass., was noted as well, particularly as they pertained to a Nov. 7 memorial service for the families of crash victims.

"I personally discussed the Taunton forecast with Chairman Hall the day before the Sunday memorial service," said James Hoke, director of the Marine



Dane Konop/NOAA
Whiting skipper Lt. Cdr. Gerd Glang.

Prediction Center, who also assisted at Newport.

"The services were to be held on a beautiful, but very exposed, point of land by the sea, with a forecast for 20- to 25-mile-per-hour winds, gusting to 35, and a high of only 45 degrees. The chairman immediately went to his staff with the news, with the result being the families were prepared for the blustery weather and heaters were installed in the tent where the services were held," Hoke said.

The solemn and moving memorial service presented a form of closure for the families.

Several NOAA Corps officers were invited to participate in the private services. Lt. Todd Haupt, executive officer of *Whiting*, was a member of the honor guard, which represented each of the uniformed services assisting in the aftermath of the crash.

Months after the crash, various NOAA personnel are still on call to assist with EgyptAir issues.

Though many of the NOAA staff have gone back to their regular work, they stand ready, willing and able to help in future special missions with their unique abilities and dedication. ☺

Y2K

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Department of Commerce desk, which was staffed by NOAA Public Affairs members Gene Louden, Madelyn Applebaum, Dave Miller and myself, as well as two other DOC recruits, was about 15 feet away from ABC News anchor Sam Donaldson's area. While Donaldson interviewed guests about what could happen, we were getting reports about what was actually happening, which for the most part was nothing.

The JPIC served as a backdrop for the media, who needed shots of people working, gathering information and generally "keeping an eye on the situation." It was not unusual to look up from the computer screen into the zoom lens of a cameraperson shooting over the half wall.

The actual command center for the "Y2K Information Coordination Center of the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion" was two floors below the JPIC. A bank of television screens lined one wall with monitors placed throughout the room.

Scores of sector monitors fielded telephone calls and scanned computers as they kept tabs on a variety of areas, including telecommunications, public health, food and transportation. They reported any abnormalities to their corresponding JPIC person on the tenth floor. Canada even had a sector desk. Those reports were fed hourly to Koskinen, who used them in his media briefings.

The day I was there, Wednesday, the only abnormality reported was a bank in the United Kingdom having problems reading credit cards with expiration dates of "00." The situation was remedied, but it served as an alert that this could be a problem elsewhere. It did not appear to be in the days to come.

When filing our reports, we were reminded to keep things in context, such as if there was a report of 56 ATMs being out of service, well, how many are out of service on a regular day? Or if something wasn't working, how many were still working? This helped keep a proper perspective.

"New Year's Eve was filled with both anxious and eager anticipation," said Gene Louden. "Everyone had done their homework. Everything was tested and ready to make the change without incident, but this was the acid test and you could feel it in the air."

Louden was at the desk when clocks around the world began to strike midnight. It was 9 a.m. in Washington when the Weather Service Forecast Office on Guam rolled over to 2000 without incident.

"The big event for NOAA was of course midnight GMT, since all our instrumentation operates on that time," Louden said. "When Japan rolled over and we continued to get signals from their GSM-V satellite, we breathed a little easier."

At 7 p.m. EST, Louden pulled up the GOES satellite feeds on the Web and he knew first hand that those systems were working. After checking the National Weather Service's Y2K bulletin page, he knew all was well there, too.

Louden watched the reaction of his colleagues as Administrator Baker stepped to the podium to announce NOAA's status at the 8:30 p.m. New Year's Eve briefing.

"I felt very fortunate to be part of that moment," Louden recalled. "I am an admitted hopeful romantic and always feel pride in working for NOAA. It has an incredible group of people who care about what they do and it always shows, but never so clearly as when Dr. Baker announced that NOAA made the rollover without incident."

Santa's Helpers

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selected an angel to sponsor. When all 56 angels had been selected, other employees contributed still more gifts and cash, which was used to buy additional gifts for the children and mothers.

"The children sent us a wish list of what they wanted, and the spirit of giving overtook us," Caldwell said.

"The children each received at least the one toy they had asked for," Burroughs said, "plus they received coats, pants and shirts. One little six-year-old boy didn't ask for a gift for himself. He asked for a gift for his mom instead, which was incredibly touching," Burroughs said. "The woman who sponsored him bought tons of stuff, and also bought something for his mother," she said.

The employees made a special effort to make sure every child got the gift he or she asked Santa for, and then some. Caldwell even purchased a computer play station that could be used by the entire shelter. In all, over 100 employees, including some Hoover Building staff, contributed approximately \$3,300 in gifts and cash.

Burroughs, Caldwell and secretary Angela Stansbury delivered the gifts Dec. 23 to the Capitol Heights, Md., shelter. They were invited back to help hand out gifts to the mothers on Christmas eve after their children were asleep. The children opened their gifts from Santa on Christmas day.

"They did a beautiful job," said Rev. Geraldine Chapman, the shelter's director. "The whole (NCEP) group was so sweet. I just thought it would be an extra blessing for them if they were here to pass out the gifts to the families. All the kids said, 'That's what I asked for and that's what I got!' They were so happy."

More Winners

The listing of DOC Bronze Medal winners in the December NOAA Report was incomplete. With apologies—and congratulations—from the editor, the following are the omitted winners.

Office of the Under Secretary

Michael Crosby, Roger Griffis, Alan Strong, Jane Cappelle, Allen Tom, Matthew Stout, Jeffrey Benoit and Mark Monaco: For leadership and scientific and administrative/technical support towards the implementation of departmental and administration priorities and objectives related to the U.S. Coral Reef Initiative, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and the President's Executive Order for Protection of Coral Reefs.

Systems Acquisition Office

Warren Keenan, Stephen Piotrowicz, John Hotaling, Theodore Ulinski, Michael Knowles and Francis Colohan: For the design, procurement and deployment of the Doppler radar for the NOAA Ship *Ronald H. Brown*.

Office of General Counsel

Allison Areias, Sarah Laskin and Roger Griffis: For their contributions to "Looking to the Sea: America's Ocean Future," a report on ocean policy to the President from his Cabinet.
Margaret Hayes, Leila Afzal, Eileen Cooney, Jane Hannuksela, Lisa Lindeman, Joel MacDonald, Mariam McCall, Constance Sathre, Judson Feder and B. Michael McLemore: For significant and continuing legal contributions in the interpretation and implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Act.

NMFS

Charles Oravetz, David Bernhart, Eric Hawk, John Mitchell, Jack Forrester, Kendall Falana and James Barbour: For technology transfer to shrimping fleets worldwide, protecting sea turtles from lethal bycatch and preserving international trade.
Highly Migratory Species Division: For designing and implementing the Atlantic highly migratory species fishery management plan and billfish amendment.
Kathi Rodrigues, Steven Murawski, Paul Rago, Thomas Azarovitz, Susan Murphy David Gouveia, Darryl Christensen,

Patricia Yoos, Charles Keith, Frank Almeida and Wendy Gabriel: For the rapid and successful implementation of a fishery management program of principal importance to the agency.

Matteo Milazzo: For defining and advancing means of achieving and sustainability in domestically and internationally managed fisheries.
Linda Chaves, Matteo Milazzo, Sennen Salapare, Gregory Schneiderer, Angela Somma, Prudence Lewis and Kira Alvarez: For the development and promotion of the fisheries component of the U.S. government's international trade and environment agenda.
Vicki Campbell, Sam Flanagan, Kristiana Young, William Condon, Sharon Kramer, James Lecky, William Hogarth, Joseph Blum, Theodore Beuttler, Nannette Reck, Kira Alvarez, Allison Areias and Monica Gonzales: For developing the Pacific Lumber Company habitat conservation plan to protect and conserve Endangered Species Act, coho salmon and aquatic habitat.

Gary Matlock, Dean Swanson, Robin Tuttle, Matteo Milazzo, Pamela Mace, Kimberly Rivera and Prudence Lewis: For the development and negotiation of international conservation plans for sharks, seabirds and the reduction of fishing capacity.

National Ocean Service

Millington Lockwood: For outstanding leadership in promoting partnerships and cooperation between agencies and offices involved in the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Coastal Protection and Restoration Division: For outstanding scientific achievement in improving coastal stewardship through application of the watershed cleanup and restoration assessment tool.

NESDIS

Charles Wooldridge, Timothy Stryker, Michael Mignogno, Kira Alvarez and Daniel Cohen: For excellence in developing NOAA's remote-sensing licensing program which promotes and enhances U.S. commercial and national security interests.
Office of Satellite Operations: For exceptional service in the transition from Air Force to NOAA DMSP satellite operations ahead of schedule.
Timothy Barker: For exceptional service

to NWS fire weather clients through application of science and technology to resolve long standing problems.

National Weather Service

NWS Forecast Offices, Corpus Christi, Tex., and Austin/San Antonio, Tex.: For providing life-saving hydrologic warnings and other services during the historic, record-setting Oct. 17-22, 1998, flood event in south Texas.

Southeast River Forecast Center and NWS Forecast Office, San Juan, P.R.: For providing timely weather and hydrological forecasts to the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the Southeast U.S. during Hurricane Georges in Sept. 1998.
Ronald Warren: For initiative and leadership in planning and directing the design and construction of award-winning facilities for NWS centers.
SAO AWIPS Procurement Team, NWS AWIPS Program Control Office and NWS AWIPS Contracting Officer Technical Representative Office: For excellence in managing and negotiating all aspects of the AWIPS prime contract for development, deployment and operation of the complete system.
AWIPS Deployment Division: For excellence in managing AWIPS site survey and preparation, factory and site acceptance testing, training and localization procedure.

James Murray (OAR) won a Silver Medal as part of an International Trade Administration group award for helping to reconstruct Central America in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch.

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