



NOAA WEEK

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Oceanographers "Tag" Eddy in North Atlantic

American oceanographers have placed an identification "tag" on a huge cold water eddy which broke through the Gulf Stream from the North Atlantic and is headed south, another in an apparent series of massive bodies of water which may affect Atlantic coast weather. The eddy is now about 300 miles due east of Savannah, Ga., and moving south at the rate of approximately two miles a day. It is similar in nature and extent to an earlier one (dubbed No. 1) which preceded it and which may have been absorbed by the Gulf Stream.

The new eddy (dubbed No. 2) is so huge that its total volume is estimated to equal the amount of water in the Gulf Stream flowing past Cape Hatteras, N.C., in about 10 days. The Gulf Stream's volume approximates that of 2,000 Mississippi Rivers, with a flow of 100 billion tons of water per hour, 22 times as large as all the rivers of the earth.

So that the eddy can be identified during later surveys as it moves southeast toward Florida, oceanographers aboard the NOAA Ship MT MITCHELL dropped two identifying markers into it, one in the center and another halfway between the center and the circulation's outer edge. Each consisted

(Continued on page 6)

Living Marine Resources Off U.S. To Be Appraised

A broad national program to evaluate the living marine resources of waters off the United States, called MARMAP--for Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment, and Prediction Program--entered pre-operational stages last month with a series of Atlantic Ocean research cruises by NOAA fleet vessels ALBATROSS IV, DELAWARE II, and OREGON II.

The first set of seasonal cruises, to assess distribution of fish eggs and larvae (ichthyoplankton), will cover 19,000 miles from the Gulf of Maine to the northern Caribbean Sea, and will be completed this summer and in early 1973. Progressively wider ocean areas will be examined and more complex research techniques will be employed in later voyages.

MARMAP is under the direction of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Participating in the current explorations are scientific personnel from NMFS fisheries centers at Woods Hole, Mass., Sandy Hook, N.J., and Miami, Florida. Many other government agencies and components of NOAA, several international marine organizations, almost a dozen State universities, and a number of research vessels of other nations, will participate in the program.

MARMAP will be conducted in three overlapping phases, studying:

- distribution patterns of eggs and young stages of marine species that are most sensitive to environmental changes;

- populations of bottom-dwelling fish (cod, flounders, etc.) and shellfish (scallops, crabs, shrimp, etc.);

- species living in the upper water layers (tunas, herrings, billfish, etc.).

The advance cruises represent an intensive effort to establish the future pattern of MARMAP through the creation, evaluation, and standardization of a whole series of prototype procedures and systems, as well as to integrate into the master plan previously tested methods.

Following evaluation of the test phase, the overall MARMAP operations are scheduled for activation in 1975. They will consist of biological and physical environmental studies pursued concurrently within a single framework. The three broad subjects of MARMAP will all be covered during the pre-

NOAA AWARDS NIGHT

Saturday, September 23

Indian Spring Country Club
Silver Spring, Maryland

Open bar - 7 p.m. Dinner - 8 p.m.

Dancing to 1 a.m.

Special attraction: Navy Sea Chanters

Tickets will be available soon
at \$13.50 per person

18th Weather Service EMSU Dedicated in West Virginia

The National Weather Service's 18th Environmental Meteorological Support Unit was dedicated at Charleston, W. Va., on July 29. Among the 100 persons who attended



(From left) Dr. Wallace, David W. Holmes, Chief, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Coveney. Satellite and Sounding Systems Branch, NWS Data

Acquisition Division; David Coveney, Chief of NWS Eastern Region Operations Division; and Carl Beard, Director of the West Virginia Air Pollution Control Commission.

The new EMSU is located on the campus of West Virginia State College in a spot chosen for its freedom from obstructions, and will serve the Kanawha Valley, a center of heavy industry and prone to air pollution. The staff--Art Carlson, Air Pollution Meteorologist; Hank Laskosky, Air Pollution Specialist; and Phil Goldenblatt and Ray Dionne, Low-Level Sounding Specialists--started operations in mid-July.

William A. Bergen Returns to LSC As Personnel Exchange With Canada Ends

For the last four months, William A. Bergen, Chief of the Lake Survey Center's Horizontal Control Section, served as a team member of the Canadian Hydrographic Service. Meanwhile, with the Revisory Section, Peter Richards, a hydrographer from CHS, tackled LSC field party problems. Now, each has returned to his respective agency and country, having learned new techniques and ideals from his counterparts across the border.

During these months, Mr. Bergen assisted in Canadian operations in Lake Ontario for IFYGL; in taking soundings on the St. Lawrence River in the Province of Quebec; and in surveying a new harbor in James Bay, where the ice was just beginning to melt--an unknown sight for July in the Great Lakes.

Both LSC and CHS feel that in addition to being an unqualified success, the exchange program has enhanced the existing good relations and feelings between the two agencies. Plans have been made to continue the program for future years.

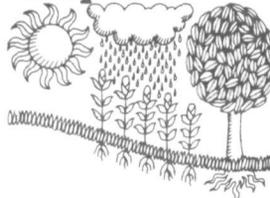
ed were representatives of the West Virginia State College, the Environmental Protection Agency, the West Virginia Air Pollution Control Commission, the West Virginia State Department of Health, and the National Weather Service.

John R. McClain, Meteorologist in Charge of the Charleston Weather Service Forecast Office, was master of ceremonies, and speakers were Dr. William Wallace, President of West Virginia State College;

Weather/Crop Service Centennial Marked by EDS, USDA, Smithsonian

The Environmental Data Service is cooperating with the Department of Agriculture's Statistical Reporting Service and the Smithsonian Institution in

Weather & Crop Service



1872-Centennial-1972

U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Agriculture

celebrating the 100th anniversary of a cooperative weather and crop service. The service was pioneered by the Smithsonian, then carried forward by the Army, the Department of Agriculture, and since 1940, jointly by USDA and the Department of Commerce. Its publication, the National "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin," may be traced back to the

"Weekly Weather Chronicle" of 1872, published by the Army's Signal Service, the first national weather service.

One of the principal purposes of the centennial observance is to give public recognition to the thousands of volunteer observers whose essential weather and crop information makes the service possible. The highlight of the celebration is to be the official opening of a centennial exhibit at the Smithsonian's Museum of History and Technology at 5 p.m., September 7, 1972. During the ceremonies, awards will be presented to several volunteer observers of long service. The exhibit will be displayed through the end of the year.

In addition, in early September a special edition of the "Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin" will be published. It will include a series of illustrated articles relating the history, development, and current programs of this 100-year-old weather and crop service, a service of increasing importance today, as agriculture becomes ever more technically oriented.

Commander Charles A. Burroughs Is Named Executive Officer of NOAA Ship SURVEYOR

Commander Charles A. Burroughs is the new Executive Officer of the Seattle-based NOAA Ship SURVEYOR. A



member of the Commissioned Corps since 1958, he has served aboard the PATTON, PATHFINDER, EXPLORER and MT MITCHELL. Other assignments have included service with field parties, as Special Assistant to the Chief of the Geodesy Division and, most recently, in the Commerce Department's Office of Science and

Technology under the Commerce Fellowship Program.

NOAA Continues Participation in Chester River Pollution Study

NOAA has agreed to continue through November its cooperation with the State of Maryland and Westinghouse Electric Corporation on an environmental study of the Chester River, an important Chesapeake Bay tributary near the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

The half-million-dollar study, which began last January, has been extended at an additional cost of \$300,000, jointly defrayed by the state and Westinghouse. The study's purpose is to monitor in detail the river's circulation patterns and characteristics to obtain a complete picture of the distribution of pesticides and other polluting material in the sediments and in the shellfish found in the river.

Mark Goodheart, Chief of the NOS's Engineering Development Laboratory's Instrument Systems Development Branch stated that "The federal government's participation

in the Chester River study is one of the first federal endeavors of this magnitude to assist a state in solving an environmental problem." He also stressed that the study, in addition to providing useful resource management information for the State of Maryland, is developing techniques and procedures which may be applied to other rivers and estuaries.

Mr. Goodheart said the NOS will continue to furnish the sophisticated instrumentation required for monitoring the river's flow and to process the data obtained from it. The instrumentation, in use since the study's inception, provides data on water temperature, conductivity and the speed and direction of the current. It will be maintained by Westinghouse. The data are being processed by the Survey's Oceanographic Division.

An important benefit to be derived from the NOS instrumentation will be continuous data regarding the drastic reduction in the salt content of the waters of Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries produced by the floodwaters of the tropical storm Agnes, which caused high mortalities in many estuarine and marine organisms, particularly oysters, clams, and perhaps crabs. "The continued monitoring of the Chester River," Mr. Goodheart stated, "will provide data over a critical recovery period."

The Chester River was selected for the study because its watershed is primarily agricultural, is well defined, and lies within Maryland. Relatively little industrial or municipal waste goes into the river at present. Since the area is agricultural, however, traces of pesticides are present in the system. Scientists from numerous disciplines, including geology, hydrology, biochemistry and biology, are participating in the study.



(From left) Robert Dennis, Bruce Parker, and Jenifer Wartha of the NOS Oceanographic Division and Mr. Goodheart turn over to Dr. James B. Coulter, Maryland Secretary of Natural Resources, and Lawrence C. Murdock, Westinghouse's project director, a reel of hydrological data from marine instrumentation used on the Chester River pollution study.

University of Michigan Sea Grant Program Sets Underwater Habitat in Lake Michigan

LAKELAB, the first underwater habitat to be stationed in U.S. waters of the Great Lakes, will be formally dedicated and submerged in Lake Michigan on August 19. It will be lowered by crane into about 30 feet of water some 70 feet offshore from the Omena-Traverse Yacht Club on New Mission Bay, where divers will chain it to a 20,000-pound foundation of specially built concrete blocks.

The new research tool of the University of Michigan Sea Grant Program, designed and built for the most part with Sea Grant funds, is 10 feet across at its widest, seven feet high, and weighs four-and-a-half tons.

Early research in the habitat will focus on the way divers are affected by prolonged underwater experiments. Potential studies utilizing it include ice formation and water quality research. Under direction of Professor J. M. Armstrong, the University's Sea Grant Program is attempting to develop long-range resource management methods for coping with environmental problems of the Lakes.

Kenneth B. Seal Is Selected To Head WSO at Tulsa, Okla., Municipal Airport

Kenneth B. Seal, a forecaster at Oklahoma City, has been selected to head the National Weather Service Office at Tulsa, Okla., Municipal Airport.



His weather experience includes duty on Eniwetok and Kwajalein Islands in the Pacific and at Kennedy Space Center, Fla., where he provided weather information in support of space flight launch and recovery operations. He subsequently was in charge of a special weather support unit at the NASA Test Facility at Picayune, Miss. In 1970 he received the Apollo Achievement Award for his accomplishments at Kennedy Space Center and the Mississippi Test Facility.

Blue Cross Announces Additional Benefits Payments

On August 8, 1972, the Civil Service Commission advised Federal employees that Blue Cross-Blue Shield has agreed to pay Supplemental Benefits related to diagnostic admissions to hospitals in 1971 and 1972. Supplemental Benefits are subject to a deductible whereas Basic Benefits are not.

For some time, the Government-wide Service Benefit Plan (Blue Cross-Blue Shield) has been denying claims for certain hospital costs connected with room and board and related medical care when the diagnostic tests could have been made on an out-patient basis without adversely affecting the person's health or the quality of medical care provided. Payments have been made under Basic Benefits for the diagnostic tests themselves.

Federal employees or annuitants whose claims for benefits related to diagnostic admissions have been rejected by Blue Cross-Blue Shield should now submit a Supplemental Benefits claim for these expenses to their local Blue Cross-Blue Shield plan, the Commission said. Claims for such expenses incurred in 1971 and 1972 must be submitted no later than December 31, 1973. Forms for submitting Supplemental Benefit claims may be obtained from any local Blue Cross-Blue Shield plan.

The Commission has received reports from about 140 employees whose claims have been rejected, and will contact each of them promptly to advise them on resubmitting their claims.

The Blue Cross-Blue Shield plan for Federal employees and annuitants does provide basic benefits for expenses related to diagnostic hospital admissions when the confinement is medically necessary. Any Federal employee or annuitant who has had a claim for Basic Benefits rejected in such cases may also ask the Plan to reconsider the claim for basic benefits if the claimant believes the hospital admission was medically necessary; that is, that the nature of the tests or the patient's health required him to be admitted to the hospital as a bed patient. Requests for reconsideration of such claims should also be submitted to the local Blue Cross plan.

The question of payments of benefits for diagnostic hospital admissions arose because a provision in the contract was subject to conflicting interpretations by Blue Cross-Blue Shield and the Civil Service Commission. The Commission said the provision would be clarified and that the 1973 brochures received by employees and annuitants will clearly state what benefits will be payable for diagnostic admissions after 1972.

Occupational Counseling For Summer Employees



One of the objectives of NOAA's summer hiring program is to provide meaningful employment for young people. To assure that these summer jobs are of developmental value, NOAA Personnel conducts career counseling sessions throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area for its summer employees. This counseling is designed to assist employees in adjusting to work situations, to foster and maintain interest in long term careers with NOAA, and to resolve any personal problems the employees may have.

Group counseling sessions have included such general subjects as administrative regulations, government processes, and such specific topics as NOAA career, scholarship and educational loan possibilities. Tours have also been made available and exemplative of a career related tour was one group's trip to Capitol Hill to hear a Senate floor debate on the Ocean Mammals Protection bill.

Shown above is NOAA Counselor Pat Barr (right) counseling two NOAA employees.

Modernized Job Classification

A year-long project to improve and modernize job classification for nearly 1.3 million white collar Federal jobs in grades GS-1/15 has begun. The Civil Service Commission's Job Evaluation and Pay Task Force recommended the change and will direct the effort.

The system under development will embrace factor ranking and benchmark position descriptions (factor ranking calls for the person reviewing a job to analyze it on a factor basis, and to measure it through the use of approved benchmark, or standard, descriptions).

The project will be carried out in three phases: design of a system, test of that system, and evaluation of test results, all to be completed by the fall of 1973. Until then, present standards will remain in effect.

PERSONNEL PERSPECTIVE

Veterans Readjustment Appointments

Executive Order 11521 which was signed in March 1970, authorized veterans readjustment appointments for veterans of the Vietnam era. Appointments authorized by the order represent an improved method for providing employment opportunities, to returning veterans needing special assistance in making the transition from military to civilian life. This authority permits:

- A. Reassignments and promotions.
- B. Maximum flexibility in developing training or educational programs tailored to meet the needs of both the veterans and their employing organizations.
- C. Conversion to career or career-conditional status after a uniform two years.

Subsequent to the implementation of this program additional changes have been made to reduce the excepted appointment authority from grades 3, 4, and 5 to include grades 1 and 2. Changes have also been

effected to permit the promotion of VRA appointees above grade 5 under specified conditions and to allow for temporary appointments.

A veteran has basic eligibility for a veterans readjustment appointment if he meets all of the following conditions: (a) he is a U.S. citizen; (b) he has served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam era and has been separated under honorable conditions; (c) he agrees in writing that during his employment under the appointment he will pursue a training or educational program; (d) he has completed not more than fourteen years of education and (e) his separation from the armed (or release from hospitalization or treatment immediately following separation from the armed forces) occurred within the year preceeding the appointment.

Since the program's inception, NOAA activities have employed more than 80 veterans including 24 minority group members and two women.

Employee Benefits

Health Benefits - Employees who plan to marry, or who have recently married, are reminded that they may change their hospital insurance plans from "self only" to "family enrollment" from 31 days before to 60 days after date of marriage. Conversely, any employee who loses his last family member may change to the less expensive "self only" enrollment.

Death Benefits - DO NOTHING IF you are satisfied to have any lump-sum benefit payable upon death paid to the first persons listed below who are alive on the date title to the payment arises:

1. To your widow or widower.
2. If neither of the above, to your child or children in equal shares, with the share of any deceased child distributed among the decendants of that child.
3. If none of the above, to your parents in equal shares or the entire amount to the surviving parent.
4. If none of the above, to the executor or administrator of your estate.
5. If none of the above, to your next of kin under the laws of your State of domicile.

DESIGNATE A BENEFICIARY ONLY IF you wish to name a person or persons not included above, or in a different order. Obtain Standard Form 2808 from your personnel office if the order of payment shown above would not carry out your wishes.

Retirement: Crediting Unused Sick Leave Toward Length of Service

Each 8 hours of unused sick leave constitutes 1 day of credit toward total length of service. Days are converted to months and years on the basis of a 260-day work year.

The service of an employee who: (1) retires on immediate annuity; or (2) dies by leaving a widow entitled to survivor annuity, is increased by the days of unused sick leave to his credit. The days of unused sick leave thus added is used in counting the number of years and months of service for annuity computation purposes; they cannot be added in computing the employee's high 3 average salary or for the purpose of meeting the minimum length of service required for retirement eligibility.

To determine the length of service for annuity computation purposes, all periods of creditable service and the time represented by the unused sick leave are added and any fractional part of a month in the total is dropped. For example, an employee with 31 years, 5 months and 20 days service who has 1124 hours (140 days, or 6 months and 14 days) of unused sick leave to his credit at retirement, is credited with 32 years service, or 60 1/4% of his high 3 salary average.

The basic annuity of an employee may not exceed 80% of his high-3 average salary. However, annuity in excess of the 80% that is produced by crediting unused sick leave is payable, in addition to increases developed through cost of living adjustments.

NWS Participates in Controlling Wildfire in California's Big Sur

The fire weather unit of the San Francisco, Calif., Weather Service Forecast Office, with Leading Fire Weather Forecaster William M. Ahl, Jr., manning a fire weather van, provided the vital meteorological support to the fire suppression effort which finally brought the recent wildfire in California's Big Sur under control. The cost of suppressing the fire, which burned 4,100 acres of brush, scrub oak, and mixed conifers, was over a million dollars, and more than 1,800 men were required to bring it under control.

Living Marine Resources (Continued from page 1)

operative cruises, which will take place in different seasons on the Continental Shelf and in oceanic areas of high biological production. Projected regions of investigation are Atlantic waters along the entire eastern coast, in the Gulf of Mexico, in the northeast sub-Arctic, and in the northeast and eastern Pacific.

MARMAP plans call for the speediest possible conversion of the masses of data acquired into computer forms that can be efficiently stored in and retrieved from NOAA data banks. MARMAP managers hope to achieve by the 1975 target date a peak of efficiency under which data collected is submitted for processing no more than 90 days after acquisition and available to users 90 days thereafter.

The data which is to form the information base will be drawn not only from MARMAP cruises, but from existing literature, from past ocean monitoring projects, from MARMAP-related short-term studies conducted over the past year, and from past or present foreign expeditions.

Users of the MARMAP data are expected to cover a wide spectrum, including national and international resource management and conservation agencies, environmental planners, the fishing fleet, the fishing industry, sport fishermen, and the scientific community. Eventually NOAA envisions a public-service system that disperses a regular and timely flow of information on the basis of MARMAP-acquired data involving marine ecology. As presently planned, the system will be divided into four categories of vital information:

"Red Flag Reports"--to supply immediate notice of real or incipient damage to marine resources because of over-fishing, pollution, or other events.

"Summary Recommendations"--to provide the scientific information in support of the need for legislation or regulations related to protection (or use) of living marine resources or for pollution controls.

"Status of Resources Reports"--to include facts about various prevailing conditions, to disseminate maps and fact sheets, summaries, and forecasts.

"Real Time Output"--to broadcast material describing distribution and abundance of various marine species, catch data, statistics, analytical documents, and fishery advisory bulletins.

New NOAA Officers Slated for NOS To Take Special Surveying Course

A new course in hydrographic surveying has been established for newly commissioned officers at the Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, Va. Henceforth, graduates of the NOAA Officer Training Center at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, N.Y., will take the approximately six-week course before reporting for their first regular National Ocean Survey assignment. The course will cover the duties they will be expected to perform aboard ship and on ships' launches in conducting hydrographic surveys. Officers not destined for duty in NOS may be exempted.

Oceanographers "Tag" Eddy (Continued from page 1)

of a high-visibility orange-painted 55-gallon oil drum filled with polystyrene foam to which was attached below by 100 feet of wire rope another oil drum punctured with holes through which the water can flow. The submerged oil drum, it is hoped, will act as a drag and help prevent the surface drum from floating away. In addition, the counter-clockwise motion of the eddy may help maintain the marker buoys within its 220-mile circumference.

Later, other ships will attempt to find the buoys, which are equipped with metal reflectors detectable on a vessel's radar, and thus determine the eddy's position, its route and the distance traveled.

According to Commander Richard J. DeRycke of the National Environmental Satellite Service and Harry Stumpf, a University of Southern California student working with NESS this summer, who directed the tagging operation, in addition to the marker buoys, scores of drift bottles were dropped into the eddy's circulating waters. Each capped bottle contains a message in English and Spanish requesting finders to contact NOAA.

Dr. Alan E. Strong, the oceanographer in charge of the study for the National Environmental Satellite Service, said the two eddies which have been observed this year differ markedly from the few other Gulf Stream eddies which have been studied in that they have been moving in a comparatively straight line down the Atlantic coast, instead of out to sea, or toward the North American continent.

Dr. Strong said a third cold water eddy may have been sighted southeast of Cape Hatteras by the MT MITCHELL in June and that there is some evidence that there are actually two eddies, moving close together--"a doubleheader."

"The surface water in Eddy No. 2 is about 65 degrees Fahrenheit, about eight degrees cooler than the surrounding sea. There is a possibility that these huge eddies affect the weather along the Eastern Seaboard. We don't know enough about these features to establish any relationship to weather," he stated.

The MT MITCHELL is commanded by Captain Edwin K. McCaffrey and carries a normal complement of 79 officers and crew.

Blind Meteorologist Becomes Instructor-Trainee at NWS TTC



Mr. Wantz (left) discusses Weather Service Operations Course with Instructor Larry McEwen.

On June 9, 1972, James F. Wantz, a 23-year-old blind meteorologist from Sykesville, Md., became an instructor-trainee at the National Weather Service Technical Training Center in Kansas City, Mo.

According to Don Whitman, Senior Instructor in Meteorology at the NWS TTC, Mr. Wantz, who lost his sight at the age of five because of detached retinas, is the only blind meteorologist in the NWS and perhaps in the U.S.

In March of this year, he received his B.S. degree in meteorology from Pennsylvania State University. He completed his studies with the aid of his Braille writer, taking his own notes in class. The only help he received was from some of his fellow students who read course reading assignments to him.

The State of Maryland furnished him a Braille typewriter and also a Braille output for teletype, which he is using at the TTC. The State worked closely with him during his college training, and this was the first time it furnished this kind of assistance to help train a blind meteorologist.

As a trainee, Mr. Wantz will be learning operational meteorology. He uses his Braille typewriter to produce his own lesson plans and worksheets. After completing his training, he will be teaching such subjects as basic meteorology, tropical meteorology, maintaining a weather watch, adaptive forecast techniques, and meteorological briefings. (The average number of students in a class at NWS TTC is 12-16, and courses are either three or four weeks in length.)

Study of Ocean Phenomenon Underway Off Oregon Coast

American oceanographers and meteorologists are investigating a sea phenomenon known as "coastal upwelling," which occurs along the western coasts of most continents. These regions comprise a major source of living resources in the ocean, with perhaps 50 percent of the world's fish supply produced there.

The investigation is being conducted along the Oregon coast near Newport by the NOAA Ship OCEANOGRAPHER, Oregon State University's research vessels CAYUSE and YAQUINA, and one research aircraft from the National Center for Atmospheric Research. It is scheduled to continue until September 2.

Dr. David Halpern, a physical oceanographer with the Pacific Oceanographic Laboratory in Seattle, is chief scientist for the studies being conducted from the OCEANOGRAPHER by scientists from the Pacific Oceanographic Laboratory, Florida State University, New York University, and the National Science Foundation. The ship, commanded by Captain Herbert R. Lippold, Jr., carries a normal complement of 100 officers, scientists and crew.

Dr. Halpern explained that coastal upwelling is caused by a combination of events working in unison. When the winds blow from the North, the surface layer of the ocean flows away from the coast, with the result that cold subsurface water rises to the surface near the coastline. This upwelled water, which is rich in nutrients, reacts rapidly with sunlight to produce large amounts of microscopic plants that become the primary food source for fish.

The project is one phase of the Coastal Upwelling Ecosystems Analysis program, a combined physical, biological, and chemical research program that is supported principally by the International Decade of Ocean Exploration office of the National Science Foundation with additional support from NOAA and the Office of Naval Research.

NOS Publishes Simplified Method for Calculating Tidal Current Speed in Bays, Harbors Estuaries

The National Ocean Survey has announced a simplified method for calculating the speed of tidal currents in bays, estuaries and harbors as an aid to mariners. The new method is to be used in conjunction with NOS tidal current charts.

At present, calculating the speed of a current at any given time requires time-consuming computations by the mariner which are sometimes difficult for inexperienced boaters and leave the way open to errors in computations.

The new method, which its developer, Demetrio A. Dinardi, Acting Chief of the NOS Tidal Currents Section, said could be quickly

learned by any inexperienced boatsman, depends upon computerized diagrams, 12 of which will be published annually, one for each month of the year. The diagrams identify which chart to use and make it easy to compute the speed of the current.

The first diagrams are for use with the tidal current charts for Block Island and Long Island Sound. They may be obtained for \$1.00 from the NOS Distribution Division (C44), Washington, D.C. 20235 or from NOS nautical chart sales agents.

Later it is planned to publish similar diagrams for use with other tidal current charts.



notes about people...

Mrs. Lucile Berg, Secretary to Karl R. Johannessen, Associate Director, Meteorological Operations, National Weather Service, and Mrs. Miriam F. Shuman, Secretary in the Public Weather Branch, OMO, recently were instrumental in the capture of two bank robbers. While driving to lunch, they saw four robbers making their escape from a bank, followed at a discreet distance until the four paired off into two cars, and then returned to the bank to give police and the FBI a description of the robbers, their cars and the direction of their escape. Their accurate information led to the immediate capture of two of the robbers.

Clyde L. MacKenzie, Jr., Fishery Biologist in Experimental Biology Investigations at the Middle Atlantic Coastal Fisheries



Center's Milford (Conn.) Laboratory, has begun a one-year leave of absence to assume the duties of Consultant to the Department of Fisheries, Province of Prince Edward Island, Canada, concerning its oyster industry. The Province has prepared a Comprehensive Development Plan to improve all sectors of its e-

conomy, and Mr. MacKenzie will assist in a program to revitalize oyster production in Prince Edward Island waters.

Mr. MacKenzie has been closely associated with the oyster industry of Long Island Sound in the development of methods for control of oyster predators and competitors and to determine other causes of oyster mortalities. He has also studied the life history and biology of such shellfish enemies as oyster drills, starfish and crabs. A competent SCUBA diver, he has spent a significant amount of time studying and photographing oyster beds to document the effects of predators and environmental factors on benthic communities of this type.

NOAA Officers' Insurance To Be Adjusted

Salary checks dated August 26, 1972, for pay period 16 will have an additional \$.06 withheld for Servicemen's Group Life Insurance due to under withholding for pay periods 14 and 15. The correct deduction of \$1.28 per \$15,000 coverage will resume with pay period 17. Those officers with less than \$15,000 coverage will not be affected.

NOAA Team Effort Provides Weather Service for Yachters

Many NOAA individuals and/or groups worked together as a team to provide the necessary weather service to approximately 2,000 yachters participating in races this summer. They included:

--Robert Lynde, Marine Forecaster at the Weather Service Forecast Office in Boston, Mass., who gave the weather briefing at Newport, R.I., for the 180 participants in the Newport-Bermuda race.

--James F. O'Connor, Chief of the Forecast Branch, Extended Forecast Division, and the staff of the Analysis and Forecast Division, both at the National Meteorological Center, who prepared 200 copies of the five-day surface prognostic charts used in the briefing folders for the Bermuda race participants. In addition, using information obtained from the Environmental Data Service, Mr. O'Connor arranged for additional information on the long range outlook for the three-week race.

--Meteorologist in Charge Jerry LaRue, Principal Assistant John Porter, and the Marine Forecast Staff of the Weather Service Forecast Office in Suitland, Md., who provided forecast and warning statements for the Bermuda Race fleet, the Bermuda-Spain fleet (54 yachts) and, incidentally, to the East-to-West Singlehanded Race Fleet sailing from England to Newport, R.I., which was able to take advantage of the communications setup with the escort motor yacht that served the Bermuda-Spain Race.

--Vincent J. Oliver, Chief of the National Environmental Satellite Service's Applications Group, who quickly supplied satellite films from ATS-III, for use by

--William J. McKee, NWS Eastern Region Marine Meteorologist, in briefing the participants of the Bermuda-Spain race on the weather they could expect for the next three weeks.

--Dr. Robert H. Simpson, Director, and his staff at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, who provided bulletins on the tropical depression that occurred near the end of the Bermuda race. Also, NHC relayed to WSFO Suitland weather observations from the yacht that acted as the fleet's weather observer, received by NHC through the radio marine operator in Miami.

--William Kuning and Carl Lorber, Electronic Technicians in the NWS Engineering Division and both amateur radio operators (W3BY and W3IL, respectively), who were instrumental in setting up the communications network for the Bermuda-Spain race and made daily phone patches between the forecast office at Suitland and the captain of the Race Committee yacht WESTWARD, using the NWS ham radio station W3KWB in the Gramax Building in Silver Spring, Md.

Items to be considered for publication in NOAA WEEK should be submitted to:
Office of Public Affairs, NOAA, Room 221, Bldg. 5, Rockville, Md. 20852. Phone (301) 496-8243.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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