



# noaa week

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National Climatic Data Center

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## NMFS Finds Tons of Plastic Debris on Alaskan Island

The National Marine Fisheries Service has found that thousands of pieces of plastic, ranging from tiny scraps to lengths of fishnet 100 feet long, litter Alaska's remote Amchitka Island beaches. The NMFS estimates that about 24,000 plastic items, including 12 tons of trawl web and perhaps 7,000 gillnet floats, have washed up along 60 miles of Amchitka beaches.

The estimate is based upon items found by NMFS during surveys of 6.2 miles of shore between last April and October to obtain information on the kinds and extent of plastics littering the beaches of the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea. The surveys were incidental to other fisheries programs underway in the area.

This discovery comes on the heels of the announcement by NOAA in mid-February that oil globules and plastic debris in massive proportions were found in nearly 700,000 square miles of ocean water from Cape Cod to the Caribbean, becoming part of the habitat of countless numbers of prized game and commercial fish species.

That announcement was made following analysis of results of three cruises by NOAA vessels as part of the Marine Resources Monitoring, Assessment, and Prediction Program (MARMAP).

Most plastics are not readily biodegradable; that is, they do not break down into harmless components by biological action, so that once introduced into an environment they remain indefinitely.

Plastic garbage dumped into the world oceans has obvious physical effects on man and other creatures. Fishing vessels have been disabled when propellers were entangled in floating synthetic ropes and nets; diving sea birds and fish have been captured in scraps of netting; fur seals and other marine mammals are injured or drowned when caught in derelict nets; and some species of sea birds eat bits of floating plastic, presumably mistaking them for morsels of food.

Most of the contamination of Alaska waters by plastics is believed to be from foreign fishing vessels. The problem has been discussed in recent bilateral meetings with Japan and the Soviet Union on fisheries operations in the North Pacific Ocean and in the Bering Sea. It was agreed that contamination of the high seas is a growing and serious problem and that efforts would be made by the three nations to help reduce it.

## Research On Undersea Reefs May Help Oil Prospectors

Marine geologists working on a project sponsored jointly by NOAA and the National Science Foundation have found a coral reef hardening into rock 600 feet under water--a discovery that opens new possibilities for oil prospecting on land.

Their findings--made by use of a two-man submersible and confirmed by Carbon 14 dating--provide greater understanding of the structure of ancient reefs found on land. It is in these ancient reefs that much of the world's oil is found.

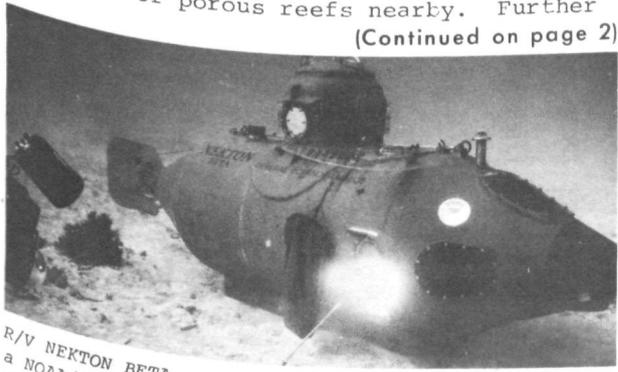
The observations were made during 86 dives in October 1972, at the Barrier Reef and Glover's Reef, British Honduras, by a scientific team headed by Dr. Robert Ginsburg of the University of Miami.

"We found that, in British Honduras at least, the ocean-facing reefs are hardening and becoming nonporous very rapidly, but reefs in the lagoon remain porous and permeable," Dr. Ginsburg said. "This is counter to generally accepted notions of ancient limestone reefs found on land, where it was believed that the hardening occurred long after the reefs were buried and was not selective."

About 50 percent of all petroleum found on land is found in porous limestones. Only reefs that are porous are capable of retaining commercial amounts of petroleum.

The new findings mean that the discovery of nonporous reefs or even nonporous zones in a single reef need not rule out the existence of porous reefs nearby. Further

(Continued on page 2)



R/V NEKTON BETA, the two-man submersible used in a NOAA/NSF-sponsored coral reef study off British Honduras.

## Kenneth F. Burke Named CO Of Current-Measuring FERREL

Lieutenant Commander Kenneth F. Burke has been named Commanding Officer of the NOAA Ship FERREL.



Lt. Cdr. Burke has served aboard the EXPLORER, PEIRCE and, most recently, as executive officer of the WHITING. Other assignments have been with geodetic field parties. The new skipper became a commissioned officer in the Commerce Department in 1964.

The 133-foot, 289-ton FERREL is the only vessel in the United States designed specifically for measuring coastal and estuarine currents.

The FERREL's data are incorporated into small craft and tidal current charts and tidal current tables issued by the National Ocean Survey for small boat operators, commercial shipping and the military. Aiding the FERREL in her tasks is a 59-foot high-speed launch which operates in narrow channels and services the ship's instrumented buoys.

## Report On Jupiter's Radio Emissions Issued

A report entitled "Observations of Jupiter's Sporadic Radio Emission in the Range 7.6-41 MHz--9 September 1968 through 9 December 1971," Report UAG-25, has been published by World Data Center A for Solar-Terrestrial Physics, Boulder, Colo. The report extends the published record of radio emission data observed at Boulder with the University of Colorado's radio spectrograph through Jupiter's 1971 apparition (the period in which Jupiter is visible at Boulder). Previous reports have covered the period 1960 through September 1968. The data are of particular interest to scientists who will compare curves of emission probability from 1972 onward with the curves of earlier years to see if there is a cyclic effect on the data.

Copies of Report UAG-25, authored by J.W. Warwick, G.A. Dulk, and D.G. Swann of the University of Colorado's Department of Astro-Geophysics, are available from EDS' National Climatic Center, Federal Building, Asheville, N.C. 28801.

## Police To Monitor Lake Survey Center Gage

The Lake Survey Center's water level gage at Gibraltar, Mich., will be monitored by the city's police in an effort to speed flood evacuation warnings. A telemetering system will be installed in the police office to receive water level data directly from the gage. Gibraltar is located about 25 miles southwest of Detroit and situated along the Detroit River shoreline near Lake Erie.

## NOS Offers Hourly Tide Data For Anchorage Harbor Users

The National Ocean Survey is offering a new service to commercial shipping: a pilot program which provides the hourly heights of the tides for the complete year, as well as the predicted times and heights of high and low waters.

The new program is being tried out in Anchorage, Alaska, where the tide range is so great that it poses major problems for shipping in Cook Inlet. If successful, the new service may be continued annually and extended also to other areas.

The hourly tide prediction tables were prepared by the Tides Prediction Branch in NOAA's National Ocean Survey, headed by Donald C. Simpson. They are based on continuous tide observations at Anchorage over the past seven years.

The need for predicted tidal data has always existed, with the emphasis usually on the predicted times and heights of high and low waters, primarily because of space limitation in publications. Tide tables containing high and low water predictions are published by NOAA for most of the maritime world.

But with the rapid expansion of marine activities the need for more detailed data has grown tremendously. This is especially true in such areas as Cook Inlet, the waterway which leads to Anchorage, Alaska's main port, where commercial shipping consists primarily of oil tankers and freighters. These vessels have increased greatly in size in recent years, drawing more water and thus decreasing the amount of clearance between their hulls and the bottom. It is now uneconomical to have vessels lay to waiting for the higher stages of the tide before passing shoals or entering ports. More accurate and detailed predictions may permit passage into those dangerous areas at times other than the maximum tidal stages.

The new tables meet this need for additional tide data and will eliminate the time-consuming task of computing hourly levels and the greater possibility of errors.

## Reef Research (Continued from page 1)

oil prospecting may therefore be warranted on some previously abandoned sites, and, in addition, this knowledge will help geologists planning exploration of new sites.

The team included 10 university and industrial scientists, a NOAA Corps officer, and photographer. Lt. A. Y. Bryson, NOAA, emplaced and detonated the small charges of explosives used to break off sections of the reef, both on the face and up to 10 feet behind the face, for sampling and carbon dating. Funding by NOAA, and the participation of Lt. Bryson, were arranged through NOAA's Manned Undersea Science and Technology (MUS&T) program.



## NOAA's Woods Hole Facility Hosts International Meeting

Fisheries experts, from member nations of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) are meeting at NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Fisheries Center, Woods Hole, Mass., this week (March 26-30), to discuss the technical problems involved in attempting to limit fishing effort in the Northwest Atlantic. Among the topics are the development of standards under which fishing capabilities of different types of vessels can be measured.

The United States has proposed that the Commission limit the fishing effort of foreign vessels by controlling the number and size of vessels and the number of fishing days in the area regulated by ICNAF, particularly off the New England coast.

Quotas now cover most of the major finfish stocks in the regulated areas, but, because of incidental catches of certain species, U.S. scientists feel some form of overall control of fishing effort is desirable.

The proposal to limit fishing effort will be considered further at the annual June meeting of ICNAF being held this year in Copenhagen.

The ICNAF member nations are Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Spain, USSR, United Kingdom, and the United States.

## ASP/ACSM Meeting In Washington Draws 2,500

The joint annual convention of the American Society of Photogrammetry and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping was held in Washington, D.C., March 11-16. Many NOAA personnel and former NOAA employees were among the more than 2,500 who registered at the convention. Ten National Ocean Survey employees participated as session chairmen or speakers. They included: Gordon G. Lill, Albert K. Heywood, Lawrence W. Fritz, B. K. Meade, John T. Smith, Robert C. Munson, Charles A. Whitten (retired), Roy O. Williamson, L. W. Swanson (retired), and Hellmut H. Schmid.



Keynote speaker at the recent joint ASP/ACSM convention was Dr. Harrison H. Schmitt, Apollo 17 lunar module pilot and the Nation's first geologist-astronaut.

## Carroll Thurlow Is Awarded Commerce's Bronze Medal



Carroll I. Thurlow (left), Chief of the Tidal Datum Planes Section in the Tides Branch of the National Ocean Survey's Oceanographic Division, has received a Commerce Bronze Medal for distinguishing himself in projecting the role of his section from its traditional activities in support of hydrographic surveys. He broadened its activities to include "new dimensions of national need in the areas of ecology, coastal zone management, and shore and sea boundary determinations."

## Charting and Cartography Unit Pushes Safety

A "walk-through" inspection program has been instituted to promote safety in the Reproduction Division of the National Ocean Survey's Office of Aeronautical Charting and Cartography. Every three months, a four-member Labor-Management Health and Inspection Committee goes through all operating areas at the Commerce Building where the Reproduction Division is located. Items constituting a possible health or safety hazard are noted and efforts are then made to eliminate them. The inspecting party is composed of Jesse Whitehurst and Walter Bell, representing Local 2640, American Federation of Government Employees; L. W. Schemery, representing management; and Milton Aronstam, NOAA Safety Officer.

## Weather-By-Phone Test Set For Three Cities

Following a series of coordination meetings with the National Weather Service, American Telephone and Telegraph will select three large cities for a "distant city weather-by-phone" experiment. A list of telephone numbers for dialing the recorded weather announcement for between 30 and 50 distant cities will be featured in the front sections of these base cities' directories. A toll will be charged the caller. This would be a maximum of 35 cents to any place in the country during the hours most persons would be inclined to call for this type of information. If successful, similar lists would be placed in the directories of all major communities.

## Sea Grant Sponsors Research On Control of Biting Flies

The bane of the beach-goer, those small but indomitable biting flies that can ruin a holiday (or a resort area), have come under the scrutiny of Sea Grant researchers at the University of Delaware where tests show there may be ways of controlling these pests other than by ecologically dangerous chemical methods.

Entomologists at the university are studying the hunting behavior of several types of salt marsh flies in order to design and test traps for capturing them.

Salt marshes are prolific nursery grounds for a formidable battery of pestiferous flies whose persistent and painful biting make them important deterrents to most coastal recreational or business enterprises.

Chemical controls of these flies can give dramatic results, but often are expensive and ecologically unsound. The university researchers seek an alternative control; the physical trapping of the free-flying insects.

This summer the researchers will test traps with flat, shiny black vertical surfaces coated with slow-drying adhesives. Refinements in size, shape, positioning, and trap movement will be tested to improve trap effectiveness. Trap-spacing and various baits (attractants) will be tested. The range of attractiveness of combined trap and attractant will be determined by releasing marked flies at various distances from salt marsh-situated traps.

Tests will also be conducted in areas adjacent to salt marshes, where flies concentrate, and in one coastal human community, Woodland Beach, Delaware.

## Capt. Lippold Is New Director of Pacific Marine Center

Captain Herbert R. Lippold, Jr., has been appointed Director of the Pacific Marine Center in Seattle, Wash.



The 23-year NOAA commissioned officer will assume his new post June 1, at which time he will receive the rank of Rear Admiral. He succeeds Rear Admiral Norman E. Taylor, who has headed the marine center for six years.

Taylor is retiring after 30 years of federal service.

As PMC Director, Capt. Lippold will head NOAA's Pacific fleet of 15 oceanographic, hydrographic and fishery research vessels based in Seattle, San Diego, Calif., Auke Bay, Alaska, and Honolulu, Hawaii. Approximately 275 civil service and commissioned personnel are employed at the marine center.

Lippold is Commanding Officer of the NOAA Ship OCEANOGRAPHER, now on a fact-finding mission off South America. He began his commissioned career as a ship's watch officer in 1950 and since then has served aboard eight vessels in various positions, including commanding officer of three of them. He served also as chief of the Satellite Triangulation Division in Rockville, Md., where he played a key role in the establishment of a worldwide satellite triangulation network. Other assignments have taken him to Honolulu, Mt. Pleasant, W.Va., the Arctic coast and to various states with geodetic field parties.

## Kansas City Training Center Holds Ninth Weather Radar Class



The National Weather Service Technical Training Center in Kansas City, Mo., conducted its Ninth Weather Radar Class from February 27 to March 22. Participants were (front row, from left) Joseph Takach, Boston, Mass.; Gary E. Hale, Waycross, Ga.; Richard L. Urbanak, Kennedy Space Center, Fla.; Donald R. Savage, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Herbert L. Monson, Bismarck, N.Dak.; Edward Yandrich,

New York, N.Y.; and David H. Sage, Buffalo, N.Y. (second row, from left) Larry Burns, Instructor; Carl H. Lindahl, Minneapolis, Minn.; Robert E. Fennell, Huron, S.Dak.; Harry A. Gordon, Kansas City, Mo.; Patrick E. Hammond, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Thomas J. Lewis, Key West, Fla.; Melvin C. Dunagin, Lubbock, Tex.; James N. Marchbanks, Victoria, Tex.; and Bill Winkert, Instructor.

## Past Catches Up As Pair Receive WWII Decorations

World War II medals were presented this week to Rear Admiral Allen L. Powell, Director of NOAA's National Ocean Survey, and Captain Miller J. Tonkel, Special Assistant to the Director of the NOAA Corps--more than a quarter century after they completed their service with the Marine Corps.

The medals--Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific, Navy Occupation, and China Service--were provided by the Navy after Rear Admiral Harley D. Nygren, NOAA Corps Director, learned that six officers from the Coast and Geodetic Survey, predecessor of the National Ocean Survey, had never received them. The six were part of a larger contingent of C&GS officers who served with the Army and Navy during the war.

Of the six, four are still on active duty, one is deceased and one resigned shortly after the war. Medals were presented earlier this month to Rear Admiral Norman E. Taylor, Director of NOAA's Pacific Marine Center, and Captain Gerald L. Short, Deputy Director, in Seattle, Wash.

The NOAA officers were assigned to the Marine Corps on June 25, 1945 and reported back to the Coast and Geodetic Survey at varying periods from December 9, 1945, to June 13, 1947. The Victory Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Medal were earned by all the officers. Capt. Short also received the Occupation and China Service medals and Capt. Tonkel the China Service Medal.



Admiral Harley D. Nygren (left) presents World War II medals to Rear Admiral Allen L. Powell and Captain Miller J. Tonkel.

## Industrial Research Directors Tour Boulder

More than 30 industrial research directors and their representatives toured four major research laboratories in Boulder, Colo., on March 26 and 27. The touring group were all members of the Industrial Research Institute, Inc., which represents more than 100 large industrial companies and corporations in the United States.

Science facilities visited included NOAA's Environmental Research Laboratories, and laboratories of the National Bureau of Standards, and Office of Telecommunications Sciences, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

## Center Issues Predictions Of Water Levels In Lakes

The levels of all the Great Lakes will be higher this year than they were in 1972, except for Lake Superior. Most of them also will peak earlier than normal, but will be somewhat lower than originally expected. The reason for this, according to Dr. Frank H. Quinn, research physical scientist and expert in hydraulic and hydrologic matters at the Lake Survey Center, is that unusually mild weather in January caused early run-off of precipitation received on the basin in November and December of '72. Instead of receiving winter-stored water in March or early April, the Lakes began receiving supplies in January, thus spreading out the normally heavy spring run-off. This has a damping effect on levels.

Using a mathematical model and Lake Survey's computer, Dr. Quinn's latest forecast, prepared March 1, calls for Lake Superior to peak in September about four inches below last year; Lakes Michigan and Huron to peak in July about four inches above their '72 highs; Lakes St. Clair and Erie to continue setting records and peak in May approximately four inches and eight inches above last year, respectively, and Lake Ontario to reach its '73 high in June, about seven inches above last season high.

Dr. Quinn cautioned that the danger still exists and that the number and intensity of storms in '73 will determine how much damage by flooding and erosion will be experienced. Lake Survey Center specialists will continue to monitor the situation closely, reporting on unusual trends or situations.

## NMFS Officials Speak at Gulf Fisheries Meet

National Marine Fisheries Service Director Philip M. Roedel, General Counsel Herbert L. Blatt, and Deputy Director NMFS Southeast Regional Office Harold B. Allen spoke at the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting March 21-23, at Tampa, Fla. The subjects of their discussions, respectively, were NMFS goals and objectives, high seas legislation, and marine mammals.

## 3-D Scale Model of Lake St. Clair Built

A three-dimensional scale model of Lake St. Clair, the U.S.-Canada lake on which Detroit is located, has been completed after five years by Joseph Schanta, Chief of Reproduction for the National Ocean Survey's Lake Survey Center. Schanta decided to make a model of the 26-mile-long lake bottom because, he explained, it is difficult for people to visualize the depth and contours of a large body of water, by just looking at a flat piece of paper, a nautical chart. The task took thousands of hours of work in his basement on weekends. More than 100 tiny green and red flashing lights mark navigation routes.

## Herring and Mackerel Stocks Studied Prior to ICNAF Meet

Scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service are aboard the research vessel DELAWARE II studying the status of herring and mackerel stocks along the Atlantic coast prior to the annual meeting of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), June 1-15, at Woods Hole, Mass. The vessel left Sandy Hook, N.J., on March 14 for a scheduled 30-day cruise of waters north of Cape Hatteras, N.C.

The data collected on herring and mackerel will be used to set quotas on catches of these species at the meeting. The international organization regulates fisheries activities by its member nations in certain areas of the Northwest Atlantic. In addition, the data gathered will be used for bilateral discussions with Poland and the U.S.S.R. regarding fisheries operations southward, outside the ICNAF regulatory area. The ICNAF area extends from the northwest coast of Greenland south to the vicinity of Block Island, Rhode Island.

The ICNAF member nations are: Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Spain, U.S.S.R., United Kingdom, and the United States.



Fisheries scientists aboard NOAA's DELAWARE II are studying herring and mackerel stocks on the Atlantic coast as they prepare for an April meeting of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.

## Cdr. Crawford Heads Operations at NOS Center

Commander Darrell W. Crawford is now Operations Officer at the National Ocean Survey's Lake Survey Center in Detroit, Mich. Cdr. Crawford, a commissioned officer since 1961, served in Kansas City, Mo., as Director of the NOS National Geodetic Survey Operations Center. Prior assignments included the Pacific Marine Center's Operations Division and the PATHFINDER, HYDROGRAPHER, and DAVIDSON.



## Radar Digitizing Experiment By NWS Pays Quick Dividends

On March 1, the National Weather Service's Southern Region began an operational trial of a manually digitized radar program which almost immediately proved its usefulness in a flash flood situation.

For the manual radar digitizing trial (which in no way alters the Weather Service's plans for a national computerized digital radar program following the digitized radar experiment, D/RADEX) each Southern Region radar station has been assigned a set of grid squares 40 nautical miles on a side. The radar operator draws contours, or outlines, of precipitation echoes indicating the categories of weak, moderate, strong, and intense. He then encodes the highest echo intensity value in each of the station's assigned squares, according to a special 0 to 9 numerical scheme. This digital data is added to the regular radar observation report.

On March 4, three days after the program started, high values for a four hour total of the digital data was noted for an area in northeast Texas, about 120 miles from the radar at Greater Southwest Airport near Ft. Worth and a flash flood warning was issued. Although damage was not heavy, flash flooding did occur in the area and some highways were blocked by high water.

## Dr. Joanne Simpson Cited For Weather Reporting

Dr. Joanne Simpson, Director of the Environmental Research Laboratories'



Experimental Research Laboratory in Miami, Fla., was one of eight women honored by Theta Sigma Phi, National Professional Society for Women in Journalism and Communications, at a luncheon on March 24.

Dr. Simpson was presented with a certificate for outstanding service in weather reporting.

Theta Sigma Phi raised about \$3,000 with this invitational event, called "Date with the Press," for journalism scholarships that are dispersed to Dade County, Florida, high school and college students on the basis of ability, interest and need.

## NESS Man Conducts Seminar at CEDDA

Dr. George Ludwig, of the National Environmental Satellite Service, recently presented a seminar at the Environmental Data Service's Center for Experiment Design and Data Analysis (CEDDA) on data management principles applicable to the GARP Atlantic Tropical Experiment (GATE). Dr. Ludwig is a member of the GATE Advisory Panel of the U.S. National Committee for the Global Atmospheric Research Project (GARP).

## Length of Service Awards

National Weather Service Southern Region employees who received Length of Service Awards in February were: 30 years - William F. FRANK, WSO Baton Rouge, La.; Jefferson S. BROWN, Jr., WSFO Fort Worth, Tex.; Torrance E. KABLE, WSFO Jackson, Miss.; Harry S. McGRAIL, WSO Port Arthur, Tex.; John S. HURSH, WSO/AG Stoneville, Miss.; and Juanita F. PARSONS, RFC Tulsa, Okla. 20 years - Herbert M. ROSEMAN, WSFO Fort Worth, Tex.

National Ocean Survey National Geodetic Survey Operations Center employees who received Length of Service Awards in February were: 30 years - Robert A. PRYCE, Party G-48. 25 years - Henry L. INCE, Party G-21.

National Weather Service Eastern Region employees who received Length of Service Awards in March were: 30 years - Howard A. SLAUENWHITE, Jr., WSFO, Portland, Maine; Curtis W. CROCKETT, WSO/SC, Blacksburg, Va.; Lucy A. STOWE, WSO, Cape Hatteras, N.C.; Peter G. SPINELLI, WSO, Concord, N.H.; Melvin OPPENHEIM, WSFO, New York, N.Y.; Joe E. SEWELL, WSO, Cape Hatteras, N.C.; Earnest A. RODNEY, WSO, Asheville, N.C.; Robert G. CLEIS, WSMO, Pittsburgh, Pa.; and William R. LONG, WSFO, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Northwest Administrative Service Office employees who received Length of Service Awards in March were: 30 years - Gladys V. HOWE and Frederick ERTEL. 20 years - Beatrice P. HOVIG.

National Weather Service Central Region employees who received Length of Service Awards in March were: 30 years - Catherine M. BYBEE, CRH Kansas City, MO.; Lawrence R. CASTAGNA, WSO Flint, Miss.; Wilbert P. HIRSHFELD, WSO St. Cloud, Minn.; and Francis P. O'BRIEN, WSO Dubuque, Ind. 25 years - Guy H. GRAY, Jr., WSO North Platte, Nebr. 20 years - Hubert M. McNAMEE, WSO Wichita, Kans.

NOAA Headquarters employees who received Length of Service Awards in March were: 35 years - Jeff D. ARDOIN and Elton Edwin MOONEY. 30 years - Buel J. STEVENSON, Robert W. SCHONER, San Toro R. BARBAGALLO, Bernard ROCHLIN, John A. LANZARO, Pat J. BARGE, Vernon L. PETERSON, Farris HOLMES, William M. TERRY, Exum R. ROBERTS, Lacey W. SMITH, Justin M. YOUNG, Robert E. RANDLE, Parris ALEXANDER, Jr., Lois M. LOGAN, Milton STEIN, and Gerald L. BARGER. 25 years - Bernard CHOVIK, John T. GALLAHAN, Raynard CARDASCIA, Tom CINDEA, James A. CUNNINGHAM, Woodford W. SCHAFER, and Alice E. GOLDSMITH. 20 years - Preston SMITH, Jr., Armenia M. ANDERSON, Charles B. ELLIS, Laverne Agnes BARBER, Walter L. COLSON, Clinton D. UPHAM, Eileen T. GARDNER, J. Lockwood CHAMBERLIN, Edward W. FERGUSON, Paul J. GOLAND, Anthony T. VINCIGUERRA, and Frederick C. HOCHREITER.

## Cooperative Weather Observer Cited For Life-Saving Action

Mrs. Gladys B. Nelson, of Fort Ripley, Minn., twenty years a cooperative observer for the National Weather Service, was



presented a Public Service Award on March 18 by Joseph H. Straub, Jr., Meteorologist in Charge of the Weather Service Forecast Office in Minneapolis. According to the award citation, Mrs. Nelson's timely observations and reports of a heavy rainfall on July 21, 1972, greatly contributed to the flash flood warnings that were issued to residents and tourists in the Central Minnesota area. Warnings were issued in time to control traffic into the area and evacuate low-lying areas of the State campgrounds. "Undoubtedly," the citation reads, "your timely observations led to the saving of lives and property."

## Roedel, Alverson To Represent NOAA At Rome

National Ocean Survey Director Philip M. Roedel and Northwest Fisheries Center Director Dr. Dayton L. Alverson will represent NOAA at the Eighth Session, FAO's Committee on Fisheries, at Rome, April 10-17. Mrs. Prudence Fox of NOAA's Office of International Affairs is the U.S. liaison officer. Discussions will center on worldwide fisheries activities of FAO. Among the subjects on the agenda are: the advisability of establishing an international fishery body for the Western Central Atlantic, a review of results of the UN Conference on the Human Environment and the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, and anticipated FAO fishery programs for 1974-75.

## Two NMFS Biologists Develop Food Binder

Biologists Louis Ronsivalli and Robert Learson of the NMFS Atlantic Fisheries Products Technology Center, Gloucester, Mass., have been assigned a Government patent for their development of a food product that binds together seafood products. The inexpensive binder is made of ground fish flesh, which can be used as a constituent to hold together blends of chopped or ground fish products, or to coat delicate cuts of fish. The product was invented in response to a need conveyed to the NMFS researchers by the U.S. Army for a coating to prevent fish filets from breaking apart when reheated. Some commercial processors are also using the binder, with more expected to follow.

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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