



noaa week

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U. of Alaska Is Awarded Sea Grant

The University of Alaska has been awarded a Sea Grant of \$500,600 to assist in its search for solutions to pressing economic and environmental problems related to the development of Alaska's marine resources. The grant will be more than doubled by matching funds from various State, university, and private industrial sources.

With more than half a million square miles of continental shelf and upwards of 34,400 miles of shoreline, Alaska harbors a considerable storehouse of living and non-living resources. It is estimated, for example, that over 47 million barrels of oil remain to be recovered in Alaska and its surrounding waters. Under this year's grant, tests will continue to determine the properties of sea ice, especially during the spring melting period, and to ascertain the type of ocean sub-bottom that exists in the near-shore region of the Beaufort Sea. The resulting data will be used by State and Federal regulatory agencies and the petroleum industry in evaluating the problems associated with offshore gas and oil production and in designing,

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Waiver of Moratorium on Marine Mammal Product Imports Under Consideration

Administrative Law Judge James W. Mast has recommended to the Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service that the moratorium on importing marine mammal products be waived to permit the importation of 70,000 Cape fur seal skins from South Africa.

The recommendation was based on information presented at a public hearing held in September on a request to waive the moratorium.

The public is invited to send its comments on the judge's rec-

ommendations to the NMFS Director by January 19, 1976. The Director will decide to grant or deny the waiver after the end of the comment period.

If the waiver were granted, a final environmental impact statement would be sent to the Council on Environmental Quality. After a 30-day waiting period, final regulations would be effective and applications for permits to import the skins would be accepted by NMFS.

A notice of receipt of applications would be published in the *Federal Register* and the public would have 30 days to comment on the applications. At the end of that period, permits to import the skins from South Africa may be issued.

The full text of the recommendations is available for review at the Director's office at 3300 Whitehaven St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

Virginia Receives \$403,520 CZM Grant

The State of Virginia has been awarded a \$403,520 grant to continue developing a coastal zone management program, and to study the effects created onshore by offshore oil and gas production.

The grant, the second made by the Office of Coastal Zone Management, will be administered in Virginia by the Division of State Planning and Community Affairs. Last year's NOAA grant was \$251,044. Under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 the State is eligible for a

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GOES-1 Now Operational; SMS-1 Moved

A new environmental satellite, launched for NOAA in October, became operational yesterday, providing weather forecasters and others with a variety of environmental data.

The geostationary satellite, GOES-I, replaces an older space vehicle, SMS-I, at 75 degrees West longitude, above the equator over South America. It is orbiting in a fixed position relative to the earth's surface at an altitude of about 35,600 kilometers (22,250 miles).

David S. Johnson, Director of the National Environmental Satellite Service, said SMS-I will be moved to 105 degrees West longitude, over the eastern Pacific Ocean south of Mexico, on a stand-by status. It was launched as a prototype satellite in May

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National Registry of Marine Pathology Opens at NMFS Oxford, Md., Facility

A depository for information on diseases and abnormalities of marine and estuarine organisms and animals, the first of its kind in the United States, has been

established at the National Marine Fisheries Service Middle Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Center laboratory in Oxford, Md.

The National Registry of Marine Pathology makes available to marine and estuarine biologists and pathologists a central reference collection of clinical, illustrative, and published material related to diseases of marine and estuarine vertebrate and invertebrate life.

The Registry's curator, Haskell S. Tubiash, explained, "We are soliciting, cataloging, and maintaining information on fish diseases obtained from many sources and will have pertinent references to published literature in a safe, permanent repository where the scientific community can

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Mr. Tubiash

PARTICIPANTS IN THE RECENT NOAA-CANADIAN ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE MEETING on Environmental Science and Service Planning and Development were (seated, from left) Dr. W. L. Godson, Director General, Atmospheric Research Directorate, AES; Dr. R. A. Clark, Associate Director, Hydrology, NWS; Dr. R. M. White, NOAA Administrator; J. R. H. Noble, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Department of the Environment; K. R. Johannessen, Associate Director, Meteorology and Oceanography, NWS; George Pincock, Acting Director-General, Field Service Directorate, AES; (standing, from left) M. N. Techter, Associate Director, Technical Service, NWS; Harry Saunders, Special Assistant to Dr. White; L. T. Campbell, Director-General of Central Services Directorate, AES; D. S. Johnson, Director, National Environmental Satellite Service; Dr. G. P. Cressman, Director, NWS; Roy Lee, Director, Administration Branch, AES; Julius Badner, Chief, Executive Affairs Staff; NWS; Robert E. Vockeroth, Director, Atmospheric Instruments Branch, AES; and D. Holmes, Chief, Soundings Systems Branch, NWS.



personnel perspective

Current Vacancies in NOAA

To insure that NOAA employees are aware of job possibilities throughout the agency, a list of current NOAA-wide vacancies is published below. Employees interested in any of the listed vacancies

should contact their servicing personnel office for information where to apply.

Announcement Number	Position Title	Grade	MLC	Location	Issue Date	Closing Date
331-76	Contracting Officer	GS-12	NWS	Ft. Worth, Texas	1/2/76	1/16/76
333-76	Supv. Civil Engineering Tech.	GS-11	NOS	Detroit, Mich.	1/2/76	1/16/76
334-76	Supv. Meteorologist	GS-12	NWS	Grand Rapids, Mich.	1/2/76	1/16/76
335-76	Hydrologist	GS-12	NWS	Ft. Worth, Texas	1/2/76	1/16/76
336-76	Meteorologist	GS-12	NWS	San Juan, Puerto Rico	1/2/76	1/16/76
338-76	Electronics Tech.	GS-11	ERL	Miami, Fla.	1/7/76	1/21/76
342-76	Meteorologist	GS-14	EDS	Houston, Texas	1/7/76	1/21/76
343-76	Electronics Tech.	GS-9	NWS	Cleveland, Ohio	1/7/76	1/21/76
344-76	Meteorologist	GS-12	NWS	Columbia, S.C.	1/7/76	1/21/76
332-76	Supv. Meteorologist	GS-16	NWS	Garden City, N.Y.	1/2/76	1/23/76
337-76	Supv. Oceanographer	GS-15	ERL	Seattle, Wash.	1/7/76	1/28/76
339-76	Meteorologists	GS-12-13	NWS	Fairbanks, Alaska	1/7/76	7/7/76
340-76	Meteorologists	GS-13-14	NWS	Anchorage, Alaska	1/7/76	7/7/76
341-76	Meteorologist	GS-12	NWS	Juneau, Alaska	1/7/76	7/7/76

Detailing Employees

From time to time, employees are detailed to perform the duties of positions other than those which they officially occupy. Following is a brief summary of Federal Civil Service requirements for detailing employees. These are the only official, recognized means by which employees may be assigned to work outside their permanent positions.

1. Detail. A detail is the temporary reassignment of an employee to a different position for a specified period of time, with the employee returning to his or her regular duties at the end of the detail. A position is not filled by a detail, since the employee detailed continues to encumber the position from which he or she is detailed.

2. Details are permitted: (a) to meet emergencies caused by abnormal workload, changes in mission or organization, or unanticipated absences; and (b) pending official assignment, classification of new positions, security clearances, or for training purposes.

3. Details are prohibited: (a) for at least three months after an employee has been appointed from a register (except for periods of 30 calendar days or less); (b) for more than 120 calendar days, unless prior approval has been obtained from CSC; and (c) for an employee assigned to a non-career position, to a position in the career service, without prior CSC approval.

4. Documenting Details. All details of more than 30 calendar days should be documented on an SF-52 by the official initiating the detail, and the original SF-52 forwarded to the servicing personnel office. The SF-52 will become part of the permanent record in the detailed employee's Official Personnel Folder. It is not necessary to document the detail of a career or career-conditional employee who is being assigned to perform duties of a position which is either an identical additional position or a position of the same grade, series code, and basic duties as the position he or she is regularly assigned to. The exception is permitted to eliminate paper work where the same function (such as inspection, or investigation) is performed from a number of different organizational or geographic points, and it becomes necessary to augment the staff of one office with personnel from another office for a temporary period.

5. Details to Higher-Grade Positions. If an employee is detailed to a higher grade position, or to a position of known promotion potential, the detail can be for no more than 60 calendar days, unless the detail is made under competitive procedures. Of course, this requires that

the employee who is detailed to a higher level position must be basically qualified for the higher grade position in accordance with Civil Service Commission Qualifications Standards. While the above is general guidance, some current NOAA labor management agreements may call for different time frames than herein specified, and care should be given to assure compliance with these provisions of the agreements.

6. Time Limitations. The period of time in which employees may properly work outside their officially assigned positions is limited to a maximum of 120 calendar days, unless the Civil Service Commission approves an extension of this time limit.

In future articles, regulations governing temporary promotions as well as a discussion of the designation of employees to an "Acting" capacity will be covered.

Health Tips

In this country over 22 million people have high blood pressure. Only half know, and only a small percentage are being treated. These people run a high risk of having heart attacks, strokes, kidney failure, and other diseases if their blood pressure is not treated properly.

What is blood pressure? It is the force of the blood against the artery walls. The force is caused by the heart as it pumps the blood to all parts of the body. Each time the heart pumps, blood pressure in the arteries increases; each time the heart relaxes, blood pressure goes down. Therefore, we have an "upper" (systolic) and a "lower" (diastolic) blood pressure.

The upper and lower blood pressure are read "120 over 80." Most people worry about the high figure. But the lower figure is the one you should worry about. It tells what strains are on the heart between beats, when the heart should be resting.

What causes high blood pressure? In most cases, scientists do not know, although work is being done to find out why. However, research has given doctors many ways of treating high blood pressure.

There is no way you can tell if you have high blood pressure. If you have any symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, and fatigue, consult your doctor. Even without obvious symptoms, you should get your blood pressure checked frequently.

Here are some general rules if you have high blood pressure. Ask your doctor which of these are important to you:

1. Try not to worry. Worry, nervous tension, and emotional strain all help to raise the blood pressure.

2. Do the things your doctor suggests, such as: keep your weight down, restrict the use of tobacco and alcohol, get plenty of sleep, avoid overexertion at any time.

3. If you are on drug therapy, be patient and do not stop treatment unless otherwise advised by your doctor. Give yourself a chance to adjust to the drug.

4. Choose sports that are not competitive.

5. Rest before you are tired. You will be able to do more if you rest often. Also, rest will help you to avoid the tenseness and irritability that go with fatigue.

If the condition is controlled early enough, harmful results are likely to develop. High blood pressure is a killer being tamed—only when it's caught.

Open Clerical Register Closed

Effective January 1, 1976, the Open Clerical register for the Washington Metropolitan area has been abolished in the Office of Chief, Personnel Operations Branch. Clerical, typing and stenographic vacancies will be filled by advertising them under the Merit Promotion Program at the GS-5 level and above for clerks and typists and GS-6 and above for stenographers.

Applications received from candidates outside NOAA will be considered through a regular bi-weekly review of current applications and "future interest" names will be maintained in a hold-file for a period of six months, including applications for part-time employment. Periodic evaluations will be made of this system to determine its effectiveness.

Western Washington State College Awarded Arctic Research Contract

Western Washington State College in Bellingham has been awarded a two-year, \$93,000 contract by the Environmental Research Laboratories to study the marine plant and animal life along the shoreline of Alaska's northern coast.

The contract is part of a major marine environmental study conducted by ERL for the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management and its environmental studies program, which seeks to determine the probable ecological impacts of oil exploration and development activities on Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf.

Primary objective of the university research is to assess the abundance and distribution of

principal marine plants, birds, mammals, and invertebrates that feed or depend upon the Beaufort Sea's shoreline ecosystem in representative habitats. Since the Beaufort Sea's shoreline zone contains more than 500 miles of coastline, much of it accessible only with great difficulty, the biologists will sample beach sites at Point Barrow, Prudhoe Bay, and Barter Island.

The coastal environment of the Beaufort Sea is biologically more productive than the open waters. During summer, minute drifting marine organisms called plankton increase markedly in coastal waters, but the species are few. Plankton populations concentrated on the undersurface of pack ice also play an important role in the food relationships of plant and animal life along the coastline.

Birds are also an important part of the shoreline's ecology. Lagoon and estuarine systems provide a habitat for a million or so migrating eiders as well as loons and other water birds. Eider ducks and gulls nest in high densities on some of the barrier islands near shore. Geese, jaegers, snow owls, shorebirds, and ducks nest in great abundance near ponds of the coastal tundra.

The scientists are also interested in the marine mammals which inhabit the Beaufort Sea coastline. Pregnant female polar bears den in heavily snowdrifted areas along the coast as far as 25 miles (40 kilometers) inland. Arctic foxes are present in the shoreline region. Limited species of fish and bottom dwellers also inhabit the Beaufort coast.

Using aircraft and small boats, the researchers will survey the coastline to describe and classify the various plant and animal life habitats including barrier islands, sand and gravel beaches, mud flats, deltas, and salt marshes.

The survey data will be used to prepare charts and maps to describe the distribution of habitats and plant and animal life there. The scientists also plan narratives and diagrams to describe ecological relationships within each habitat.

identify limitations in existing coastal resource programs and legislation; and use all available resources in developing the management program.

In addition, the State will study the impacts likely to occur onshore from offshore energy production, and integrate such planning into the emerging CZM program. A key aspect of Virginia's planning will be to study the support facilities needed, such as platform construction sites, to bring petroleum products ashore.



AN "ANNUAL SAFE BOATING AWARD" certificate of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary recently was presented to the National Ocean Survey "in recognition and appreciation of outstanding contributions to the Auxiliary Safe Boating Program dedicated to the saving of lives and property upon the waterways of the nation." R. Adm. Allen L. Powell, NOS Director, (left) accepted the certificate from C. Peter Marini, National Chief, Safe Boating, USCGAUX, and Communications Officer in the Administrative Operations Division at NOAA's Rockville, Md. Headquarters.

Pay Checks To Reflect Health, FICA Changes

Federal Health Benefits rate increases established by the Civil Service Commission will be reflected in salary checks beginning Pay Period #2 which ends January 17, 1976. Rates vary, depending on the insurance carrier and the enrollment plan. Blue Cross-Blue Shield increased 62% on low-option and 55% on high option plans. Aetna's increases are 73% on low-option and 57% on high option.

FICA (Federal Insurance Contribution Act) rate for 1976 will remain at 5.85% of total wages. However, a new wage base has been established at \$15,300 or \$1,200 higher than 1975. The new base will be applied beginning Pay Period #2 which ends January 17, 1976.

GOES-1 Operational *(Continued from page 1)*

1974, with an anticipated life span of about a year. While some of its systems have degraded, according to Mr. Johnson, it still is capable of providing full operational data.

GOES-1, with an anticipated

Water Level Gage Added to Network

The Lake Survey Center's Water Level Section, under Robert J. Goodnough, has added another key water level gage to its Great Lakes network.

Located at the shallow western end of Lake Erie at the site of the LSC Engineering Division in Monroe, Mich., the new all-year gage will provide continuous records of short period lake level fluctuations, which are the major cause of flooding in the area, and provide a valuable input to the overall data collection program. The data from this gage will complement data obtained from LSC



Mr. Goodnough

life span of up to five years, will provide clearer visual and infrared pictures of the western hemisphere from which scientists can obtain information on weather patterns, sea surface temperatures, ocean currents, and the like.

Additionally, the new satellite will monitor solar flare activity and will relay information transmitted by data collection stations on buoys in the ocean and on platforms in remote areas of the continental United States.

Mr. Johnson said a second SMS satellite—SMS-2—which was launched last February, was moved last month from its position at 115 degrees West to a new position at 135 degrees West, over the equator southeast of Hawaii, to provide improved imagery of the Pacific Ocean in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands.

NOAA operates both geostationary and polar-orbiting satellites for environmental monitoring purposes.

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Catherine S. Cawley, Editor
Warren W. Buck, Jr., Art Director

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BRONZE MEDALS were presented recently at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Boston, Mass., to F. Howard Rexroad (left) and Harold E. McDonnell (right) by Meteorologist in Charge Anthony E. Tancreto.

Mr. Rexroad, Leading Forecaster, was cited for "superior public service and notable technical leadership in National Weather Service forecast programs in New England," and Mr. McDonnell, Forecaster, received his Medal for "outstanding performance over a period of many years, and unusual initiative and creative ability in the development of methods, procedures, and devices for the National Weather Service."



Sea Grant Awarded to U. of Alaska

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constructing, and locating offshore drilling structures.

Sea Grant scientists will compile information on such things as growth rates, size-weight relationships, age, and reproduction of shellfish—including butter and little-neck clams and the blue mussel—in order to help insure that Alaska's shellfish resources will remain productive for years to come.

Also, a search will continue for a simple, inexpensive field test for the presence of saxitoxin, the active compound in paralytic shellfish poison carried by the so-called red tides.

Other studies of Alaska's renewable marine resources will concentrate on the snow crab, catches of which have increased dramatically in the past five years.

A group of Sea Grant-supported economists will examine the costs involved in establishing and running privately funded, not-for-profit salmon hatcheries, the only kind allowed under a 1974 Alaskan law. The information that results is expected to help the developing not-for-profit aquaculture firms by allowing them to operate more efficiently. In addition, the State will be better able to assess the impact of its new law.

UH and GCFC Developing Cooperative Research, Graduate Training Program

A cooperative program in research and graduate training is being developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service Gulf Coastal Fisheries Center (GCFC) in conjunction with the University of Houston (UH) to enable the two institutions to share facilities and perform complementary marine resources research at the Galveston GCFC laboratories.

A joint proposal to share facilities and expand cooperative efforts in the field of marine science has been approved by Center Director Dr. Joseph W. Angelovic and by the UH Board of Regents. Both UH and GCFC expect to gain through this expanding cooperation: UH presently has no marine facility, and GCFC expects to gain expertise in areas which will complement existing research.

By making Federal facilities available for the use of university personnel, GCFC has attracted additional research talent to the research areas being emphasized by NMFS. Grants, direct university support, and graduate student support all will be of assistance in building the staff of UH, which will be working in close cooperation with the GCFC staff. The complementary effect of this additional research expertise is expected to both stimulate and strengthen the GCFC research program.

The merging of talents also will facilitate high quality training of graduate students in ma-

rine science. The program provides an unusual opportunity to graduate students to pursue advanced course work at UH while conducting research at the nearby NMFS laboratories. A wide range of research expertise encompassing both applied and basic areas is available to participants. Areas of research interest and expertise include animal reproduction, marine ecology, nutrition and biochemistry, population ecology and genetics, invertebrate pathology, bacterial ecology and taxonomy, and aquaculture. Research emphasis will be upon economically important marine species such as shrimp, and the environmental impact of man's activities upon the marine ecosystem.

This program represents the first of its kind in terms of a formal cooperative arrangement between a marine science program of a state university and an NMFS facility in the Gulf of Mexico region. Although the formal nature of this agreement is unique, it represents a continuation of an expanding university-Federal cooperative effort which includes informal collaboration on research with Texas A&M University and with the Marine Biomedical Institute of the University of Texas. Significant contributions to man's knowledge of how to best utilize and protect the tremendous resources in the marine environment along the Gulf coasts are expected from this cooperative program.

Oxford Registry

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deposit, retrieve, and study these materials."

At present the facility consists of slide collections illustrating pathology, parasitism, or anomalies in species of bivalve mollusks; fishes; and decapod crustaceans. The collections represent domestic and exotic diseases of bivalve mollusks encountered during more than 10 years of surveys and diagnostic services and parasites in fishes from Raritan Bay, N.J.

The Oxford Laboratory specializes in diseases of marine and estuarine organisms and animals and has ample facilities for histological preparation, light and electron microscopy, and photomicrography. In addition, the laboratory has a library and reference collection including about 150 serial publications oriented toward marine biology and pathology. These facilities are available to the Registry and to users of the Registry by special arrangements. Qualified investigators are invited to donate suitable material to the Registry and to use the facilities.



THE EARLY NAUTICAL CHART BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM of the National Ocean Survey met with such success that the stock of engraved prints is exhausted. The more than 28,000 requests for the hand-pulled engraved editions received between July and August 1975 took nearly four months to process. Among those interested in the program was John Davidson, TV and screen star, (left), shown here receiving a copy of the early chart catalog from William Stanley, Chief of the NOS Physical Science Services Branch.

Copies of the catalog, which describes the lithographic reproductions of the 48 early nautical editions that will continue to be offered during the Bicentennial period, are available from the NOS Distribution Division (C44), Riverdale, Md.

Approval Needed To Attend FAO Conferences

Those who plan to participate in United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization conferences require approval of their governments.

United States citizens who plan to attend the FAO Technical Conference on Aquaculture in Kyoto, Japan, from May 26 to June 2, 1976, should send notice of this intent to NOAA's Office of Marine Resources no later than March 25.

The following information: Name, title or position, organization, citizenship, address and phone number should be supplied to

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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