



## Satellite Aids Great Lakes Winter Shipping Safety

### Coastal Zone Grant Awarded To Mississippi

The effects of offshore oil and gas production on Mississippi's coastal environment and economic and social structures will be studied by the State under an \$80,000 grant from the Office of Coastal Zone Management. The grant is a supplement to a second-year grant made last summer for \$127,038, and under provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, the State will add \$40,000 to it, bringing the total budget for offshore energy studies to \$120,000.

The money will be used primarily to determine what types of energy facilities are suitable for the Mississippi coast, where they might best be located, how they could affect critical environmental areas, and what additional facilities—schools, homes, hospitals—and social services would be needed in the State if offshore drilling were to occur.

Other studies will be undertaken to help lessen the impact of Federal leasing off the Mississippi coast.

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### Florida Waters Are Investigated By the Peirce

The NOAA Ship Peirce is conducting intensive on-the-spot investigations designed to update five nautical charts of the Florida coastal areas between Pensacola and Port St. Joe.

The investigations, which will continue through April 10, are a part of the National Ocean Survey program to evaluate its marine surveys and charts.

The Peirce, which is commanded by Cdr. Joseph W. Dropp, will evaluate the adequacy on existing charts of sounding data depicting water depths, and conduct a 'user analysis' of NOS products. On-the-spot investigations will be conducted in the Gulf of Mexico.

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LEARNING THE TECHNIQUES OF MEASURING THE ALTITUDE OF A CELESTIAL BODY WITH A MARINE SEXTANT are (from left) John P. Rubino, from the University of Florida, and Karin A. Lerch, from Ohio University, members of the NOAA Corps' 54th Officer Training Class at the NOAA Officer Training Center, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, N.Y. On the right is Assistant Training Officer Lt. Michael C. Meyer.

### Satellite Disaster Warning System Contract Is Awarded

A half million dollar contract awarded by NOAA to Systems Division of GTE Information Systems, Silver Spring, Md., will make life less hazardous for millions of Americans.

The contract calls for the design and fabrication of a system communicating early indication of potentially disastrous natural phenomena such as flooding, earthquakes, tidal waves, and the like.

David S. Johnson, Director of the National Environmental Satellite Service, said many conditions which frequently result in natural disasters have their beginnings in remote spots on the earth's surface—at isolated headquarters of major rivers, far out into the ocean away from shipping lanes, and other inaccessible locations.

To provide the earliest possible warning of potential environmental-related disasters, a number of government agencies are installing sensing devices such as water level indicators, wind gauges, and wave height recorders.

Until now, communication of observations from most of these sensing platforms have depended upon either telephone or conventional radio transmissions. The

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### Dr. Robert S. Dietz Is Honored By Geological Society of London

Dr. Robert S. Dietz, Senior Research Oceanographer at the Environmental Research Laboratories' Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories in Miami, Fla., has been elected an honorary member of the Geological Society of London.

Dr. Dietz, who is also an adjunct professor at the University of Miami, is recognized as a pioneer in many areas of marine geology.



Dr. Dietz

Using information relayed via a satellite 23,000 miles (35,800 kilometers) out in space, commercial vessels are now able for the first time to safely ply the Great Lakes during the frozen winter season.

The satellite, operated by NOAA, is a vital link in an all-weather ice information system which brings detailed radar pictures of ice in Great Lakes' shipping lanes, along with interpretative data and weather information, directly into the pilot houses of underway ships and U.S. Coast Guard icebreakers. Armed with this information, often only a few hours old, vessel masters can now plan a course around heavy ice or through thinner ice.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system traditionally has been closed to navigation because of ice from mid-December until early April. But during the 1974-75 winter, as a result of the Great Lakes Navigation Season Extension Demonstration Program, more than 15 million additional tons of commerce were shipped within the Lakes.

A major contribution to the Program is "Project Icewarn," a joint venture of the Coast Guard, the National Weather Service, the National Environmental Satellite Service, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, to demonstrate an operation.

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He was co-founder of the concept of sea-floor spreading, coining the term in 1961. His studies explaining how continental drift could be integrated with the history of the ocean floor have led to the development of one of the most important concepts in geophysics today. Author of more than 250 publications and two books, he also has made significant contributions to scientific research on the morphology and structure of the deep-sea floor, the history of ocean basins, deep-sea research vehicles, and astroblemes (meteorite impact structures).

A participant in research ex-

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# notes about people

**Norman E. Prosser**, who has been Principal Assistant at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Denver, Colo., since 1971, has succeeded **Glenn Stallard** as Meteorologist in Charge at the WSFO in Memphis, Tenn.



Mr. Prosser

Mr. Stallard retired recently after 34 years' Federal service during which he served in the Panama Canal Zone; Knoxville, Tenn.; Detroit, Mich.; Miami, Fla.; Keflavik, Iceland; San Juan, P.R.; St. Louis, Mo.; and Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. Prosser served earlier as a research meteorologist studying severe local storms; as a forecaster at the National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, Mo.; and with the Air Force Hurricane Hunter Squadron.

He is a graduate of the University of Missouri and received his advanced meteorological training at Florida State University.

**Donald R. Rondy**, Chief of the Lake Survey Center's Water Levels Branch; **Harry A. Lippincott**, Chief of the LSC Vertical Control Section; and **Professor Ralph Moore Berry**, Assistant Chief of the Vertical Network Branch of the National Geodetic Survey in Rockville, Md.,



Mr. Rondy



Professor Berry Mr. Lippincott

attended the recent meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. They are members of the Vertical Control/Lake Levels Subcommittee of the Coordinating Committee.

Discussion topics included the draft policy and procedure for updating the International Great Lakes Datum (1955), the draft program for defining water level elements such as high and low water datum, and the metric conversion.

**Frank A. Blust**, Chief of the LSC Charting Operations Division, is a member of the Coordinating Committee.

**Dr. Victor L. Loosanoff**, former Senior Scientist for the National Marine Fisheries Service, was given an Honorary Life Membership in the World Mariculture Society at its recent annual meeting in San Diego, Calif. He joined the Bureau of Fisheries (NMFS predecessor) in 1931 and was founder and first Director of the Marine Fisheries Laboratory at Milford, Conn., until becoming Senior Scientist in 1962. He received a Distinguished Service Medal and retired in 1965, but served until 1972 as a consultant on mortality of

commercial mollusks.

He is now a Professor of mariculture and marine biology at the University of the Pacific, Pacific Marine Station, Dillon Beach, Calif.

He received his B.S. from the University of Washington, his Ph.D. from Yale.

**Raymond J. Robinson** has been employed by the Instrument Branch of the Lake Survey Center's Engineering Division in Monroe, Mich., as troubleshooter at LSC for the Hydroplot-Hydrolog Computer System. The System, designed and developed by the National Ocean Survey, was first used in Great Lakes charting surveys during the 1974 field season aboard the Survey Vessel Laidly. Mr. Robinson, an electronics technician who previously worked in the electronics test equipment field for the Army Signal Corps School at Fort Gordon, Augusta, Ga., attended a one-week course in the System at the Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, Va.

## Satellite Disaster Warning System

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availability of telephone lines—in the case of land-based sensing platforms—and the distances which usual terrestrial radio communications can cover have limited their effectiveness to collect data.

A new communications system, made available by the development of NOAA's environmental satellite program, will enable the critical information recorded by the sensing platforms to be flashed almost instantaneously to those responsible for alerting the public of an impending potential disaster.

The \$524,288 contract calls for installation to begin in August and for the system to be fully operational by the end of this year, Mr. Johnson said. GTE Information Systems is a subsidiary of General Telephone & Electronics Corp., Stamford, Conn.

The system calls for design and fabrication of a computer system utilizing four IS-1000 GTE minicomputers and a communications network to transmit sensing platform data in real time to such data users as the National Weather Service, the National Data Buoy Office, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Tsunami Warning System, and others.

NOAA's geostationary satellites, in geosynchronous orbit 23,000 miles (35,800 kilometers) above the earth over the Equator, will pick up transmissions from the sensing platforms and immediately retransmit the data to the World Weather Building in Suitland, Md. There, the computers will automatically determine to whom the data

## Dr. Dietz Honored

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peditions throughout the world with Belgian scientist Jacques Piccard, he co-authored *Seven Miles Down*, a documentary account of the history of the bathyscaph, Trieste, and its dive to the bottom of the Challenger Deep—the lowest known point of the ocean floor. He also participated in the last Navy Antarctic expedition with Adm. Richard E. Byrd and explored the Black Sea with Jacques Cousteau.

In 1971, Dr. Dietz received a Department of Commerce Gold Medal for research which has significantly advanced the understanding of solid earth geophysics, and also the American Geophysical Union's Walter H. Bucher Medal for his original contributions to basic knowledge of the earth's crust. He was elected a fellow of the AGU in 1974.

He received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana, although much of his graduate work was done at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, Calif.

should be relayed, and relay it within seconds.

"This means," Mr. Johnson said, "that when a water level indicator at the upper reaches of a river, for example, senses the river about to reach flood stage at that point, this vital information can be flashed, via satellite, to those concerned with warning the populace downriver that they should begin to prepare for flood waters."

The system also has the capability of querying other sensing platforms in the vicinity to obtain associated data, such as rainfall, which would indicate severity of future flooding.

NOAA's geostationary satellites—GOES I watching the East Coast, and SMS-II watching the Pacific Coast and Hawaii—each have the capacity of monitoring a minimum of 10,000 data collection platforms within any six-hour period. At the present time, only about 100 platforms are in place.

## noaa week

Published weekly at Rockville, Md., by the Office of Public Affairs for the information of employees of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Articles to be considered for publication should be submitted at least a week in advance to NOAA Week, Room 221, WSC-5, Office of Public Affairs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Rockville, Md. 20852.

NOAA Week reserves the right to make corrections, changes or deletions in submitted copy in conformity with policies of the paper or the Administration.

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



**MANNING THE NOAA BOOTH AT THE RECENT 5th ANNUAL NEW ORLEANS BOAT SHOW** when this photo was taken were (from left) Herman C. Anderson, Chief of the Chart Information Branch in the National Ocean Survey's Marine Chart Division, Rockville, Md.; Frances Cassioppi, Secretary at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in New Orleans; and Sally Kuzenski, Writer-Editor with the Louisiana Sea Grant Program at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. More than 200,000 people attended the show, which was held in the Louisiana Superdome.

# Photo Exhibit Chronicles NOS History

"Sea to Shining Sea," a one-of-a-kind photographic exhibit by John T. Smith, Chief of the Photographic Operations Branch in the National Ocean Survey's Coastal Mapping Division, will be on display indefinitely on the fifth floor of WSC-1 in Rockville, Md.

The general theme of the 62 photographs is the history of the NOS as it has paralleled that of the Nation.

Cdr. James Collins, Chief of the Coastal Mapping Division, said the exhibit is part of his Division's contribution to NOS's Bicentennial program.

"The Bicentennial," he said, "should be a time for reflection and a time for planning our next 200 years...Let us continue in our efforts to meet this challenge and ever strive to improve."

Mr. Smith has been with NOS for more than a quarter of a century.



**MANNING NOAA'S CURRENT PRODUCTS AND SERVICES EXHIBIT** at the recent New York National Boat Show when this photo was taken were (from left) James Gearhart and Paul Warnick, from the National Ocean Survey's Marine Chart Division in Rockville, Md., and Walt Stoddard, Port Meteorological Officer at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in New York City. Early nautical charts were displayed at a second NOAA booth in the special Bicentennial section of the Boat Show, which had a total attendance of 376,000.

## Satellite Aids Lakes Winter Shipping

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tional all-weather, "real-time" ice information system for support of Great Lakes winter navigation. This winter 15 commercial vessels are participating in the project, which is based on experience gained in previous years' experimentation.

Proposed by NASA's Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, Project Icewarn utilizes a special "side-looking" airborne radar mounted on Coast Guard aircraft to determine the type, location, and aerial distribution of the ice cover in the Lakes. Flights are made over various predetermined problem ice areas three or four times a week, and the radar data

are coded and relayed via one of NOAA's satellites to the Coast Guard Ice Center in Cleveland. The coded signal then is reassembled into a recognizable radar image. At the Center, hand-drawn, interpretative ice charts—analyzed by experts from the Coast Guard, NOAA and NASA—for winter shipping areas in the Lakes are prepared. Weather analyses from a National Weather Service Meteorologist stationed at the Center are also prepared. All this information is broadcast to facsimile recorders aboard Great Lakes vessels via the Great Lakes Marine VHF-FM Radio Network.

Researchers from NASA and the Environmental Research Laboratories' Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Mich., have determined that because of the geographic location and extent of the Great Lakes, the region is subjected to a variety of wind and weather patterns, and to rapid temperature changes.

Since the periods of freezing temperature generally are not long enough to cause a lake-wide, solid stable ice sheet to form, various stages of ice formation and decay often occur simultaneously at different places within the Lakes and can even occur at different locations in the same Lake. Also, storms, winds, current and other factors produce rapid changes in the location and extent of the ice cover on the Lakes. During periods of rapidly fluctuating ice conditions (such as might occur as the result of the passage of a weather front through the region) ice information must be updated daily, because it deteriorates with age and becomes less useful to vessel navigators as hours pass.

## Miss. CMZ Grant

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Mississippi Gulf Coast in the search for larger energy supplies.

The results of the studies will be integrated into the development of a Statewide coastal zone management program, designed to placate growing demands upon the coast for beach homes, highways, railroads, refineries, harbors, factories, beaches, boating, fishing, marinas, power plants, airports, and various other uses.

Mississippi is in the second of a three-year effort to develop its coastal zone management program, and has received nearly a quarter-million dollars from NOAA. When the management program is developed, it will be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce. Upon approval, the State is eligible for additional grant funds to implement the plan, and Federal agencies with activities in Mississippi's coastal zone must conduct them in a manner consistent with the approved State program.

## FLSA Retroactive Payments Completed

FLSA (Fair Labor Standards Act) retroactive payment checks dated February 27, 1976, will be issued as a supplemental payroll. This payment, which covers the period May 1, 1974, (date of FLSA enactment) to February 15, 1975, completes all retroactive FLSA payments to NOAA employees currently on the rolls. For identification purposes, the Statement of Earnings and Leave covering this retroactive payment will read "RET FLSA" in the Ending Data space.

## obituary

### Dr. Erwin F.O. Gigas

Dr. Erwin F. O. Gigas, a consultant to the National Ocean Survey Office of Aeronautical Charting and Cartography on automated cartography and other ADP developments from 1966-1969, died in Marbella, Spain, on January 28. Before joining the NOS, he had retired after serving for many years as Director of the Institute for Applied Geodesy in Frankfurt, West Germany.

His wife, Elfriede, may be addressed at Huenerbergstr. 5, 6242 Kronberg/Taunus, West Germany.

## NWS Training Forecasters Via Video Tape

The National Weather Service has instituted forecaster training via video tape to supplement its in-house training. This is expected to have other benefits in addition to savings in travel and per diem costs.

Instead of sending only one or two forecasters for training each year, as has been done in the past, all forecasters at an office will be provided the latest information at the same time. Most course material is suitable for video tape presentation, and the more important tapes will be retained at regional headquarters for referral.

Most forecast offices have been equipped with playback units and television monitors already, and several tapes dealing with both technical and operational areas are now in production.

This change in training methods is the result of an employee suggestion by Allen Lee, who has been Lead Forecaster at the Weather Service Forecast Office in Columbia, S.C., for almost a year. He previously served at the National Severe Storms Forecast Center in Kansas City, Mo., and in the Public Weather Branch at NWS Headquarters in Silver Spring, Md.



Mr. Lee

## Peirce (Continued from page 1)

spot hydrographic surveys will be conducted where important discrepancies are discovered in nautical charting data.

A concerted effort will be made to ascertain how the consumer views NOS products by asking consumers whether the products meet their needs and what, if any, improvements would be necessary.

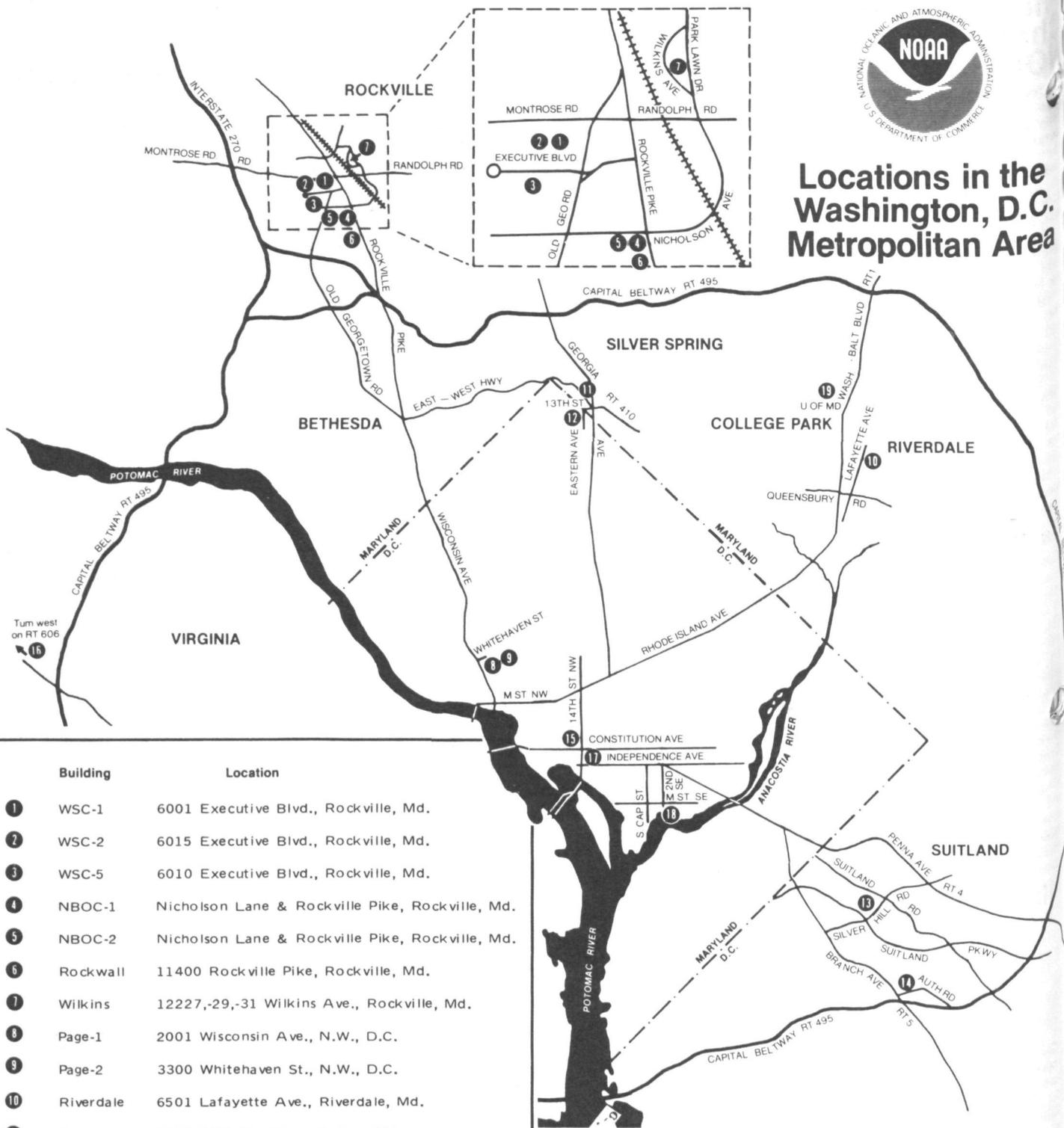
The Peirce's operations will cover five charts on the Gulf Coast of Florida: St. Andrews Bay (Chart 11391); Pensacola Bay (Chart 11383); St. Joseph and St. Andrews Bay (Chart 11389); Choctawhatchee Bay (Chart 11388); and Pensacola Bay and Approaches (Chart 11382).

## next week's best fish buys

According to the NMFS National Fishery Education Center in Chicago, the best fish buys for the next week or so are likely to be frozen fillets of haddock and breaded fish sticks along the Northeast Seaboard; fresh sea bass and flounder in the Middle Atlantic States, including the D.C. area; Spanish mackerel and mullet in the Southeast and along the Gulf Coast; ocean perch and lake trout in the Midwest; fresh smelt and Dungeness crab meat in the Northwest; and Pacific oysters and Dungeness crab in the Southwest.



# Locations in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area



Building	Location
1	WSC-1 6001 Executive Blvd., Rockville, Md.
2	WSC-2 6015 Executive Blvd., Rockville, Md.
3	WSC-5 6010 Executive Blvd., Rockville, Md.
4	NBOC-1 Nicholson Lane & Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md.
5	NBOC-2 Nicholson Lane & Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md.
6	Rockwall 11400 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md.
7	Wilkins 12227,-29,-31 Wilkins Ave., Rockville, Md.
8	Page-1 2001 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., D.C.
9	Page-2 3300 Whitehaven St., N.W., D.C.
10	Riverdale 6501 Lafayette Ave., Riverdale, Md.
11	Gramax 8060 13th St., Silver Spring, Md.
12	William 7923 Eastern Ave., Silver Spring, Md.
13	FB-4 Federal Bldg. 4, Suitland, Md.
14	WW 5200 Auth Road, Camp Springs, Md.
15	Commerce 14th St. & Constitution Ave., N.W., D.C.
16	Sterling Sterling R&D Center, Route 606, Sterling, Va.
17	MUS 10th St. & Constitution Ave., N.W., D.C.
18	160, WNY 2nd & M Sts., S.E., D.C.
19	CPK-1 Univ. of Md., Regents Drive, College Park, Md.

- WSC- Washington Science Center
- NBOC- North Bethesda Office Center
- FB- Federal Building
- MUS- National Museum of Natural History
- CPK- College Park (Univ. of Md.)
- WNY- Washington Navy Yard
- WW- World Weather Building



# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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July 23, 2010