

This Week In NOAA

Activities for the week ending

December 14, 1984



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

THIS WEEK IN NOAA

Table of Contents

Page

ITEMS FROM OFFICES AND LINE ORGANIZATIONS

Staff Offices

General Counsel	1
Public Affairs.....	2
National Climate Program Office	3
Policy and Planning	4

Line Organizations

National Ocean Service	5
National Weather Service	6
National Marine Fisheries Service	7
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service	8
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	9
Environmental Research Laboratories	10
Sea Grant	11
* CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
* OF SPECIAL INTEREST	

*An asterisk indicates no items this week.

December 14, 1984

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Alaska - North Slope Borough CZM Plan

On Friday December 7, 1984, representatives from the North Slope Borough of Alaska (NSB) were in Washington to brief OCRM and GCOS on the conceptually-approved draft of the NSB Coastal Management Plan. The NSB is a unique region because of its enormous size, delicate environment and its oil and gas producing potential. All of these factors have raised several issues in the draft plan, primarily with those policies aimed at preserving subsistence resources and those restricting development which would be in the national interest. GC will be reviewing the draft carefully to determine whether it complies with the objectives of the CZMA and, if so, whether it should be submitted as a routine program implementation or amendment to the Alaska CZM program.

Seattle Master Builders Lawsuit

A group of builders in the State of Washington is challenging energy standards promulgated by the Northwest Power Planning Council pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act. 16 U.S.C. §839. One of the claims is that the manner of appointing the members, coupled with the power granted to them, violates the appointment clause of the Constitution. A letter was sent from NOAA-GC to the Department of Justice explaining how the outcome of this case could affect numerous laws administered by NOAA; requesting that they take a position in support of the Northwest Power Planning Council; and offering our assistance.

Office of Aircraft Operations

A flood of legal matters has come in recently from the NOAA Office of Aircraft Operations (OAO). Among them include issues raised by the Inspector General regarding use of NOAA aircraft, transfer of an aircraft from Department of Interior, excise tax on fuel purchased by OAO, and an outside employment issue.

December 14, 1984

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Foreign Press Briefing Scheduled - Representatives of foreign media will be briefed by Dr. John McElroy, Assistant Administrator for NESDIS, Jan. 10 in the National Press Building's Foreign Press Center. Dr. McElroy and other NESDIS officials will discuss the growing thrust for international cooperation in many satellite operations, especially those involving search and rescue of ships and aircraft in distress.

On the Radio - Hard copy winter weather safety public service announcements have been sent to over five hundred radio stations across the nation. "Winter Safety" public service announcements are on their way to approximately 600 television stations. "Winter Safety - The Minneapolis Story," this month's Sea and Air series featuring John Graff, MIC, Minneapolis, has been delivered to approximately 200 radio stations; and A Growing Nation radio feature on "Fish and Heart Disease" with Tom Billy, NMFS, has been released to approximately 380 stations.

Award Accepted - Pamela Picardi of the Office of Public Affairs accepted the Golden Eagle Award from CINE, the Council for International Nontheatrical Events, for the NOAA film, Terrible Tuesday, a tornado safety project.

Weather Workshop at Vail - Weathercasters from several major channels attended a weather workshop at Vail, Colo. on Dec. 8-9. Also in attendance: T.R. Reid, Denver staffer for the Washington Post, who plans to visit the ERL in Boulder soon.

NOAA Posters Printed - Posters depicting the missions of all five major NOAA components have been printed. They require mounting and are designed for internal use in NOAA offices and facilities. For further information, call Pat Thomas at 377-8090.

December 14, 1984

NATIONAL CLIMATE PROGRAM OFFICE

Agricultural Outlook Conference. Dr. Sprigg presented an invited paper on "The Status of Experimental Climate Forecasting" at the USDA's "Agricultural Outlook, 1985, Conference", December 3-5, 1984. The annual conference is the USDA's most important forum for release and exchange of outlooks on agriculture issues for the coming year.

Nuclear Winter Update. The Draft National Plan to study the climatic effect of nuclear war has been transmitted to OSTP for further consideration and possible implementation.

December 14, 1984

Office of Policy and Planning

Japanese proposal for NOAA cooperative agreement

The International Affairs Division arranged a meeting of the international staffs of the line offices and the National Climate Program Office with Dr. K. Takeuchi, Director, Meteorological Research Institute of the Japan Meteorological Agency. The informal meeting was called to discuss a Japanese proposal on joint meteorological/oceanographic research programs on the Pacific ocean. Prior to more formal discussions, it was agreed that a further exchange of views among scientific program managers was needed to clarify areas of mutual interest and to complete preparatory work for a meeting of senior government officials. Such a scientific meeting could occur in Washington, D.C., in early 1985, hosted by the United States. (Robert Stockman, 377-2275)

December 14, 1984

National Ocean Service

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Workshop - NOS sponsored an EEZ workshop on December 11 and 12 in Washington, D.C. to present its bathymetric and geophysical mapping program which is in early stages of development. The purpose of the workshop was to review the EEZ program plans with expert assistance. Technical and policy issues about the EEZ also were discussed. About 40 representatives of Federal agencies, academic institutions and the private sector attended. (J. Bossler, 443-8204)

NOS Participates in SEG Conference - The NOS External Affairs Division participated in the Society of Exploration Geophysicists International Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia, December 2-6, 1984, with an exhibit entitled "Geophysical Products and Services." The emphasis was on NOS products in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). (T. Mauk, 443-8031)

Coastal Zone 85 Symposium - The first sponsors' planning meeting was held this week for CZ 85, "The Fourth National Symposium on Coastal and Ocean Resource Management." The Symposium is scheduled to be held at the Baltimore Omni, July 30-August 2, 1985. Thirty people, representing 20 of the 35 sponsors and affiliates, attended the meeting to discuss their objectives and responsibilities with regard to the conference. The conference will feature special plenary sessions on the Chesapeake Bay and Coastal and Ocean Policy Issues; 45 papers are from some 30 different countries. NOAA is a major sponsor of CZ 85 along with the Departments of Interior and Energy, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Coastal Zone Foundation, and other government and private organizations. (D. Clark, 443-8031)

December 14, 1984

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

1984 Hurricane Season - The 1984 hurricane season has drawn to a close. Eleven tropical storms formed in the Atlantic compared to only four in 1983. Four of the storms became hurricanes. They were Diana, Hortense, Josephine, and Klaus. The season began late, with the first storm, Arthur, not forming until August 29. The storms developed in rapid succession thereafter and ended with Klaus dissipating on November 13. Hurricane Diana made landfall near Cape Fear, North Carolina, on September 13 after remaining nearly stationary off the North Carolina Coast for 2 days. Winds near 100 miles an hour were reported as Diana moved ashore. No fatalities were recorded but damage was just under \$80 million. Meanwhile, another active year occurred in the east Pacific. Twenty storms were named, but none made landfall on the west coast. (Jim Campbell 427-8090)

Great Salt Lake Continues to Rise - The wet pattern continues over Utah. November precipitation remained as much as 150 percent of normal establishing a new 2-month record for October through November of 5.10 inches at Salt Lake City -- 216 percent of normal. The old record was 5.05 inches set in 1946. On November 30, 1984, the Great Salt Lake was 4,208.30 feet mean sea level, an increase of 3 inches since November 1 and 5.5 inches since its summer low point reached on October 1. The National Weather Service forecasts the Lake to peak at 4,210.5 feet next spring, 1 foot higher than last spring. The highest recorded record of the Lake in recent history is 4,211.6 feet set in 1873. (Al Flanders 427-7600)

Ice Jam Flooding in Minnesota - The Arctic outbreak dropped temperatures last week to near zero over the upper midwest resulting in ice jams on several rivers in Minnesota. The ice jams caused rivers to rise overflowing their banks flooding communities that necessitated evacuations in the Granite Falls area on the Minnesota River. The National Weather Service's forecast of a thaw that would prolong the flooding prompted the communities to construct levees. (Al Flanders 427-7660)

BMW AND NOAA Weather Radio - BMW of North America, Inc., plans to introduce a radio receiver that will receive radio stations on the AM, FM, and weather bands in its 1985 model year cars. BMW plans to inform all of its dealers, via a service information bulletin, of the services provided by the National Weather Service and the location of the NOAA Weather Radio stations. (Joe Conte 427-7884)

Winter Outlook Briefing - The National Meteorological Center briefed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on December 5, 1984, regarding the Winter Outlook for December 1984 through February 1985. The briefing aimed at supporting FEMA's activities in flood and weather related disaster mitigation is one of a series of seasonal outlooks provided by the National Weather Service. The Flood Insurance Administration, Disaster Assistance Program, along with FEMA's Regional Offices rely on the seasonal outlooks for planning. (Jose Marrero 427-7624)

December 14, 1984

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Emergency Rule to Increase the Bycatch Limits for Pacific Halibut in the Gulf of Alaska - The Secretary of Commerce has determined that an emergency exists in the groundfish fishery being conducted in the Western and Central Regulatory Areas of the Gulf of Alaska and is therefore increasing the bycatch limits of Pacific halibut allowed to be taken by U.S. fishermen while trawling for groundfish. This action is necessary to avoid underutilization and economic wastage of the groundfish resource known to be available and is intended to promote full achievement of the desired harvest level of certain groundfish species. (PNEvans, 634-7449).

THIS REPORT WAS RECEIVED VIA THE RAPIFAX MACHINE
AND IS THE BEST PRINTING QUALITY OBTAINABLE

December 14, 1984

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Science Magazine Features NOAA Satellite Ocean Data. Dramatic changes in patterns of oceanic pigment concentrations around the Galapagos Islands during February and March 1983 have shown up in satellite observations. These changes were associated with the unusual oceanographic conditions observed during the 1982-83 El Nino. Redistribution of food resources may have contributed to the reproductive failure of marine wildlife on these islands during this El Nino. The computer-processed image is color coded according to pigment concentration ranges from data collected from the NASA Nimbus-7 Coastal Zone Color Scanner. The report is in the November 30, 1984 Science magazine entitled "Satellite Color Observations of the Phytoplankton Distribution in the Eastern Equatorial Pacific During the 1982-1983 El Nino," by G. Feldman, D. Clark and D. Alpern. (D. Clark, 763-4244)

Improving Fire and Flood Forecasting Through Landsat Imagery. National Weather Service personnel from the Sioux Falls and Rapid City offices visited the EROS Data Center to consult with NOAA/Landsat Operations Division and EDC officials in an effort to improve fire and flood forecasting methods through the use of the Landsat imagery. EDC personnel and NWS forecasters Rollin Mannie and Don Reed investigated methods through which individual watersheds in the Black Hills could be more accurately depicted. The investigation centered on the feasibility of developing large Landsat images with watershed boundaries, road networks, and ancillary data overlaid in contrasting colors. Still in the research stage, it could result in the development of a prototype system with application to many similar areas in the United States. (B. Youngren, FTS 784-7261)

NAS Panel Meets as NGDC. The National Geophysical Data Center hosted a two-day meeting of the National Academy of Sciences "Panel on Potential Fields for Geological Applications." The principal purpose of the meeting was to give the panel an overview of the NGDC potential field programs and to give them an opportunity to make suggestions. The panel consisted of representatives from NOS, USGS, industry, and academia. The panel is now preparing a report which presumably will suggest areas for NGDC to emphasize in its gravity, aeromagnetic and topography programs. (H. Meyers, FTS 320-6521)

Tropical Cyclone Impact Charts. The National Climatic Data Center has received a supply of color charts (22" x 34" and 11" x 17" in size) depicting global tropical cyclone trajectories and impacts (death and damage) for the 20th Century. These charts were published by Science Applications, Inc., in cooperation with NCDC and with support from the Agency for International Development. (M. Changery, FTS 672-0765)

December 14, 1984

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

Deployment of South Pacific Buoy in Joint US/Peru Project--On August 6, 1984, a moored meteorological buoy capable of measuring wind velocity, sea level pressure, sea surface temperature, and air temperature was deployed in the South Pacific at 10°S, 105°W. The deployment of this buoy is the result of a joint project between NOAA and Peru, and is one component of a large-scale observing system that will be used to support the TOGA program. The data are telemetered through the GOES satellite and are available on the Global Telecommunication System (GTS). The buoy was deployed from the USCG Ice Breaker Polar Star with representatives from both Peru and Chile participating. In the spring Chile will deploy a similar buoy at 20°S, 85°W. (Ken Mooney, R/CAR, 443-5381)

December 14, 1984

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

Arctic Polynya Experiment (APEX/ONR) - For the first time, a PMEL research program (APEX/ONR) has used a helicopter to deploy a mooring. During October, nine moorings were deployed in the vicinity of St. Lawrence Island; however, due to foul weather, the key mooring of the regional oceanography component was not deployed in Bering Strait. Because current and pressure data from this location are crucial for understanding processes within the polynya and no ships were available, it was decided to attempt deployment from a helicopter. Under the direction of William Parker, PMEL, the mooring was constructed at Wales, attached to the release hook under the helicopter, and flown to a site in Bering Strait. Deployment was completed by lowering the mooring into the water until the subsurface float was just under the surface and then releasing it. Recovery will be conducted during summer, 1985. (J. Schumacher, FTS: 392-6197)

Fate and Impact of Marine Debris Workshop - James D. Schumacher (session chairman) and Ronald K. Reed (presenter) participated in a workshop on fate and impact of marine debris November 26-29 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Although the extent, nature, and fate of debris are not well defined, marine debris is clearly a worldwide problem whose impact on marine life can be substantial. It was a consensus of the attendees that a change in human misperception that the sea and its beaches are an infinite sink for debris is an important step toward reducing the problem. An executive summary of the workshop is to be completed in January 1985 by Dr. R. S. Shomura, Director, Honolulu Labs, NMFS. (J. Schumacher, FTS: 392-6197)

Satellite-Telemetering Weather Stations Deployed - Personnel from PMEL's Marine Services Division successfully deployed two satellite-telemetering weather stations along the Alaska Peninsula during the week of November 26-December 1. The stations, located at Thin Point near Cold Bay and Ugaiushak Island north of the Semidi Islands, measure wind, temperature, and pressure. They will be recovered at the end of next summer. Together with data from a companion station on Cherni Island near Cold Bay, the information gathered will be used to determine complex flow in the coastal zone during the major weather sequences. This program is sponsored by OCSEAP. (A. Macklin, FTS: 392-6798)

ERL/NOS Cooperation-Acoustical Research - Drs. Thomas Clarke and John Proni (AOML/OAD) presented a talk to the Charting and Geodetic Service of the National Ocean Service in Washington, D.C., on December 13, on the progress made to date on the AOML bottom acoustic echo-formation research program. The objective of this program is to derive an acoustical echo-formation model based upon bottom structural features. The model will have many applications to NOS acoustical bottom measurements programs. (J. Proni, FTS: 350-1595)

December 14, 1984

NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

Memorandum of Agreement Signed -- A new memorandum of agreement was signed recently between the Department of Navy and the NOAA National Sea Grant College Program. The Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Center (NEODTC) has unclassified research needs relating to acoustic side-scan sonar systems, magnetometry, harbor and coastal survey systems, and the marine phenomena that affect their performance. Through the agreement, Navy proposes to use the Sea Grant institution network to satisfy some of those research needs. The first "pass-throughs" of Navy funds from the NEODTC were to New Hampshire Sea Grant in support of autonomous, unmanned underwater vehicle development for search and survey missions.

(R. Kolf, 443-8977)

Vitamins Help Salmon Broodstock -- To ensure a high egg take from net pen salmon, vitamins are being added to fish diets in experiments being conducted at Washington Sea Grant. Some captive female cohos held in freshwater increased egg production 12 percent in response to higher levels of vitamins in the feed, according to preliminary results. In addition, fry experienced a higher survival rate.

Until now, no information was available on vitamin needs of maturing salmon, and net pen growers used arbitrary amounts of a vitamin supplement. However, maturing females probably have quite different vitamin needs from young ones, because they are putting all their food energy into egg development, not growth in size. Further research is being conducted to determine what vitamin levels produce an optimum level of enzyme activity in maturing female salmon. Results should help net pen growers hold down feed costs, reduce prespawning losses of fish, and, most importantly, obtain ample eggs for their needs.

(J. McVey, 443-5940)

Films Win Awards -- The Council on International Nontheatrical Events (CINE) recently awarded Golden Eagle prizes to two films produced by Oregon Sea Grant. "Farmers of the Sea," a program on aquaculture produced for WGBH-TV's NOVA series and shown November 13 over the Public Broadcasting System, received an award in the agricultural documentary category. "Riches From the Sea," an exploration of the oceans and their resources produced for the National Geographic Society, won in the educational program category. These two well-made films are now eligible to represent U.S. filmmaking in overseas film competitions.

(V. Omelczenko, 443-8886)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

ERRATA NOTICE

One or more conditions of the original document may affect the quality of the image, such as:

Discolored pages
Faded or light ink
Binding intrudes into the text

This has been a co-operative project between the NOAA Central Library and the Climate Database Modernization Program, National Climate Data Center (NCDC). To view the original document, please contact the NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring, MD at (301) 713-2607 x124 or Library.Reference@noaa.gov

HOV Services
Imaging Contractor
12200 Kiln Court
Beltsville, MD 20704-1387
July 23, 2010