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This Week In NOAA

Activities for the week ending

December 7, 1984



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

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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THIS WEEK IN NOAA

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December 7, 1984

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Challenge to Surf Clam Emergency Regulations

J. H. Miles & Co., Inc., a Virginia surf clam processing company, filed suit on November 16, 1984, challenging the emergency regulations which amend the Atlantic Surf Clam and Ocean Quahog FMP. The plaintiff claims that in reducing the minimum surf clam size to 5 1/4 inches, the regulations are arbitrary and capricious and violate the national standards of the Magnuson Act.

Marine Insurance Cases Settled

The Zurich Insurance Company and NMFS have reached a settlement in their litigation in which Zurich has agreed to pay NMFS \$153,355.40 on the agency's insurance claim upon the sinking of the F/V DOLLARS WORTH. That amount is equal to the agency's September 1984 payout on its guaranty to the lender which financed the purchase of the vessel.

December 7, 1984

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NESDIS Press Conference Held - There was heavy attendance at a press conference held by NESDIS Assistant Administrator John McElroy on Monday, Dec. 3. Dr. McElroy reported that representatives of nations on four continents have formed two working groups to achieve greater sharing of satellite data and the responsibility for maintaining earth observation satellite systems. Among those attending: Channel 4, Channel 5, Channel 7, Cable Network News, UPI Television News, CBS Radio, Associated Press, United Press International, Reuters, Scripps-Howard, Time Magazine, The Washington Times, the Journal of Commerce, Science Magazine, Gannet News Service, and numerous newsletters.

Stormy Weather in Boulder - The first Boulder chinook of the season, on Nov. 30, sent news media to ERL in force, seeking information on maximum gusts and related information.

Weather Seminar for Press - NWS Deputy Director, Dr. Elbert Friday, and NWS specialists Neil Frank, William Bonner, Fred Ostby and Don Gilman spoke at a one-day seminar arranged at the Washington Journalism Center by Don Witten, NWS PA officer, on Nov. 27. Media participants included the Associated Press, the National Geographic News Service, Scripps-Howard, Newsday, and others.

Delaware Filming Undertaken - Principal filming has been completed, aboard the NOAA Ship Ferrel, for a video report on the National Ocean Service's circulatory program.

School Information Service - The School Information Service bulletin for December has been issued. It features stories on a multimillion-dollar study of the early life of Pacific pollock, the extension of an agreement between the United States and three other nations to operate a cooperative satellite search and rescue system, a project to map the six million square-mile Exclusive Economic Zone, the value of NOAA Weather Radio as a Christmas gift, a study of the atmospheric gases that act like a greenhouse above the earth and may be changing our climate, a computerized tracking system which helps forecast the movement of oil and chemical spills in the Great Lakes, new motion picture films from NOAA and the effects of wind chill.

December 7, 1984

National Ocean Service

NOAA User Conference in Alaska - A special NOAA User Conference was held in Anchorage, Alaska, on November 30, 1984. The theme was "NOAA Serves Alaska's Marine Community." The conference was an effort to reach out to Alaskan marine users in order to better understand their requirements and make NOAA marine products and services more responsive to the users' needs. It was sponsored in conjunction with the recent opening of the Alaska Regional Ocean Service Center, last July. Mr. Paul Wolff, Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, gave the keynote address. Over 100 marine users from both public and private sector attended the successful conference. (R. Barritt, 377-5118)

Great Lakes and Atlantic Coast Charting Advisors Meeting - On November 29-30, 1984, National Ocean Service (NOS) and Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) members of the Great Lakes and Atlantic Coast Charting Advisors met at Charting and Geodetic Services (C&GS) headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, to coordinate hydrographic and charting operations in the boundary waters with Canada. (L. Posey, 443-8744)

Photogrammetric Support to Mammals Studies - Scientists from the NMFS Laboratories in Seattle, Washington; Miami, Florida; and LaJolla, California, visited the NOS Photogrammetry Branch to make use of specialized measuring instrumentation in their marine mammal projects. The NOS Analytical Plotter and Mann Automated Stellar Comparator were used for size determination of bowhead whales and dolphins. (R. Brewer, 443-8744)

Tides and Water Levels Support to the University of Hawaii - Special support is being provided to Dr. Klaus Wyrтки of the University of Hawaii in his efforts to publish monthly mean sea level anomaly maps. Marigrams from 11 National Tide and Water Level Observation Network stations in the Pacific Ocean Basin are sent on a priority basis to NOS at the beginning of each month so that the data can be processed and monthly mean sea levels computed by the 24th of each month. Dr. Wyrтки prepares these monthly mean sea level maps as part of the Integrated Global Ocean Services System (IGOSS) Sea Level Pilot Project. (C. Thurlow, 443-8254)

Diver Training Activities - NOAA diving instructors conducted the 1-week Operational/Divemaster course in Gulf Breeze, Florida, under a reimbursable agreement with EPA. Seventeen EPA employees completed this course. (M. Wells, 443-8007)

December 7, 1984

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Controlled Impact Demonstration - A Boeing 720 was crashed by remote control on Saturday, December 1, 1984, at Edwards Air Force Base in California. The Controlled Impact Demonstration was the culmination of years of aviation safety studies by the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and industry groups. One of the most important aspects of the test was to determine the effectiveness of anti-misting kerosene in suppressing post-crash, fuel-fed fires. In this respect, the test was not successful. The National Weather Service Forecast Office in Los Angeles, California, actively participated in weather support for the demonstration along with the U.S. Air Force and a private consultant. (Charlie Sprinkle 427-7726)

Private Sector Assists in High Visibility Meteorological Project - The U.S. recently participated in a very high visibility meteorological project at Bracknell, England, in conjunction with the World Meteorological Organization, an agency of the United Nations. The U.S. chose General Electric's time-share computer services to handle its complex requirements, which included making the system work in a foreign country. General Electric did a magnificent job of coordinating with NOAA people to ensure that the service was made available through General Electric's affiliate, GEISCO, in London. The project people in England remarked that the system performed exceptionally well when called upon each time. (Joe Facundo 427-7722)

Third Annual Hawaii College and Career Fair - On November 16 and 17, 1984, the National Weather Service joined about 150 other exhibitors -- colleges and universities from all over the country and a variety of professions and businesses -- in the third annual Hawaii College and Career Fair. Exhibits were viewed by the thousands of students, teachers, school counselors, and parents who streamed through the aisles of Honolulu's Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. The NOAA booth, featuring colorful displays of NOAA activities and a slide show illustrating the work of the Weather Service Forecast Office (WSFO) Honolulu, was staffed by personnel from Pacific Region Headquarters and the WSFO, who demonstrated NOAA Weather Radio, distributed hundreds of leaflets on weather and NWS activities, and answered visitors' questions about the various NOAA components, job opportunities in NOAA, and the academic requirements for employment. (Dick Hagemeyer 8-808-546-5680)

Chinese Hydrologists Visit - A team of five hydrologists from the Institute of Water Conservancy and Hydroelectric Power Research in Beijing, Peoples Republic of China, spent the week of November 19, 1984, visiting the National Weather Service Office of Hydrology and the Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the visit was to become familiar with National Weather Service computerized data base operations for water resource systems. The team also has been visiting other Federal agencies involved in water resources. Their next stop was to visit the Inland Waters Directorate in Ottawa before returning to China. (Al Flanders 427-7660)

National Hurricane Conference Planning - NOAA will be represented December 11, 1984, at a Washington, D.C., meeting of the Advisory Committee planning the 1985 National Hurricane Conference. The conference is to be held in New Orleans May 1-3, 1985. Subjects expected to be featured in the conference include storm surge, evacuation planning, and emerging concepts of vertical refuge. (Bob Carnahan 427-7258)

December 7, 1984

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE

NOAA-F Status. The NOAA-F launch has been delayed again. On Saturday, December 1, 1984, high winds caused a postponement. On Sunday, December 2, 1984, a booster guidance hardware problem discovered an hour before the scheduled launch caused a second and this time longer delay. We are now scheduled to try again on Sunday, December 9, 1984. (A. Schwalb, 344-5207)

DOD Study on Civil Management of the Global Positioning System (GPS). Don Miller of NESDIS Advanced Systems Concepts Group attended the Department of Defense (DOD) briefing on the preliminary results of the congressional directed study to determine whether DOD should retain management responsibility for the GPS, or whether it should be transferred to another Federal agency. Representatives from DOT, DOE, DOS, NASA, OMB, DMA, and DOI attended. NOAA was represented by Admiral Bossler, National Ocean Service. Although no conclusions or results of the study were presented, the pros and cons associated with the five options considered left no doubt that there is no advantage to the transfer of management of the GPS from DOD to another Federal agency. (D. Miller, 763-8078)

ESA Director General Meets With NOAA Officials. The newly appointed Director General of the European Space Agency, Professor Reimar Luest, met with Dr. Anthony Calio, Dr. John McElroy, and Lisa Shaffer of NOAA on November 28, 1984. Professor Luest was in Washington to meet key government officials in civil space activities. His discussions with NOAA included European and U.S. remote sensing programs, future cooperative prospects in ocean observations, coordination of earth observations satellite programs, and the proposed Polar Platform of the Space Station. (L. Shaffer, 763-4586)

Annual Satellite Field Services Station Manager's Meeting. Managers from the National Weather Service's Satellite Field Service Station (SFSSs) met with their regional representatives, NWS Management, and the NESDIS Satellite Services Division staff on November 13-16. Discussion items covered numerous operational problems from equipment and contract monitoring to contingency plans for alternative data in the event of a GOES-6 failure. Deputy Assistant Administrator of NESDIS, Dr. William Bishop gave his appraisal of the future of VAS operations on GOES-6 at the World Weather Building on Wednesday, November 14. Afterwards, the group was given demonstrations of the Phase II system and the Interactive Flash Flood Analyzer. (J. Hawkins, 763-8051)

NODC User Requests Hit New High. During October, the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) responded to an all-time monthly high of 793 user requests. This record resulted from requests for NODC/Sea Grant coastal recreation guides prompted by mention of the publication series in the October issue of "Good Housekeeping" magazine. To keep track of user statistics, speed processing of orders, and monitor demand for its various products and services, NODC has just implemented a new personal computer based user request system. (A. Bargeski, 634-7500)

December 7, 1984

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

Chinese Group on Artificial Fish Shelter Technology - A Chinese delegation is visiting U.S. facilities during November 30-December 19, 1984. Seven Chinese scientists and engineers led by Mr. Zheng Guobiao, PRC Bureau of Aquatic Products, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, are being hosted by OAR, NMFS, and Sea Grant representatives; fishing industry and sports fishing representatives; and by academic institutions (SUNY-Stony Brook and University of Southern California). Itinerary includes sites in New York, Florida (Jacksonville, St. Augustine, St. Petersburg, and Miami), Pascagoula, Mississippi, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles/Long Beach, California. (R.C. Junghans, 443-8845)

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

Inverted Echo Sounders (IES Instruments) - Three IES instruments (the first three to be commercially produced) have been tested and prepared for use. Special mounts or bases have been designed, built, and tested to permit the IES instruments to be used in applications where water currents up to one knot are anticipated. The three units will be deployed in late November from the R/V VIRGINIA KEY as part of the FACTS (Florida Atlantic Coast Transport Studies) program. (C. Lauter, FTS: 350-1425)

Transverse Doppler Acoustic Current Profiler - The Ocean Acoustics Division of AOML will be deploying a transverse Doppler acoustic current profiler system in the Government Cut Channel of the Port of Miami during the month of December. Portable vans containing acoustic equipment and a data acquisition computer will be located at the pilot's station on the southern end of Miami Beach. Signals from transducers in the channel will be processed by the computer for real-time display of currents. In addition to a conventional upward looking configuration, a sideward looking configuration will be used to assess the feasibility of monitoring currents in the middle of the channel from a location near the side of the channel.

This experiment is timed to coincide with the deployment of an AMETEK-Straza Doppler profiler by NOS personnel, and with the Port of Miami Circulation Survey to be carried out under contract by General Oceanics beginning in January 1985. The availability of data from these other sources will enable an objective evaluation of transverse Doppler performance to be performed. (T. Clarke, 350-4415)