

This Week In NOAA

Activities for the week ending

November 9, 1984



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

THIS WEEK IN NOAA

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

On November 13 Secretary Malcolm Baldrige will honor top Department of Commerce employees at the annual Gold and Silver Medal Awards ceremony in Washington.

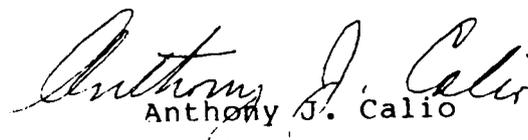
As in years past, NOAA will be well represented among those receiving the Department's top awards for outstanding service over the past year.

NOAA's Gold Medal recipients include Dr. Ray E. Jensen, NWS, Fort Worth, Tex.; Richard A. Severtson, NMFS, Seattle, Wash.; Steven W. Clark and James R. Smith, NWS, Jackson, Ky.; Dr. Melvin W. Eklund, NMFS, Seattle, Wash.; and R. Adm. Charles K. Townsend, NOS, Seattle, Wash.

NOAA's Silver Medal winners are Wilber R. Seidel and John W. Watson, NMFS, Pascagoula, Miss.; Richard A. Snay, Michael W. Cline, and Edward L. Timmerman, NOS, Rockville, Md.; Stanley A. Spivey, NWS, Fort Worth, Tex.; Malcolm Reid, NESDIS, Washington, D.C.; John J. Carey, Budget and Finance, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Vaughn C. Anthony, NMFS, Woods Hole, Mass.; and William J. Alder, NWS, Salt Lake City, Utah.

NOAA can be proud of these Gold and Silver Medal winners. They are being cited for their individual efforts and well deserve the honor. But also they are representative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Each member of the NOAA family has played a part in making our agency a first rate organization where excellence is a standard.


Anthony J. Calio

November 9, 1984

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

International Union for the Conservation of Nature and
Natural Resources (IUCN)

Wrote an opinion advising the Administrator that NOAA has the authority to become a member of IUCN, an independent international organization whose commissions include the Species Survival Commission, and, in consultation with State Department, concluded that joining the IUCN does not require State clearance under the Case-Zablocki Act.

President Approves Pub. L. No. 98-498 Reauthorizing the
National Marine Sanctuary Program

On October 19, 1984, President Reagan approved Pub. L. No. 98-498 reauthorizing the National Marine Sanctuary Program for 4 years and amending Title III of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. In view of these amendments, GCOS will review and recommend necessary changes to the current program regulations.

Texas Shrimp Seizures

Secretary Baldrige signed a memorandum reversing his earlier pronouncement that Mexican Shrimp caught and imported by U.S. fishermen in violation of the Lacey Act should not be seized. Although the Secretary's signature was dated August 9, we received the signed memorandum last week.

Mid-Columbia Proceeding

In the course of a two-day conference (October 30-31), NMFS and other fishery interests reached final agreements with the Mid-Columbia PUDs regarding fish passage measures at four of the five Mid-Columbia hydroelectric projects. The agreements provide specific measures and evaluations for 3-4 years and general commitments at the end of that period to install or implement bypass measures (currently expected to cost \$8-12 million per project). No agreement was reached for Rock Island Dam, where the Licensee asserts no fish passage measures are economically justified. Because of the lack of agreement regarding Rock Island, the presiding Administrative Law Judge has set a schedule leading to hearing next June. It remains unclear how this hearing will mesh with the new license proceedings for Rock Island, since the latter have not been assigned to the ALJ.

November 9, 1984

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

November SIS Letter Issued - The November School Information Service letter, just issued to educational journals and educators, offers a wide variety of material:

- The discovery of more metal-rich hot springs in the Atlantic,
- The successful launching of data buoys in the path of Hurricane Josephine,
- Winter safety lessons
- A tumor-inhibiting substance found in shark cartilage,
- Settlement of the Georges Bank boundary dispute,
- The use of NOAA Weather Radio to help prevent train accidents,
- Doing something about controlling smoke in the Grand Canyon, and
- News of a new weather analysis and display system.

Next Week - Up-to-the-moment reports of the SARSAT launch, delayed by weather as this was written, and results of the Lake Tahoe winter weather workshop for Nov. 10-11, for which approximately 65 weathercasters had signed up early in the week.

Publications Received - In from the printer are the revised NOAA brochure, a NOAA magazine tsunami reprint, and a reprint of TIROS-N Twins are Coming.

Press Preview - A NOAA news release announces plans for an intensive investigation of conditions surrounding the beginning of life for millions of walleye pollock larvae in their Alaskan spawning grounds next spring. The Northwest-Gulf of Alaska Fishery Oceanography Experiment (FOX), will focus on the new-hatched fish from air and sea. The study is designed to improve fishery population predictions and possibly help provide guidelines for catch quotas and fishing strategy. The project, believed the largest fishery oceanography experiment ever undertaken in the Pacific Northwest, is being conducted because scientists believe even seemingly minor environmental changes can affect pollock survival drastically. Ships, aircraft and advanced sensors will be used by scientists from NOAA's Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center and Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory to follow the larvae. They will be spawned in two weeks in March and April in a 15-by-40-mile patch in the Shelikof Strait. Current meters and bottom pressure sensors have been deployed there already.

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OFFICE OF POLICY AND PLANNING

NOAA applies for membership in International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) - Dr. Calio signed the application for NOAA membership in IUCN on November 1, 1984. The application is now under review and will be acted on by the IUCN Council in June, 1985. IUCN promotes and implements scientifically-based conservation measures through the activities of its six technical commissions (Environmental Planning, Environmental Policy, Law and Administration, Education, Ecology, National Parks and Protected Areas, and Species Survival) and other programs. IUCN's membership of over 500 members includes sovereign states, government agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations and affiliates. Two Department of the Interior agencies are already members of IUCN (National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service.) During the period 1985-1987, IUCN will give special attention to conservation of tropical forests, wetlands and coastal and marine living resources. The International Affairs Division will be contacting Line Offices in the coming weeks to explore opportunities for NOAA to participate in IUCN's activities. (Robert Stockman, 377-2275)

November 9, 1984

National Ocean Service

Scientific Support in Response to Tanker Fire and Spill - The NOS Ocean Assessments Division is providing Scientific Support Coordinator services in emergency response to the explosion and fire aboard the T/V PUERTO RICAN off San Francisco Bay on October 31. Fuel oil and a cargo of volatile, petroleum-based fuel additives spilled from the vessel has threatened the Point Reyes-Farallon Islands National Marine Sanctuary. NOS has done trajectory modeling, given advice on the use of dispersants, and ensured that the Marine Sanctuary on-site manager was consulted and potential impacts on the Sanctuary considered in response actions. Weather conditions have hampered the deployment of booms to contain the spill. The stern of the vessel has sunk near the Farallons, and the Islands have been impacted slightly thus far. Currently the spill is moving away from the Farallon Islands, and may threaten Point Reyes. (G. Kinter, 443-8933)

Delaware Bay Circulation/Water Level Briefing - Drs. Ferris Webster, Richard Garvine, and Kuo Wong from the University of Delaware met with Mr. Wolff and NOS scientists to summarize the recent work of the University on the physical oceanography of the Delaware estuary. Their observational study of subtidal circulation in the estuary was highlighted, particularly the influence of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal upon circulation. Near-term and long-term plans for additional research in this area were discussed. NOS also outlined its present Delaware Bay Project. (D. Martineau, 377-2363)

Marine Technology Society Meeting - Dr. John Hayes, Director of NOS Office of Oceanography and Marine Assessment, addressed the Marine Technology Society in Washington on November 6. His presentation was on the recent NOS project demonstrating operational real-time modeling for the Delaware River and Bay. (J. Hayes, 443-8487)

Cessna Citation II - The Office of Aircraft Operations conducted an acceptance test flight of the new aircraft on October 31, 1984, and it has been accepted as a replacement aircraft for the photo 2 missions. Aircrew qualification is in progress. (F. Moran, FTS 350-2936)

Ship Operations

The NOAA Ships RUDE and HECK arrived at the Atlantic Marine Center on Friday, November 2, 1984, completing their field season. They worked in Chesapeake Bay and New England waters.

The NOAA Ship CHAPMAN arrived in New Orleans on Saturday morning, November 3, 1984, enroute from Seattle, Washington, to Pascagoula, Mississippi, via the Panama Canal. The ship will host a reception and open house at the World's Fair in New Orleans.

The NOAA Ship WHITING sailed from Oswego, New York, for Norfolk, Virginia, on Saturday, November 3, 1984, having completed field work in the Great Lakes for the 1984 season.

The NOAA Ship MT. MITCHELL completed a 12-day Northeast Monitoring Program (NEMP) Water Column Monitoring project, returning to the Atlantic Marine Center on Wednesday, October 31, 1984. (R. Arnold, FTS 827-6440)

The NOAA Ship MILLER FREEMAN returned to home port at the NOS Seattle Ship Base on November 2, 1984. The vessel was conducting a Southeast Alaska groundfish survey and sablefish study for the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center involving samples of sablefish collected from bottom and midwater trawls for tagging and for determining their vertical distribution. Operations were in the Chatham Strait, Behm Canal and Clarence Strait, and off the outer coast between Cape Spencer and Dixon Entrance, Alaska. (W. Forster, FTS 399-4548)

November 9, 1984

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Flash Flooding Puerto Rico - A tropical disturbance associated with showers and thunderstorms triggered heavy rains over northern and interior sections of Puerto Rico on November 3, 1984. Six inches of rainfall resulted in flash flooding over the north coast around Toa Baja and Dirado. The dam on Rio Plata was opened to release increased inflow, causing flooding downstream. Mudslides occurred in the interior sections. The San Juan National Weather Service Office issued a flash flood watch followed by site specific flash flood statements alerting local officials and the public. (Jose Marrero 427-7624)

Happy 75th Houston - On Monday, October 15, 1984, the Houston, Texas, National Weather Service Office (WSO) celebrated its 75th anniversary of service to the people of metropolitan Houston. At the ceremony held in the Alvin, Texas, office were all present staff members, six retirees still living in the Houston area, three of the four major television stations, two major radio stations, and the two major daily newspapers. As a bit of history, the first Houston WSO opened in downtown Houston on October 15, 1909. From there, the office moved to several downtown locations before taking up its current residence in Alvin. (Mel McLaughlin 8-334-2659)

1984 NOAA Hurricane Conference - The 21st Annual NOAA Hurricane Conference will be held November 28-30, 1984, at the National Hurricane Center, Miami, Florida. (Jim Campbell 427-8090)

Earthquake Rattled Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia - A minor earthquake registering between 3.5 to 4.0 on the Richter scale shook much of southeast Tennessee and northwest Georgia around 7:55 a.m., Tuesday, October 9, 1984. Scattered reports of damage such as broken dishes were received by local law enforcement personnel. Timely and well written Public Information Statements were written by Weather Service Forecast Offices Memphis and Atlanta concerning this unusual event. (Mel McLaughlin 8-334-2659)

Tornado Film Award - The National Weather Service's new tornado film, "Terrible Tuesday," has won the Council of International Non-theatrical Events' (CINE) highest award, the "Golden Eagle." The CINE award will be presented to NOAA on December 7, 1984, in Washington, D.C. (Dick Wood 427-8090)

Mariners Reporting System Expands Into Gulf of Mexico - The National Weather Service's (NWS) Mariner Reports Program (MAREP) has expanded into the Gulf of Mexico. The MAREP program is designed to enhance the collection of marine weather reports from commercial fishing and other marine interests, while at the same time, increasing services to these users through improved forecasts and warnings. The first MAREP site in the Gulf of Mexico has been established at Fort Myers, Florida. Amateur radio operators collect reports from fishing vessels and other craft in coastal waters. The reports are relayed to the Miami Forecast Office for use in forecast and warning preparation. Under the MAREP concept, NWS marine forecast products are relayed to the collection site for transmission to the marine users. A second MAREP site has been established at Cameron, Louisiana, with others being developed at Port Lavaca, Texas; Biloxi, Mississippi; and Mobile, Alabama. (Mel McLaughlin 8-334-2659)

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NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Peruvian Fisheries Minister Visits - Peruvian Fisheries Minister Ismael Benavides met with William G. Gordon, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries on November 7, 1984. Benavides discussed U.S.-Peruvian fisheries cooperation. While in Washington, he will also be briefed on U.S. fisheries management practices and other matters. His trip includes visits to the American Tuna Boat Association, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeastern Fisheries Center, the Agency for International Development, and Auburn University. (DWeidner, 634-7307).

Canada-U.S. Atlantic Marine Boundary in Effect - There were no incidents along the newly established boundary in the Gulf of Maine during the past two weeks, the New York Times reported on October 28. One U.S. Coast Guard cutter and three Canadian enforcement vessels patrolled the new boundary separating United States and Canadian fishing grounds. The new division, resulting from a World Court ruling that settled a long-standing dispute over the fishing rights on Georges Bank, became effective on October 27. (MKravanja, 634-7307).

November 9, 1984

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Landsat Ground Station Operators Meet. The fourteenth meeting of the Landsat Ground Station Operations Working Group met in Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil at the headquarters of the Brazilian National Space Research Institute (INPE) October 29-November 2, 1984. Representatives of NOAA, NASA, USGS, State Department, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, ESA, India, Japan, Saudia Arabia, South Africa, Thailand were present, along with observers from EOSAT and from the French space agency, CNES. Each current and prospective station operator reported on its programs and heard an update on U.S. activities and the commercialization process. Participants toured the Brazilian Landsat facilities and were briefed on Brazil's overall space program. The next meeting of the group will be in Washington in October 1985. Dr. McElroy and Dr. Bishop were the senior NESDIS participants in the meeting. Dr. McElroy chaired the session, and Dr. Bishop will chair future meetings. (L. Shaffer, 763-4586)

Telecommunications Satellites Anomalies. On October 26, 1984, G. Guicotti of INTELSAT Operations called about temporary disabling space anomalies affecting INSAT-504 and 401. Both are Atlantic Ocean region telecommunications relay satellites stationed about 3.5 degrees apart. For almost two weeks before this event, magnetic activity levels had been high, but then tapered down to low levels. The GOES spacecraft was working, and NOAA's Space Environment Forecast Center reported no unusual activity; however, the USAF reported an unsteady plasma environment at geostationary altitude, and TIROSS-1 experienced multiple Single Event Upsets. The latter presumably are due to galactic cosmic ray flux. Data on these anomalies have been added to the expanded National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) Satellite Anomaly data base, which also contains data from Japanese and Indian geostationary satellites (J. Allen, FTS 320-6323)

Interactive Conference. The Third Conference on Interactive Meteorological Processing was held at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center on October 23-25, 1984. The conference was sponsored by NASA, NOAA, and the USAF Range Commanders Council. Keynote speakers for the conference were Jim Dodge, NASA Headquarters, and John McElroy, NOAA Assistant Administrator for NESDIS. During the conference, 38 presentations were given, eleven by NESDIS personnel. Demonstrations by private industry and government increased dramatically from last year, from six to eighteen. One interesting demonstration was a simulator-type perspective stereo satellite image loop that gave the impression of riding through the precipitation bands of a hurricane. Over 300 people attended this years' conference. (R. Gird, 763-8142)

AgRISTARS Data Users Conference. An AgRISTARS Data Users Conference was held in Columbia, Missouri, on October 30 and 31, 1984. The purpose of the conference was to describe an extensive AVHRR and ground truth data set collected during the growing season of FY83, and to solicit research ideas from agricultural remote sensing specialists attending the conference. (D. Tarpley, 763-8282)

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ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

Pre-Storm Planning Meeting - A planning meeting for the Preliminary Regional Experiment for STORM-Central (PRE-STORM) -- a program that will form the basis for the extensive mesoscale studies of STORM-Central -- was held November 8 and 9 in Boulder. Long-range goals of STORM-Central are to increase the understanding, and improve the prediction, of severe weather in the central United States. (J. Cuning, FTS; 320-6698)

Kaimal on Editorial Board - Dr. J. Chandran Kaimal of the Wave Propagation Laboratory has accepted an invitation to join the Editorial Board of Boundary-layer Meteorology. Dr. Kaimal heads the Atmospheric Studies Program Area in WPL. (J. D. Kaimal, FTS: 320-6263)

Gale Planning Meeting - Dr. Robert W. Burpee (AOML/HRD) participated in a recent planning meeting at NASA/Goddard, for the GALE (Genesis of Atlantic Lows Experiment) field program scheduled for January through March 1986. The broad goal of the project is to gain an understanding of the formation, structure, and evolution of various cyclone types and to aid in the short-range forecasting of East Coast cyclones. (R. Burpee, FTS: 350-1502)

Omega Dropwindsonde Seminar - An informal seminar on the use of Omega dropwindsondes in Hurricanes Debby and Josephine was given at the National Meteorological Center (NMC) on October 31 by Dr. Robert W. Burpee. The purpose of the presentation was to stimulate cooperative efforts between NMC and AOML/HRD in dynamical hurricane track modeling. (R. Burpee, FTS: 350-1502)

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NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

Linseed Oil and Poultry Fat Improve Fish Flavor - Feeding linseed oil, traditionally used as a paint base or a finish for woodwork, to commercially raised fish can make them taste better. Currently, fish in hatcheries and raising facilities are primarily fed a mixture of fish meal, vitamins, wheat or soybean products, and fish oil. But fish oil, which contains an essential nutrient for healthy fish, is becoming difficult to find because of changes in processing methods and shipping costs.

In response to this shortage, Oregon Sea Grant researchers studied alternative feeds and found that linseed oil contains the essential nutrient found in fish oil, a fatty acid referred to as an omega-3 type. Feeding straight linseed oil as a replacement for fish oil would cost too much. However, by also feeding fish with poultry fat, which is cheaper than both linseed and fish oil, the new diet was less expensive and produced better tasting salmon and trout according to taste panels.

(R. Kolf, 443-8977)

Sea Surface Temperature Charts Are Cost-Effective - A survey of subscribers to the four-year old program of providing sea surface temperature charts to fisherman from Maine to North Carolina reveals user satisfaction and reduced costs. Of 140 users surveyed by New Jersey Sea Grant, 80 percent reported reduced travel time and fuel savings, and 70 percent thought the oceanographic data contributed to better catches. The total cost savings from realized fuel reductions for all participants approached \$100,000 annually. The success of this trial program has been encouraging enough to attract a private firm to take over the Sea Grant chart distribution activities. In addition, direct facsimile transmission of the charts to fishermen will be tested this year.

The charts, prepared by NOAA, use GOES and NOAA-7 satellite water temperature data to show warm and cold core eddies which have broken off the Gulf Stream. Fish tend to concentrate at these oceanographic boundaries and many offshore recreational and commercial fishermen look for an area with a temperature break to troll or set longlines.

(F. Schuler, 443-8977)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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