

This Week In NOAA

Activities for the week ending

December 20, 1985

Due to the upcoming holidays, there will be no reports for the next two weeks.

Next submission will be due in RAS/DC47 by Thurs., Jan. 9, 1986.



**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
Budget and Finance	3

Line Organizations

* National Ocean Service	
National Weather Service	4
* National Marine Fisheries Service	
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service	5
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	6
* CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
* OF SPECIAL INTEREST	

*An asterisk indicates no items this week.

December 20 , 1985

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Scallops

NOAA/GCNE attended a meeting of the New England Fishery Management Council's Scallop Oversight Committee in New Bedford, Massachusetts on December 6, 1985. Several fishermen, boat owners, and a processor's representative were present. A lively discussion ensued concerning future enforcement of regulations implementing Amendment No. 1 to the Scallop FMP. Particular emphasis was placed on NMFS' sampling procedures and the possible implications of extending enforcement of the minimum size regulation beyond the point of first transaction. The processing sector claims that it will refuse to purchase scallops after January 1, 1986 unless the extended enforcement provisions are negated.

In a follow-up to the foregoing meeting, the Scallop Oversight Committee put a motion before the full Council to ask the Regional Director to stay the enforcement of the minimum meat size provision of Amendment No. 1 for a month or so to allow processors time to revise, as necessary, their handling procedures. The motion was soundly defeated. Lengthy discussions took place regarding extended enforcement and dealer liability. Many of the original industry proponents of the minimum size measure now squarely oppose it. They are trying to force the Council to look at other measures such as closed areas, dredge size and ring size to manage the fishery. Serious concern was also voiced about the New Bedford scallop fleet being tied up for months. The loss of jobs and revenue for the port of New Bedford has sparked increased political intervention to help resolve this potentially explosive problem.

National Marine Sanctuary Enforcement - Pt. Reyes/Farallon Islands

On December 6, 1985, GC assessed a civil penalty of \$100,000.00 against Keystone Shipping Co., PPG Industries, Inc., and Bankers Trust Company, the owners of the oil tanker S.S. PUERTO RICAN. The penalty was assessed for multiple violations of regulations implementing the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. The tanker exploded, broke into two sections and released 35,000 barrels of oil products, subsequently, the stern section sank with 8,500 barrels of fuel oil that have been slowly and continuously discharged for more than a year. These events occurred within the Point Reyes/Farallon Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

December 20, 1985

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

International Project Gets PA Push:--A promotional program is under way centering on a U.S.-Chinese bilateral effort seeking clues to the genesis of El Nino, a Pacific current drastically affecting global climate. A major PA push will be given a ceremony Jan. 3 marking the departure of the Chinese ship XIANGYANGHONG #14 from Honolulu, on an El Nino research cruise by scientists of both nations. Press releases and public service announcements have been created, a NOAA Sea And The Air radio program built around it, and an elaborate series of events is being coordinated by the office. The Chinese will conduct two research cruises annually for the next four years, with U.S. cooperation. Several other nations are also participating in the ten-year program designed to predict global climate.

French Satellite Team Visits Seattle:--The Office of Public Affairs' Western Regional Center representative and other NOAA officials escorted a team from France's satellite service surveying the Seattle Center as a possible site for the U.S. collection and distribution point for that nation's Argos satellite program. The numerous advantages of the location were made clear to the visiting team.

Airborne Pollutants To Be Measured:--A NOAA press release announces that the flow of acid rain-producing pollutants over the Atlantic Ocean from the continental United States will be measured by this agency's and other scientists in January. Two Commerce Department aircraft, flying from Hanscom Field in Bedford, Mass., and McGuire AFB in New Jersey, will measure sulfur, nitrogen and other compounds being carried over the ocean. Learning the amount of pollution carried to sea in the atmosphere will help determine the quantity deposited on land, project scientists say.

NOAA Corps Graduation:--New York area and hometown press were notified of graduation exercises for the 79th NOAA Corps Officer Training Class at the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y., on Dec. 18. Twenty new officers were graduated.

Weather Page Editors Aided:--Since USA Today revolutionized the American weather page, newspapers across the nation are beefing up their products. Latest to receive technical assistance from the National Weather Service PA office is the Washington Post.

Exhibits Project Continues:--External affairs officers across NOAA were briefed by the Office of Public Affairs on Dec. 12 on the continuing campaign to bring more cohesion and theme unification into the agency's exhibits program. A task force headed by Robert Amdur, Department Audio-Visual chief, is preparing plans and guidance for all segments of NOAA which display exhibits.

December 20 , 1985

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

On December 13, the President signed the Department of Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary's FY'86 appropriation bill (H.R. 2965). The bill provides new budget authority for ORF of \$1,133,699,000. FY'86 allocations to NOAA line and staff offices will be made by December 23, 1985.

December 20, 1985

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Agricultural Losses in Louisiana Due to Rains from Hurricane Juan - The sugarcane crop in southern Louisiana suffered extensive damage from the heavy rains associated with Hurricane Juan. Since only 15 to 20 percent of the crop had been harvested, heavy rains and high winds flattened and inundated most of the fall crop. Losses are estimated at \$100 million. Soy beans also suffered damage, but most of the crop was harvested. (Mel McLaughlin 8-334-2659)

School Essay Contest in Meteorology - The Oregon Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Education, is sponsoring an essay contest for grades 7-9 and 10-12. The purpose is to promote the science of meteorology within the State and private school systems. This year's president of the AMS Oregon Chapter is a National Weather Service employee. (Kaye O'Brien 8-588-5574)

School Provides Weather Information - The Seth Low Intermediate School in south Brooklyn, New York, with help from the National Weather Service, has established a school weather station. Observations of current weather conditions are taken and recorded at 7:30 a.m. and then telephoned to the Weather Service Forecast Office in New York for use in preparing the metropolitan New York forecast. A student listens to NOAA Weather Radio and then broadcasts the daily weather to the student body. Three "weather boards" in the school are kept up to date. An outreach program to neighborhood elementary schools invites teachers to bring their classes to observe the weather station. (Walter Seibert 8-649-5400)

40th Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference - The 40th Annual Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference will be held at the Conference Center, Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, January 8-10, 1986. Research presentations and the Research Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7. (Jim Rasmussen 427-7700)

December 20, 1985

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, INFORMATION SERVICE

Dr. Landsberg Dies. Dr. Helmut Landsberg, who died in Geneva last week, was the first Director of NOAA's Environmental Data Service (now part of NESDIS) and a former Director of the old Weather Bureau's Office of Climatology. The author of some 400 papers, monographs, and books, and the editor of several major international geographical publications, Dr. Landsberg played a major role in the advance and development of national and international climatology and geophysics for four decades.

When he retired from the Government, he joined the University of Maryland to build its meteorology program. He had been Professor Emeritus at the University since 1976. Dr. Landsberg was a former President of the American Geophysical Union, Vice President of the American Meteorological Society, and President of the American Institute of Medical Climatology, as well as an officer or member of more than a score of other professional societies, national and international organizations, committees, and commissions.
(P. Hughes 763-4690)

Second Meeting on International Polar Orbiter System. On December 10 and 11, 1985, representatives of the US, UK, European Space Agency, France, Canada, Australia, Japan, Italy, Germany, and Norway met in Toulouse, France, for the second plenary session of the International Polar-Orbiting Meteorological Satellite (IPOMS) group. The meeting endorsed the work of Technical Working Group outlining the operational meteorological community's requirements and defining a scenario for the proposed polar platforms of the Space Station. Each participant reported on his country/agency activities which might lead to future contributions to the polar-orbiting system. The group agreed to convene another Technical Working Group to examine data management and operations requirements to meet future operational meteorological needs. (L. Shaffer 763-4586)

December 20, 1985

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

Economic Value Of Beaches Assessed -- Data concerning the economic impact and value of recreational beaches to tourists and residents have been very limited until recently. Florida Sea Grant has just completed a study providing information on the market value and economic importance of Florida's saltwater beaches. Results suggest considerable economic impact. During 1984, 13 million residents and tourists used Florida's saltwater beaches, for a total of 146 million beach days. Further, the beach users generated \$5 billion in sales, almost 3 percent of total sales in the state of Florida. An estimated 180,000 jobs were created as a result of saltwater beach use in Florida, or over 4 percent of total employment in the state.

The study also indicates that tourists and residents are willing to pay for continued access to quality beaches. Conservative estimates place this figure at a minimum of \$2 billion annually for Florida's saltwater beaches. A full report will be published in early 1986. (F. Schuler, FTS 443-8977)

Recreation Industry Bolsters Local Economies -- Recently, two studies were conducted by Texas Sea Grant to determine the importance of coastal recreation to regional economies. One study surveyed recreational boating, a dynamic industry and a coastal activity enjoyed by millions. From the study, it is estimated that there are over 1,200 recreational boating related firms in Texas. They manufacture boats, trailers and accessories, provide marine facilities and repair services, or are involved in wholesale and retail trade. This industry employs over 10,000 people, provides products valued at over \$600 million, and contributes \$1.7 billion annually to the value of the Texas economy.

The second study looked at saltwater fishing tournaments which attracted over 15,000 participants last year in 56 angling contests along the Texas coast. The number of tournaments is increasing rapidly and the winners purses are growing substantially (as high as \$615,000). Last year, entrants spent \$13 million on fees and other expenses to participate. Sponsoring organizations have had such phenomenal success with these events that tournaments are springing up all along the Texas coast. Half of the tournaments held last year were less than 3 years old. Coastal communities value these tournaments as part of an economic development program to bolster their local economies. (F. Schuler, FTS 443-8977)

A Profiler Hub - A new hub for Profiler data is now running at the Wave Propagation Laboratory in Boulder. It collects data continuously from three research Profilers in Colorado, processes the data, and distributes them to a small set of research and operations users. It is a precursor to the hub of the 30 Profiler network that will stretch across the central United States by the late 1980's, and its present activities are helping to develop and test the capabilities which that large network must have. (D. Small, FTS: 320-6897)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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