

file

This Week In NOAA

Activities for the week ending

December 6, 1985



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

THIS WEEK IN NOAA

Table of Contents

	Page
ITEMS FROM OFFICES AND LINE ORGANIZATIONS	
<u>Staff Offices</u>	
Public Affairs	1
<u>Line Organizations</u>	
* National Ocean Service	
National Weather Service	2
* National Marine Fisheries Service	
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service	3
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research	4
* CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
* OF SPECIAL INTEREST	

*An asterisk indicates no items this week.

December 6, 1985

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Deputy Administrator Sworn: A NOAA press release announced that J. Curtis Mack II was sworn into office as Deputy Administrator by Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige on Nov. 26, following nomination by President Reagan and confirmation by the Senate. Before joining NOAA as its chief operating officer, Mr. Mack was executive director of Citizens for the Republic. He has also served in senior positions in the Veterans Administration and the savings and loan industry.

Press Briefing Heavily Attended: Nearly 50 media representatives attended NOAA's annual winter weather forecast briefing Nov. 27 in the Commerce Auditorium. Included were all major networks and wire services, and newspapers from Washington, Chicago, and New York. Dr. Donald Gilman predicted cold weather in the Northwest, warm in the Southeast; wet in much of the country's midsection, and dryer in parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Aerospace Briefing Slated: The Administrators of NOAA and NASA will hold a press briefing, jointly with Ford Aerospace Satellite Services Corporation, Monday, Dec. 9 in the National Press Club ballroom, on the role of the new-generation GOES satellites on the weather watch of the future. Ford has recently been awarded a \$276 million NASA contract for three of the spacecraft, to be delivered starting in 1989.

Sarsat Session Scheduled: NOAA will chair the third meeting of an interagency public affairs working group on the DOC-directed international satellite search and rescue organization, COSPAS/SARSAT, Friday, Dec. 6 in Suitland. A major topic of discussion will be means of getting to media more quickly with news of rescues underway or accomplished.

Rocks In Their Heads? Yellowfin tuna sense magnetic forces on the ocean floor that may guide their migrations across the eastern Pacific, according to a NOAA press release. How? Millions of magnetic crystals of the black iron mineral magnetite in their skullbones, which may serve as a compass.

Chesapeake Bay Seminar Set: Press coverage was invited for a NOAA-EPA seminar on the health and history of the Chesapeake Bay, held Thursday, Dec. 5 in the Commerce Department Auditorium.

Film Honored: The NOAA film "Hurricane," winner of a CINE Golden Eagle Award for excellence, has received the Bronze Medallion from the New York Industrial Film Festival.

Publications Issued: "Thunderstorms and Lightning," and "Hassler's Legacy," both reprints, have been received from the printer.

December 6, 1985 6

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Winter Weather Blasts the Upper Midwest Over the Weekend - An intense winter storm which moved from the southern Rockies on Saturday, November 30, 1985, to Lake Huron on Monday, December 2, 1985, produced heavy snow, blizzard conditions, and extreme wind chills over the upper Midwest. Nearly 2 feet of snow fell in northern Minnesota, northeast Wisconsin, upper Michigan while 1-2 feet of snow was recorded over the remainder of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and central Michigan as well as Iowa. Forty to fifty mph winds whipped the snow into 6-8 foot drifts and wind chill factors over the upper Midwest ranged from 20 to 60 below zero. Gale and storm warnings were posted over the Great Lakes during the weekend as winds reached almost hurricane force over Lakes Huron, Superior, and Michigan. The National Weather Service issued numerous watches, winter storm warnings, and blizzard warnings during the weekend providing adequate lead time for many areas. (Jim Campbell 427-8090)

Wet Fall - Unseasonably wet weather has left rivers from the middle Mississippi Valley extending southeast to the South Atlantic States above the normal range. Late tropical storm activity contributed to the highly saturated soil conditions and triggered record floods in sections of the Middle Atlantic States, the eastern fringes of the Ohio Valley, and as far south as Puerto Rico. So far in FY 1986, flood fatalities stand at 225 with close to \$2 billion in damages. The upcoming flood season for much of the middle Mississippi Valley to the South Atlantic States starts in late December through the winter months. National Weather Service field offices are closely monitoring the area and are providing flood advisories as needed. (Jose Marrero 427-7624)

Hurricane Statistics - Despite the fact that six hurricanes have made landfall in 1985 in the U.S. (normal is 1.5 to 2 hurricanes per season), only 35 deaths have resulted which is 2 above the 45-year average of 33 deaths. In addition to the 6 landfalling hurricanes, 11 tropical storms have been observed in 1985. There have been 144 hurricanes and 127 tropical storms which have affected the U.S. coastline in the past 82 years (average 1.8 hurricanes and 1.5 tropical storms per year). (Dick Wood 427-8090)

Buoy Measures Record Wind during Hurricane Kate - The eye of Hurricane Kate passed over a 10-meter discus buoy at station 42003 in the eastern Gulf of Mexico on November 20, 1985. The buoy reported a 92-knot sustained wind speed with gusts up to 114 knots. This is the highest wind speed ever reported by a National Data Buoy Center buoy. (David Gilhousen 8-494-2836)

Depot Repair Of National Weather Service Equipment - The National Reconditioning Center (NRC) contracted with commercial vendors the repair of Lowest Replaceable Units (LRU) and field test equipment valued at \$2.5 million out of a total LRU value of \$7.8 million cycled through the NRC in FY 85. This represents 32 percent of the total LRU depot repair effort. In addition, the making of special test fixtures and cable assemblies are commercially manufactured for NRC. The NRC would require six additional positions or a 40 percent increase of the depot repairs section to accomplish the same amount of work in-house annually. The amount of LRU depot repair work contracted to commercial vendors is increasing as the inventory of Personal Computers and peripherals increases. (I. D. Jones 8-758-6281)

December 6, 1985

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Federal High Tech Conferences. The DOC Small Business Innovation Research(SBIR) program was presented at Federal High Tech 85' conferences in Dallas (October 18 and 19) and Boston (November 25 and 26) by the NESDIS Research and Technology Applications Unit (NOAA/ORTA and DOC SBIR program manager). These conferences, sponsored by DOE and NSF are held to provide information on agency SBIR programs to technology oriented businesses. Over 1,500 small business representatives attended the two conferences. SBIR program managers from all participating Federal agencies were available for one-on-one discussions with attendees.

NGDC Hosts Meeting of Topographic Experts. NGDC/WDC-A hosted a meeting of international topography experts in Boulder to discuss the development of a world Digital Topographic Data Base. The purpose of the data base is to provide a basic data set to support global environmental sciences. The meeting was co-hosted by the National Center for Atmospheric Research and involved representatives from the International Geographic Union and International Cartographic Association. A plan and preliminary proposal were developed and will be submitted to the International Council of Scientific Unions for consideration. (H. Meyers, FTS 320-6521)

U.S. Navy Spectral Ocean Wave Model Climatic Atlas: NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN, NAVAIR 50-1C-539. The hindcast climatology for the North Pacific Ocean has been completed and published. This atlas contains tables and maps of various parameterized spectral wave statistics for operational and ship design use. The atlas also explains the concepts of a wave spectrum and contains a comparative section with other wave climatologies. The atlas can be purchased from the Government Printing Office. (T. Karl, FTS 672-0450)

December 6, 1985

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

Hurricane Kate Landfall Data -- Using the National Hurricane Center WSR-57 radar in Miami, Dr. Frank Marks, Mr. Peter Dodge and Mr. Michael Black (ACML/HRD) recorded 18 hours of land-based radar data from Hurricane Kate as the storm passed over Havana, Cuba, on November 19. (S. L. Rosenthal, FTS: 350-1400)

SEL Receives NASA PI Grant -- Forty-four Principal Investigators from NASA's Solar Maximum Mission program voted to award the NOAA Space Environment Laboratory a grant of \$30,000 for the 1986 meeting of a two-session SEL workshop on "Solar Events and Their Influence on the Interplanetary Medium." The grant will be used to develop scientific understanding of solar disturbances and to learn how best to apply this knowledge to the operational forecasting done by the SEL Space Environment Services Center, according to workshop conveners, Drs. JoAnn Joselyn (Services Division), William J. Wagner (Research Division), and Ernie Hildner (National Center for Atmospheric Research). (J. Joselyn, FTS: 320-5147)

Advances Made In Shrimp Reproduction -- With U.S. consumer demand for shrimp at an all-time high, new research advances in artificially inseminating shrimp hold promise for increasing domestic supplies, thus relying less on foreign imports. To date, most shrimp aquaculturists have relied on the wild broodstocks of shrimp even though numerous species have been cultured in captivity. This continued reliance on nature has stemmed from difficulties with getting shrimp to reproduce in captivity.

Several years ago, research conducted by South Carolina Sea Grant scientists proved that freshwater prawns can be induced to shed their spermatophores by stimulation with electrical shock. The technique does not harm the animal, and it can be used to extract the spermatophore from the shrimp repeatedly. Further research was undertaken to determine if this technique could be used on penaeid (marine) shrimp. Results indicate that electrical stimulation does yield successive spermatophores from penaeids. This improvement in artificial insemination technique will greatly reduce the cost and time needed to produce shrimp larvae obtained from maturation facilities and from cruises made to obtain broodstock. (J. McVey, 443-5940)

Shrimp Aquaculture Seen As An Economic Boost -- The Texas State Legislature, at its 1985 legislative session, appropriated \$35,000,000 to be used by Texas public colleges and universities for advanced technology research. Concerned about decreasing revenues from oil and gas production, Texas hopes this research money will lead to the development of industries promising to the state's economic future. A committee, composed of 14 distinguished scientists and engineers from outside Texas and the National Academy of Sciences, reviewed the proposals submitted for funding.

Of the 511 proposals reviewed, in areas such as energy, biotechnology, agriculture, telecommunications, physics and chemistry, shrimp aquaculture was ranked highest. Out of the new research fund, the Texas Sea Grant College Program was awarded \$1,700,000 for a 20 month research project to develop shrimp aquaculture as an industry in Texas. (J. McVey, 443-5940)

AGU Meeting -- More than a score of ERL scientists are presenting papers at the Fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union December 9-13 in San Francisco, and at least seven also are presiders of various sessions. They are: Rex Fleming (STORM Office), New Technology in Atmospheric Sciences; Fred Fehsenfeld (Aeronomy Laboratory), Chemistry of the Planetary Boundary Layer; Robert Gannon (PMEL), Chemistry of the Global Atmosphere; Stan Hayes (PMEL), Ocean-Atmosphere Interactions in the Tropics; Steven Hammond (PMEL), Juan De Fuca Ridge: Volcanic Sulfides and Hydrothermal Fluids; Peter Rona (ACML), Mid-Atlantic Ridge Hydrothermal Activity; and Richard Donnelly (ARL), Solar Variability. (W. Brennan FTS: 320-6282)

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