

JAN 24 1985

# **This Week In NOAA**

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**Activities for the week ending**

**January 18, 1985**

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

THIS WEEK IN NOAA

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January 18, 1985

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Large Japanese Settlement Issued - NOAA and the Department of Justice issued releases Tuesday, Jan. 15, announcing that a Japanese fishing company has been fined \$2 million for breaking U.S. fishery law, the largest penalty ever imposed for such a violation. In addition, the Japanese firm will suffer a substantial loss of future permits to fish in United States waters. Under the terms of the settlement, reached in Anchorage, Alaska, the company, Nichiro Gyogyo Kaisha, Ltd., will have at least six vessels barred from fishing within the 200-mile U.S. conservation zone for each of the next three years. The company has operated a fleet of about 20 vessels in U.S. waters. Nichiro and its related companies were charged with underlogging the amount of fish caught and transferred to the firm's cargo vessel in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska in 1982 and 1983. Documents seized from the cargo vessel indicated underlogging by almost 50 percent. Although isolated instances of individual vessels falsifying logs have been found before, this was the first time violations of this nature have been discovered on such a large scale.

Comprehensive Weather Article Due - The New York Times Sunday Magazine, on Jan. 27, is scheduled to print a major article on the state of weather forecasting. All NOAA elements concerned with weather operations and research were interviewed at length in preparation for the piece. An Associated Press interview with NWS Director Dr. Richard E. Hallgren at the American Meteorological Society meeting last week in Los Angeles is being widely picked up across the country, and additionally has generated queries from numerous publications.

On Tape - The Office of Public Affairs has received authorization to produce and distribute a TV public service announcement on safety during heat waves, and a contract has been awarded as well for an updated version of the NOAA slide show, A Global View. The new version was necessary to reflect organizational changes within the agency.

Seattle Swearing-In Noted - Northwest media covered the assumption of office by Rolland Schmitt as Regional Director for the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Seattle PA office is assisting with media arrangements for a Seafood Export Conference to be held Jan. 30-31.

NOAA Magazine Issued - The winter '85 issue of NOAA magazine has been issued. Highlights: Inauguration weather, the care and feeding of ailing satellites, underwater safety, artificial reefs, acid rain experiments, and the Northwest-Gulf of Alaska Fishery Oceanography Experiment.

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January, 18, 1985

NATIONAL CLIMATE PROGRAM OFFICE

Nuclear Winter Update

Dr. Alan D. Hecht organized a session on nuclear winter at the recent annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) held in Los Angeles, January 5-8, 1985, and will give a presentation on nuclear winter Tuesday, January 22, 1985, at 1:30 in room 1504 of the Grammax Building, Silver Spring, Maryland.

January 18, 1985

National Ocean Service

Real-Time Tide Station Demonstrated at Louisiana Ports Conference - The second annual Louisiana Ports Conference was held January 10th and 11th at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This conference serves as a forum for exploring ways to upgrade the State's ports and waterways. CDR William Lounsbery and Mr. Paul Chinn of NOS, participated in the conference and provided a display of real-time water level information gathered from Delaware Bay. Data from a real-time station recently installed by NOS for the State of Louisiana on a Shell Oil Company pier at Southwest Pass, near the mouth of the Mississippi River, was demonstrated. The station became operational on January 8. A potential real-time water levels system for the Mississippi River that would include not only information from Southwest Pass, but from privately installed gauges at Mississippi River Bridges between New Orleans and Baton Rouge to monitor clearances for river pilots was also discussed. (CDR W. Lounsbery, 443-3778, or T. Orłowski, FTS-827-6570)

Mississippi River Commission (MRC) Meeting - R. Adm. John D. Bossler, Director, Charting and Geodetic Services, attended a meeting of the MRC on January 10-11, 1985, in Vicksburg, Mississippi. The primary topic of discussion was the Mississippi and Louisiana Estuarine Areas Feasibility Study, and informational briefings were presented to the commission members on items related to the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project. (B. Maynard, 443-8204)

Federal Geodetic Control Committee (FGCC) Meeting - On January 15, 1985, representatives from Federal agencies involved in surveying related activities attended the FGCC meeting in Rockville, Maryland. The primary topic was the multipurpose cadastre (geographic-based land information systems). Several state and local officials also attended as guest speakers. (G. Mitchell, 443-4143)

Atlantic Marine Center (AMC) Marine Command Seminar - The annual Marine Command Seminar for AMC ship and program management personnel was held at Williamsburg, Virginia, on January 13-18. Assistant Administrator Paul Wolff addressed the opening banquet. Among the agenda of panels, discussion sessions, workshops and presentations were topics such as the Exclusive Economic Zone, the Shipboard Data System III (SDS-III), medical services, a stress management seminar, and addresses by NOS program directors, as well as representatives of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, the Eastern Administrative Support Center, and the U.S. Coast Guard. A tour of the ships and base at AMC also was scheduled for Saturday, January 19. (R. Adm. W. Hull, FTS-827-6776)

Ship Operations - Routine repairs were completed on the NOAA Ships DISCOVERER and MILLER FREEMAN and sea trials were successfully completed. The DISCOVERER is scheduled to depart the Pacific Marine Center on February 20 and the MILLER FREEMAN on January 15. (H. Shek, FTS-399-4484)

January 18, 1985

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Much of Texas Brought to a Standstill over the Weekend - This weekend a freak snowstorm brought heavy snow to south Texas. Thirteen inches fell on San Antonio, January 12-13, 1985, which is almost twice as much as the old record of 7.4 inches recorded for the entire winter of 1926. San Antonio does not have snow removal equipment so the snowstorm paralyzed the city. In addition, travel was almost impossible Saturday and Sunday for a large area of the State from El Paso in west Texas to College Station in south-central Texas. Snow or freezing rain made roads impassable. The National Weather Service issued winter storm watches 12-24 hours in advance while warnings had a lead time of about 12 hours. Many offices began issuing statements which emphasized the potential of a winter storm over the weekend on Thursday night, January 10. (Jim Campbell 427-8090)

Operational Improvements in the Tsunami Warning Service - A newly designed earthquake alarm system and improved coordination with Chilean authorities has resulted in a significant operational improvement in the National Weather Service Pacific Tsunami Warning Center's (PTWC) ability to quickly respond to South American earthquakes. At 2322Z on December 11, 1984, an earthquake occurred in northern Chile which activated PTWC's seismic alarm 11 minutes later based on data telemetered from stations near Albuquerque, New Mexico, and St. Louis, Missouri. By 2338Z PTWC had located the epicenter and sent the first information via TELEX to Chilean authorities. By 2354Z, 32 minutes after the origin time, PTWC had determined the earthquake to be at a depth of 150 kilometers with a magnitude (Mb) of 6.6 and was advising Chile that no tsunami threat existed. This represents a 100 percent improvement in PTWC's response time of a year ago. Though this event posed no tsunami threat, it demonstrates how rapidly the Tsunami Warning Service can now function in an emergency situation for future tsunamis generated in South America. (Dick Hagemeyer 8-808-546-5680)

Colorado River Forecasts - The National Weather Service again is forecasting above normal streamflows for this spring on the lower Colorado River. The current forecast for April to July 1985 inflow to Lake Powell is 11.5 million acre-feet which is 154 percent of the 20-year average of 7.5 million acre-feet. In 1983 and 1984, the flows were 196 percent of normal and more than 200 percent of normal, respectively. (Susan Zevin 427-7659)

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) - In response to a recent private sector request, the National Weather Service changed its NWR format in the Salt Lake City, Utah, area. After receiving a request from a staff member of a local rest home, the NWR broadcast was changed to include the day, date, and time of observation. It helps make it easier for people in the community, especially some of the elderly in rest homes, to keep track of time when they hear the day and date announced with the broadcast. (Kaye O'Brien 8-588-5574)

Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake Update - Precipitation during October through mid-December remained much above normal, about 185 percent. The reading in the Great Salt Lake on January 4 was 4,208.65 feet, an increase of .25 feet since December 14. The Lake is 3 feet higher than last year at this time. The Great Salt Lake is expected to peak early next summer near 4,210.5 feet, more than 1 foot higher than last year's peak of 4,209.25 feet. The present level of Utah Lake is about 2.60 feet above compromise -- its legally agreed to level. Ice conditions in the vicinity of the gage have made exact measurements difficult. Utah Lake is expected to peak late next spring between 4.0 to 5.0 feet above compromise. This is somewhat lower than the 1984 peak of 5.4 feet above compromise on June 20. (Jose Marrero 427-7624)

January 18, 1985

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Issues Interim 1985 Initial Specifications for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish Harvests - The NMFS published in the December 28, 1984, Federal Register, notice of interim 1985 initial specifications for total allowable catch (TAC) amounts for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands area target species and the "other species" category, and apportionments of those TACs between domestic annual harvest and total allowable level of foreign fishing (TALFF). Pending full consideration of industry recommendations, anticipated revisions in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council recommendations and comment received during an additional 15-day public comment period, NMFS adopted initial specifications. These were a 2.0 million metric ton (mt) 1985 TAC, divided into 78,411 mt for domestic annual processing, 443,757 mt for joint venture processing, 1,177,832 mt for TALFF, and 300,000 mt in reserve. Specifications were adopted on an interim basis to ensure that the anticipated needs of the U.S. fishing industry are met and that domestic and foreign fisheries proceed without interruption. NMFS recommended to the Department of State an initial allocation of 230,516 mt at this time for foreign fishing. The Secretary will recommend adjusted 1985 initial apportionments of groundfish resources as appropriate after the February 1985 Council meeting. (RBGorrell, 634-7449).

Interim Notice of 1985 Initial Specifications for the Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Fishery - As an interim measure, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is adopting the 1985 initial fishing specifications for the Gulf of Alaska groundfish fishery which were proposed on November 8, 1984 (49 FR 44655). These specifications are being adopted on an interim basis to allow the public and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council an additional 30-day comment period before final specifications are adopted. Adoption of these interim specifications will allow domestic and foreign fisheries to proceed without undue interruption. The Secretary will recommend adjusted 1985 final apportionments of groundfish resources as appropriate after the February 1985 Council meeting. (PNEvans, 634-7449).

NMFS Completes Reviews of Status of Endangered Species - NMFS has completed its first review of the status of certain endangered and threatened species under its jurisdiction as required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Based on these reviews, NMFS believes the following proposed changes to the List of Threatened and Endangered Species are warranted: list the eastern North Pacific or California stock of the gray whale as threatened rather than endangered since it has recovered to near its original population size; include the nesting populations of the olive Ridley sea turtle as endangered rather than threatened in the western North Atlantic (surinam and adjacent areas); and remove the Caribbean monk seal from the list since the best available information suggests that it is extinct. (PMontanio, 634-7529)

Chinese Delegation - The Southeast Fisheries Center, Miami Laboratory, hosted seven scientists and engineers from the People's Republic of China on December 10-11. The delegation was briefed on research activities at the Miami facility and toured fishery and boat building facilities in south Florida as well as the Headquarters of the International Game Fish Association. (Prince, 350-1248).

Shrimp Trawl Film - NMFS and Sea Grant have collaborated on a film illustrating the latest in shrimp trawling and techniques. The movie is scheduled to premiere in January at the Work Boat Show in New Orleans, Louisiana. (Seidel, 499-4251).

January 18, 1985

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE

New Tsunami Map Published. A 7-color map "Tsunamis in the Pacific Basin 1900-1983," has been published and is being distributed by the NESDIS National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC). The map was produced by NGDC for the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, Agency for International Development. Data shown on the map include symbols which indicate locations of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, and explosions which cause tsunamis. Symbols indicate the maximum tsunami runup height recorded for each event. The symbols are numbered and keyed to a table giving more detailed information about the events. A list of destructive tsunamis is also included on the map. (R. Smith, FTS 320-6175)

Pacific Nuclear Tests. The NESDIS National Climatic Data Center provided an international consulting firm with surface weather observations for Eniwetok Island during the nuclear tests of May and June 1951. The weather data will be used to correlate changes in radiation doses received by island residents. (P. Hudspeth, FTS 672-0682)

Circum-Pacific Map Project. As a participant in the international project of the Circum-Pacific Council for Energy and Mineral Resources, the NESDIS National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) has agreed to plot U.S. geothermal data for a 1:10,000,000 northeast quadrant energy resources map. This will include data on thermal springs, hot water hydrothermal convection systems, and vapor-dominated systems. The Circum-Pacific Map Project is a multi-year, multi-map endeavor involving the participation of nations bordering the Pacific Ocean. Previously NGDC has furnished seismic and heat flow plots for each of the quadrants of the map. (H. Meyers, FTS 320-6521)

Mushroom Business. NCDC provided comparable daily climatic data for Kyoto, Japan and Little Rock, Arkansas for the past 2 years to a researcher who wants to grow Shiitaki mushrooms in the Little Rock area. In 1978, according to the researcher, Japan realized \$1.1 billion compared to \$2 million in the United States from the Shiitaki business. The critical weather factors are temperature and humidity. (V. Cinquemani, FTS 672-0682)

January 18, 1985

NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

Marine Corrosion Examined -- Marine corrosion -- a process contributing to the decay of ships, offshore structures and materials used in the marine environment -- results in billion-dollar losses to industry, and now a four-year multi-institutional Sea Grant project to study the problem has been completed.

The project, coordinated by Delaware Sea Grant, examined the nature of calcareous deposits and their relation to cathodic protection of steel in seawater, and the localized corrosion of aluminum and stainless alloys. An Industrial Advisory Panel was also established to keep project investigators aware of developing industrial problems in marine corrosion and to assist in technology transfer.

Cathodic protection is the single most important method of controlling corrosion on submerged steel structures. As a result of this protection, salts known as calcareous deposits coat the steel and act as a natural barrier to corrosion. One of the major findings in the Sea Grant project was that calcium-based deposits are more protective than magnesium-based ones. With this valuable information, it is now possible to begin the manipulation of calcareous coatings to get the best corrosion protection possible.

(R. Kolf, 443-8977)

Computers Improve Fish Stock Estimates -- Acoustic fish counting has gone digital. In this development, a sound pulse bounced off target fish is picked up and converted to a digital electronic signal by special equipment. Converting to a digital signal rather than using the analog signal allows more information about the fish "target" to be recorded. The resulting fish counts are inherently more accurate than estimates made with analog hydroacoustic systems, and the computer processing of the data is faster.

The original research leading to this development was conducted by Washington Sea Grant. Now, two private companies manufacture and market complete hydroacoustic systems with digital echo integrators. The markets for such equipment are federal, state and other agencies which need more reliable quantitative estimates of fish stocks in order to set quotas for commercial harvest.

(E. Fritz, 443-5940)

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE

Following is the agenda for the National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere (NACOA) meeting to be held Thursday and Friday, Jan. 24-25 in Page Building #1, Rooms 416 and B-100, 2001 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. Washington. Meeting times: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Jan. 24; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on January 25.

Thursday, January 24,

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.           Introductory Remarks

9:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.       North Pacific Fur Seal Convention  
Work Session

                                  Chairman: Charles Black  
                                  Room 416

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.       Guest Speakers:

                                  John H. McElroy  
                                  Assistant Administrator for  
                                  Environmental Satellite, Data, and  
                                  Information Services  
                                  National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
                                  Administration

                                  John Apel  
                                  Applied Physics Laboratory  
                                  Johns Hopkins University

                                  Topic: Satellites: Products/  
                                  Information Management

3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.       Federal/State Relationships  
                                  Chairman: John Norton Moore  
                                  Room 416

                                  Topic: Coastal Zone Management  
                                  Consistency

                                  Speakers:

                                  Robert McManus  
                                  General Counsel  
                                  National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
                                  Administration

                                  Charlie McCoy  
                                  Attorney, Florida Department of  
                                  Natural Resources

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3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Atmospheric Affairs  
Chairman: S. Fred Singer  
Room H-100

Topic: Acid Rain

Speakers:

Gret Wetstone  
Staff, Subcommittee on Health and  
the Environment, House Committee  
on Energy and Commerce

A. G. Everett  
Consultant, Everett & Associates

6:30 p.m.

Recess

Friday, January 25,

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

Shipbuilding  
Chairman: Don Walsh  
Room 416

Speakers: None

Topic: Work Session

Exclusive Economic Zone  
Chairman: Leo Gerhard  
Room B-100

Topic: Work Session

Speakers:

Robert Hamilton  
Chief Geologist  
U.S. Geological Survey

Terry Offield  
Chief, Office of Energy and  
Marine Geology  
U.S. Geological Survey

John Rigg  
Associate Director for Offshore  
Minerals Management  
Department of the Interior

Paul M. Wolff  
Assistant Administrator, National  
Ocean Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration

1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Plenary

Panel Reports

Other Business

3:30 p.m.

Adjourn

# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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