

This Week In NOAA

Activities for the week ending

January 25, 1985



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

THIS WEEK IN NOAA

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*An asterisk indicates no items this week.

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OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Brownsville Shrimp Cases

Received Notices of Appeal in fourteen (14) of the Lacey Act cases in which Judge Dolan rendered an initial decision. Twelve of the Notices of Appeal, filed in federal district court in Brownsville, request "a jury trial and a de novo determination of all matters;" two of the Notices were filed with Judge Dolan.

Nichiro Cases

The Nichiro cases, involving underlogging charges brought by the Government against the Japanese fishing firm Nichiro Gyogyo Kaisha, Ltd. and its related companies, have been settled. On January 15 the settlement agreement was executed and filed with the Federal District for Alaska (where a forfeiture action against the firm's cargo vessel NIKKO MARU is pending). Stipulated dismissals will be submitted immediately in each of the other pending actions. Nichiro agreed to pay a \$2,000,000 penalty in four annual installments, secured by a letter of credit. Its vessels will be barred from directed fishing for a total of 20 vessel years during 1985, 1986, and 1987. (Approximately six out of Nichiro's twenty vessel fleet will be barred in each of those years.) As part of the settlement Nichiro agreed not to contest the charges brought by the Government and, for the purpose of any future violations, admitted the truth of the Government's allegations. Nichiro's admission applies to all twenty vessels.

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Tornado, Hurricane Weathercasters' Workshops set: The agenda is being completed for the Office of Public Affairs' annual tornado workshop, to be held March 8 and 9 in Kansas City. Additionally, NWS PA Officer Don Witten will staff tornado meetings for media and public and safety officials in Columbus, Ohio, Indianapolis, Ind., Springfield, Ill., Des Moines, Iowa., and Wichita, Kansas, March 11-16. The annual hurricane workshop and season-opener press conference will be held May 31-June 1 in Atlanta.

Bid From Av-Space Writers: NOAA-NESDIS has been asked by the Aviation-Space Writers' Association to produce a news break hour and a half briefing segment on "Satellites to the Year 2000" for their Annual News Conference in St. Louis, Mo. April 16. NOAA Public Affairs also is assisting with plans for an international conference of satellite direct broadcast users that week at Baltimore-Washington Airport Holiday Inn. The Baltimore meeting is expected to draw several hundred government and private sector users of geostationary and polar orbiting data and imagery products.

McElroy Briefing Widely Circulated: A briefing by NESDIS Assistant Administrator John McElroy Jan. 10 has been distributed by the U.S. Information Agency to 214 Embassy posts overseas.

On Tape: Five minute condensation--fast paced and punchy-- of the NOAA film Terrible Tuesday is nearing completion. It will be used by TV stations as a public service product and to accompany speakers on tornado safety.

Press Preview: A NOAA press release announces that the agency, in cooperation with the Department of Defense, will conduct a survey of the coast of Honduras to update nautical charts of the region. The hydrographic ship Mt. Mitchell is scheduled to arrive in Honduras Jan. 29. It will collect hydrographic data for subsequent production of nautical charts. The work will be done in connection with President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative in cooperation with the Honduran Government.

January School Aid Issued: The January issue of the School Information Service has been released. Highlights include a weather outlook for the January 21 inaugural ceremonies, the launching of a new weather satellite, tornado totals for 1984, an "adopt-a-school" program in Florida, vitamin supplements for fish, an essay on the mineral resources of the sea, winter weather warning terms, and the world's oldest fish.

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NATIONAL CLIMATE PROGRAM OFFICE

NOAA News. A delegation of six Soviet scientists arrived on Thursday, 24 Jan to attend the 10th meeting of Working Group VIII of the US-USSR Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection. The 10th meeting will take place at AMS headquarters in Boston from 28 to 30 January. In addition to the meeting, the Soviet delegation will visit NASA GISS in New York City, SUNY Stony Brook, NOAA GFDL at Princeton, NOAA NESDIS in Suitland, the University of Maryland, EPA headquarters and Bob Ryan at Channel 4 news.

The Soviet delegation is headed by Dr. Victor Boldyrev who is the Chief of the Analysis and Forecasting of the Natural Environmental and Climate Division of Hydromet in Moscow. The Soviet delegation includes Drs. Ye. Borisenkov, I. Karol, A. Velichko, V. Koropalov, and V. Kapustin. The American delegation headed by Dr. Alan Hecht, Director, National Climate Program Office, NOAA and includes Dr. M. Yerg, NOAA; Dr. E. Bierly, NSF; Dr. M. MacCracken, LLNL; Dr. J. Miller, NOAA; and Dr. J. Eddy, NCAR.

The result of the 10th meeting will be a plan for joint activities between the two sides for 1985. The three main areas of these agreement include climate modeling, aerosols and trace gases, and solar variations. Anyone wishing to contact members of the Soviet delegation before they depart on 7 February or to participate in future activities under Working Group VIII are requested to contact Dr. Alan Hecht (443-8646).
(Martin Yerg: NCPO, 443-8981)

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National Ocean Service

U.S. Power Squadrons (USPS) Annual Meeting - On January 17-20, 1985, R. Adm. John D. Bossler, Director, Charting and Geodetic Services, and Capt. Lavon L. Posey, Chief, Marine Chart Branch, attended the USPS Annual Meeting in Miami, Florida. Admiral Bossler made the annual presentation of Department of Commerce/National Ocean Service (NOS) awards to the outstanding contributors to the USPS/NOS Cooperative Charting Program. It is estimated that the 52,000-member USPS saves the government \$13 million as a result of their cooperative efforts with NOS. (N. Banks, 443-8661)

Ship Operations

The NOAA Ship MILLER FREEMAN departed home port at the NOS Seattle Ship Base on January 15 to work on the Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program (OCSEAP) in the Bering Sea along the Alaskan Peninsula between Cape Seniavin and Cape Mordvinof. The project will involve determining salinity and temperature at selected stations, determining the standing crop of zooplankton, and investigating the distribution, abundance and feeding habits of fishes in the area.

The NOAA Ship TOWNSEND CROMWELL departed home port in Honolulu, Hawaii, on January 16 to work on a Seamount Survey in the Central North Pacific. The survey will involve taking samples of fish and squid and oceanographic data will be collected as well as plankton and coral samples. Operations will be in the southern part of the Emperor Seamounts and northern Hawaiian Ridge, with a concentrated effort on Hancock Seamount. (G. Stanley, FTS-399-7659)

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Record Artic Blast Strikes Much of the U.S. - Temperature records fell in more than 80 cities on Inauguration Day, Monday, January 21, 1985, as a frigid arctic air mass encased most of the Nation east of the Rockies. Subzero temperatures combined with strong winds produced wind chill values of 60 below zero or lower over portions of the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys northeastward. Akron, Ohio, and Knoxville, Tennessee, tied at 24 degrees below zero for the official coldest spot in the Nation on Monday. The wind chill at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was 68 degrees below zero. The icy blast laid a blanket of snow across many sections of the east and heavy snows through the Appalachians and the lee of the Great Lakes, with a rare snowfall in New Orleans, Louisiana. Presidential inauguration ceremonies were moved indoors and the parade canceled because of the frigid conditions in Washington, D.C. The media reported 49 weather-related deaths across the Nation during the weekend, and the Florida citrus industry was threatened by subfreezing temperatures. (Ric Coleman 427-8090)

East Coast Marine Information Service - The National Weather Service Forecast Office (WSFO) in Boston, Massachusetts, inaugurated an East Coast Marine Information Service on January 15, 1985. This service is an extension of a similar program provided by WSFO Washington, D.C. The marine community may now obtain up-to-date coastal and offshore forecasts, 24 hours per day, via computer hook-up with WSFO Boston by placing a telephone call. (Tom McGuire 8-223-1354)

IFAS/FAST Interaction - The National Weather Service (NWS) and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Services (IFAS) have been cooperating in the exchange of data for some years now. Recently, NWS contracted with IFAS for development of software to allow collection of tide gage reports. The software allows collection from the remote gages at user definable times; it collects and reformats the observations and transmits the data to the Automation of Field Operations and Services at the Weather Service Office Tampa Bay, Florida. In addition, NWS and the Florida Agricultural Services and Technology (FAST) have been cooperating in exchange of data since January 1984. NWS provides FAST with various forecast and observed weather information which FAST makes available to a variety of agricultural users in Florida -- growers and mutuals. (Mel McLaughlin 8-334-2659)

Alarm Earthquakes Processed in 1984 - During 1984, the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center staff responded to and processed about 90 earthquakes (alarm events) that occurred throughout the world and activated its alarm systems. This does not include alarms that were activated by inverter failures, special telephone number calls, tape drive, calibration pulses, etc. About 60 percent of these alarm events (regional) occurred in Alaska and near the west coasts of the U.S. and Canada. The remainder of the alarm events (teleaseismic) occurred in other places, such as mid-Atlantic ridge, Fiji Islands, Japan, Sumatra, Russia, Sandwich Islands, Europe, South America, etc. The majority of the regional events were in the 5-6 magnitude range. A few were over 6 and the remainder were less than 5. The majority of the teleaseismic events were between magnitude 6-7 with about 20 percent of the teleaseismic events above magnitude 7. The worst duty week for 1984 was November 13-20. During this week there were 8 alarms, of which 5 occurred between the hours of 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. The high-light event of 1984 was a magnitude 5.7 that occurred at 5:02 p.m. on August 13 near Palmer. The effects of this event caused no injuries but damage was reported from the Palmer-Wasilla area. The damage included broken water lines, dishes, storefront windows, etc. This event was felt over a large area and as far away as Fairbanks. The main event was followed by numerous aftershocks which are normal for shallow events above the Benioff zone. (Stu Bigler 8-907-271-5136)

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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Inauguration Day Weather. President Reagan's second inauguration was the coldest Inauguration Day on record, and the weather was the major news story. As a result, Patrick Hughes, author of a series of historical articles on the subject (the latest published in the current NOAA Magazine) was interviewed live on Inauguration Day on the Cable News Network, which serves 31.4 million homes and 99 percent of all cable subscribers. He discussed the weather highlights of past inaugurations and compared them to the brutal weather on this year's Inauguration Day. (P. Hughes, 763-4690)

Historic information on inaugural weather conditions also was provided to CBS Evening News and The Washington Post by the National Climatic Data Center. The information was required for feature stories. (W. Hatch, J. Hughes, FTS 672-0612)

Interactive Conference. The first International Conference on Interactive Information and Processing Systems for Meteorology, Oceanography, and Hydrology was held at the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles, California, January 7-11, 1985. Sponsors of the conference included the American Meteorological Society (AMS), the World Meteorological Organization, and the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research. The conference was held in conjunction with the 65th Annual Meeting of the AMS and the Third Conference on Climate Variation and Symposium on Contemporary Climate. Approximately forty exhibitors from government and private industry provided demonstrations. Out of a total of 79 papers, 14 were presented by NESDIS personnel. (R. Gird, 763-8142)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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July 23, 2010