

13 Appointed To Advisory Committee

Thirteen persons have been appointed to the National Climate Program Advisory Committee, Secretary of Commerce Philip M. Klutznick has announced.

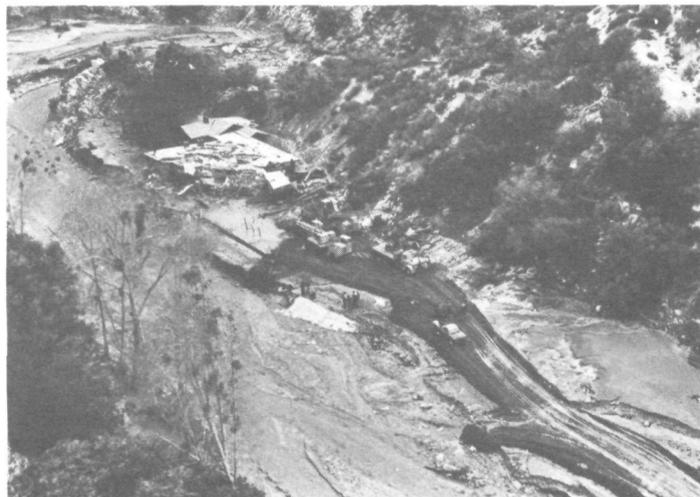
The Committee was established by the National Climate Program Act of 1978 to advise the Secretary and the Congress on the conduct of the National Climate Program, created under the Act. The National Climate Program is a multi-agency effort administered through a program office in NOAA. Its purpose is to help the U.S. understand and respond to both natural and man-in-

Consortium Gets Sea Grant Funding

It might be cheaper to make paper out of grass and reeds than out of trees, and scientists on the Gulf coast intend to find out.

That investigation will be undertaken as one of 18 projects funded under a NOAA grant of \$865,000 to the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, which consists of ten colleges and universities in Alabama and Mississippi.

The other projects include marine environmental research, marine education, legal and coastal management activities, and marine advisory services.



Damage from 1978 flash flood in Los Angeles Co. (Courtesy Los Angeles Times)

1979 Flood Statistics Show Lowest Death Toll in Decade

Despite causing near-record property losses of \$4 billion during 1979, the death toll of 100 attributed to floods last year was one of the lowest of the past decade, NOAA reports.

The agency said last year's losses were second only to the record \$4.4 billion in property damage caused by catastrophic floods in 1973 which claimed 550 lives.

"Timely and accurate forecasts by NOAA's National Weather Service helped keep down the number of flood-related deaths last year," Richard A. Frank, NOAA Administrator, said. "The United States Corps of Engineers also estimates that these forecasts helped account for about \$1.9 billion of the \$19 billion in potential damage it believes was averted through preventative flood measures."

Jose Marrero, a national flood specialist with NWS, said Texas fared worst among last year's flood-hit states. Some 15 Texans lost their

lives, and property damage in the State accounted for half of the 1979 losses.

A storm that hit southwest Texas in mid-April caused \$500 million in property damage alone, and claimed one life. Flash flooding in the southern portion of the State at about that same time took four lives.

This storm system moved eastward, drenching Louisiana, Mississippi, and finally Alabama. The resultant floods in this tri-state area caused nearly \$1 billion in property damage and caused at least 15 deaths.

Marrero said that the 23 inches of rain in Hawaii's "great rainstorm" of February 19-20 broke every existing rainfall record in Hilo, Hawaii and caused some \$6 million in damage there.

Almost half of the 1979 flood deaths were due to killer flash floods in a number of states across the country as well as the Commonwealth of

(Continued on p. 2)

New Rules Could Save Porpoise

Regulations proposed recently by NOAA would prohibit U.S. tuna fishermen from setting their nets around the northern offshore spotted porpoise—a stock that may be involved in nearly three-quarters of the catches of yellowfin tuna.

These and other proposed regulations will be the subject of public hearings scheduled to begin March 17 in San Diego, California. The exact location will be announced shortly.

Porpoise frequently associate with schools of tuna, and fishermen use this knowledge to locate tuna. As a result, porpoise are caught incidental to yellowfin tuna fishing. If the porpoise become entangled in the net, they can drown.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 allows limited incidental taking of porpoise stocks subject to regulatory controls. However, no incidental take of species or stocks that have been declared depleted is allowed. The eastern spinner porpoise was declared depleted in 1977. Since then a group of eminent scientists, convened to consider the status of porpoise stocks, has concluded that the stock of northern offshore spotted porpoise may be depleted.

This new information is being used by NOAA to re-examine the existing regulatory regime, which runs through the end of calendar year 1980. The proposed regulations would amend the existing regime for the bal-

(Continued on p. 3)

Snow Water Content Measured

A twin-engine airplane, jammed with electronic detectors and other specialized equipment, is providing mid-west flood forecasters with vital information on how much water is contained in snows covering a three-state area—water which could contribute to flooding when the snow begins to melt this Spring.

The plane and its instruments are key ingredients to a new, operational snow survey program conducted by NOAA to give early and accurate Spring flood outlooks to cities and towns along the midwest's network of rivers and streams.

Since early February, according to Dr. Thomas R. Carroll of NOAA's National Weather Service Office of Hydrology, measurements of gamma radiation from the earth have been made along 225 strategically located flight lines across North and South Dakota, western Minnesota, and part of Saskatch-

ewan, Canada. The measurements, when incorporated with other data in complex formulae, accurately indicate the amount of water stored in the snow covering the area.

Many of the midwest's Spring flooding problems in recent years have stemmed from melting snow in the area being monitored.

Daily the aircraft and its two-man NOAA Corps crew fly a series of the 10 to 20 mile-long flight paths, at an altitude of 500 feet. Instruments on board collect readings which are transmitted to River Forecast Centers in Kansas City and Minneapolis where NOAA hydrologists incorporate the data into their Spring flood outlooks.

Last June and October, the airborne detection system was flown over a number of the established flight lines and the radiation readings recorded. At the same time, personnel from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service took

soil moisture readings at several points along each flight line.

Now, with snow on the ground, the two activities are being repeated, and the results compared with the earlier readings. This data leads, through a series of highly technical formulae, to determination of the snow water equivalent.

That information, along with other meteorological, climatological, and hydrology data, is used by forecasters at the river forecast centers to make both long-range outlooks and short-term forecasts of potential flooding conditions ahead.

The outlooks and forecasts are used by the Corps of Engineers, Civil Defense, and other Federal, state, and local agencies to prepare for the Spring flood season and, if necessary, to take action such as sandbagging levies, evacuation of residents, and the like should a flood appear imminent.

Marine Science Program For Handicapped Will Be Held

A summer program in marine science for outstanding handicapped students between their eleventh and twelfth grades of high school will be held June 29 to August 1 at the Marine Science Consortium's Wallops Island station near the Assateague Island National Seashore Park and near Chincoteague, Virginia.

The major objectives of the program are to have gifted pre-college physically handicapped students interacting with college personnel in field and laboratory experiences and to familiarize these students with the various aspects of marine science. All types and degrees of severity of physical handicap will be included in the program.

Students will be housed on campus. The charge for room and board is \$525 with a station fee of \$30; however, funds have been made available by the National Science Foundation to assist well-qualified students who might not otherwise be able to afford to participate. After selections for participation are made, the money available for financial assistance will be apportioned among the participants who demonstrate financial need. Costs of travel to and from the program must be provided by the participant.

To obtain application materials write or phone E.C. Keller, Jr., 237 Brooks Hall, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506. Tel.: (304) 293-4380. Deadline for receipt of application is June 1.

Committee (From p. 1)

duced climate processes and their implications.

The Climate Program Advisory Committee is expected to hold its first meeting in March.

Members appointed by Secretary Klutznick are:

Dr. Werner Baum, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Chairman;

Dr. Charles E. Anderson, Professor of Meteorology, University of Wisconsin, Madison;

Dr. Walter S. Broecker, Professor of Geology, Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory of Columbia University, Palisades, N.Y.;

Dr. Paul Janota, ERT Inc., Concord, Mass.;

Dr. Thomas B. McKee, Associate Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins;

Mr. Rufus W. McKinney, Vice President, Southern Cali-

fornia Gas Co., Wash., D.C.

Dr. Juanito Ramirez, M&M/Mars Corp., Hackettstown, N.J.;

Dr. Marjorie N. Rush, Assistant Professor, School of Public Health, University of Texas, Houston;

Dr. Stephen H. Schneider, Leader, Climate Sensitivity Group, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colo.;

Dr. John B. Slaughter, Academic Vice President and Provost, Washington State University, Pullman;

Dr. Elske Smith, Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor of Astronomy, University of Maryland, College Park;

Dr. John Julius Waelti, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, St. Paul;

Dr. Charles Weiss, Jr., Science and Technology Advisor, World Bank, Washington, D.C.

Floods (From p. 1)

Puerto Rico. As in the past, most of fatalities were either youngsters or elderly persons. Five of the deaths occurred in Elizabeth, N.Y. All were related to automobiles and road washouts.

Marrero said spring flooding in Illinois reached record levels and were the worst since 1943. Every river in the state spilled over its banks in March. Flooding of the rivers in the southern part of the state, where the terrain is flat, lasted over 60 days.

Marrero said the floods occurred during every month of last year, and were responsible for 34 of the 41 Presidentially declared natural disasters related to weather.

ENERGY.
We can't afford to waste it.

Dr. Alverson Retires From NMFS

Dr. Dayton Lee Alverson, director of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, NMFS, in Seattle, Washington, since 1971, has retired.

Appointed also as special assistant to the NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries since September 1979, Alverson served on the Presidentially created National Task force on Washington State Fisheries and as lead scientific advisor to the Department of State on salmon intercept negotiations. In conjunction with these duties, he organized information on major activities with respect to river and coastal salmon fisheries.

Other special assignments performed by Alverson, a DOC Gold Medal recipient, included: advisor to the State Department during INPFC (International North Pacific Fisheries Commission) treaty negotiations in Ottawa, Tokyo, and Washington, D.C.; advisor to the State Department on USA/USSR fisheries; NOAA's delegate to the international Law of the Sea Conference; and chairman, Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Re-



Dr. Dayton L. Alverson

search (ACMRR) of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

In 1950, Alverson entered the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (BCF) in Seattle. During 1953-58, he worked for the Washington State Department of Fisheries. He returned to BCF and from 1958 to 1969 he served as director, of the Exploratory Fishing and Gear Research Base, receiving his Ph.D. in Fisheries at the University of Washington in 1967. This was followed by duty in Washington, D.C., as associate director for Fisheries and as acting director of the Bureau and, in the Northwest Region, as Associate Regional Director for Resource Programs.

NCC/EDIS and Union Sign Contract



Negotiating teams at contract signing between the National Climatic Center, EDIS, Asheville, N.C., and Local 453 of the National Federation of Federal Employees included: (seated, 1 to r) William M. McMurray, NCC chief negotiator; Daniel Mitchell, NCC director; James Roddy, Local 453 president; (standing, 1 to r) William Bartlett, Gilbert Ehram, and Robert LeClerg, NCC; Olene Robinson, Isabel Cole, and Donald Howell, NFFE.

Funds to Support State Fisheries Resources Backed

Congress should continue to authorize the States to receive \$10 million for research and development and increase to \$5 million the authorization for disaster relief involving commercial fisheries resources, Terry L. Leitzell, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries said in recent testimony before the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Leitzell said that the Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Act of 1964 as amended (Public Law 38-309) has assisted the States greatly in their ability to more effectively develop and manage their valuable fisheries resources. The present law expires on September 30.

Under the law, the Federal Government can provide up to 75 percent of the cost of approved research projects with the States furnishing the balance of the funds.

Five million dollars per year in research funds have been appropriated for fiscal years 1979 and 1980.

Another section of the law authorizes \$3 million per year to assist States in which there has been a commercial fishery failure due to a resource disaster caused by

natural or undetermined causes. Funds appropriated under this section cumulatively totaling \$3.45 million have been made available to the States. Additional funds also have been available for these purposes from the Economic Development Administration and the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration. An increase to \$5 million in the authorization for this section of the law was requested.

Leitzell reported that the Department of Commerce is considering changes to the law that would assist States in the development and implementation of State/Federal resource conservation and management plans.

"These proposed changes that will be sent to Congress will assist the States in meeting the new and increased demands for fisheries management, research, and development required by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other legislative mandates," said Leitzell.

Leitzell told the lawmakers that he did not favor extension of that part of the law that authorizes funds for fisheries development since these type funds are available under another section of the law and from the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act.

Tuna (From p. 1)

ance of 1980 and continue through 1981.

Limitations proposed by the regulations reduce the ceiling for allowable incidental kill in 1980 from 31,150 to 16,850 animals for 1981.

The present policy allowing the accidental take of depleted species found in small numbers with schools of non-depleted porpoise would not apply to the northern offshore spotted porpoise. Any taking of individual northern offshore spotted stock would be con-

sidered deliberate because these animals do not mix with schools of other stocks.

Current regulations also prohibit the encircling of pure schools of any spinner dolphin stock. Since northern whitebelly spinners are only found in mixed schools with northern offshore spotted dolphins, whitebelly spinners also cannot be taken.

Other proposed changes to the existing regulations include amendments to required fishing procedure, gear inspections, conditions on tuna importation, and observer duties.

NMFS Conducts Study To Evaluate Salmon

The Environmental and Technical Services Division, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in Portland, Oregon, is currently involved in an eight year study to evaluate the contribution of fall chinook salmon reared at Columbia River hatcheries to the Pacific Coast salmon fisheries.

This study is being primarily funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), U.S. Department of Energy, and is being coordinated by NMFS. The fisheries agencies operating hatcheries involved in the study are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Washington Department of Fisheries.

As a part of this study, a self-contained mobile fish marking trailer was built by NMFS personnel. This unit will allow the marking of



R.Z. Smith, Environmental & Technical Services Division, NMFS, explains the operation of fish marking equipment to visitors during the open house for the mobile fish marking unit held in Portland, Ore.

fall chinook salmon fingerlings with unique, distinguishable marks prior to the fishes' release from study hatcheries.

Officials of NMFS and BPA sponsored an open

house in Portland on January 22 and 23, to display the trailer and explain the function of its equipment. Over 500 people visited the trailer and the event was covered by local media.

Strange Objects From Sea Yield New Findings

There is a certain excitement in recovering from the sea a mysterious object which has been floating to and from destinations unknown.

Such it must have been for the crew of a French Navy destroyer returning to home port and for a group of children playing on the shores of County Clare, Ireland. Both groups found strange-looking objects with foreign markings. Had they discovered the wreckage of a *misfortunate vessel*? Or perhaps a souvenir from Skylab on its fiery voyage home?

The mysterious floating objects turned out to be "witness buoys" — bright red and yellow eight-foot buoys, each bearing a white flashing light — used to mark the location in the sea of science equipment worth up to \$23,000.

Why were these buoys found in France and Ireland?

Last March, the Marine EcoSystems Analysis (MESA) a subdivision of NOAA,

placed 18 current meters in the New York Bight, the 15,000 square miles of water bound by New York, New Jersey, and the edge of the Continental Shelf.

Containing three current meters and an acoustic recovery device, the equipment was used to monitor water current, speed and direction, water temperatures and salinity to help protect water quality.

In response to concerns for the safety of the equipment and fishing gear which might get tangled with it, the New York Sea Grant Extension Program worked in cooperation with New Jersey Sea Grant and MESA to develop a "Notice to Fishermen" poster that described the buoy systems and their locations. These posters were distributed to over 1,000 commercial fishermen, pilots, marina operators, and U.S. Government Coast Guard stations. Additionally, a repro-

duction of the poster appeared in the U.S. Coast Guard's Notice to Mariners.

According to NOAA's Lt. (jg) David Goodrich, who tracks current meter operations for the MESA project, out of a total of 30 current meters only nine were lost. In 1978, with a minimum of publicity efforts, 15 out of 28 current meters were lost.

The "mysterious" objects that reached Europe were two witness buoys that had probably been struck by vessels, broken free, and carried with ocean currents to their new destinations.

Since a larger number of meters were lost at middle to outer continental shelf stations in September 1978 and 1979, Goodrich speculates that seasonal trawler traffic was probably the major source of equipment loss. Reinforcing this speculation was a phone call from the captain of a Virginia trawler who wanted to return a meter

that had been caught up in his bottom dredge.

As with the drifting buoys recovered in Europe, there were identification tags located inside the equipment which allowed contact back to the MESA Project Office.

It is through this type of cooperative effort — between both the scientific and fishing communities — that losses of scientific and fishing gear can be kept to a minimum.

By mid-September, all of the current meters were removed from the waters of the Bight until this year. Now the delicate parts will be cleaned and repaired while the data is analyzed. They will remain silent until summer when they will be placed at new stations.

For the children of County Clare, the eight-foot, bright red and yellow buoy has become a permanent part of their playground, proving that a little cooperation goes a long way!

PUBLICATIONS

Nautical Charts

Three new editions of nautical charts for the southern California area have been published: San Diego to San Francisco Bay, 21st Edition (Chart # 18022); Approaches to San Diego Bay, 40th Edition (# 18772); and San Diego Bay, 25th Edition, (# 18773). Each chart is \$3.65 and may be obtained from local sales agents listed in Chart Catalog 2; from NOS, Pacific Marine Center, 1801 Fairview Av. East, Seattle, WA 98102; NOS Distribution Division, Riverdale, MD 20840; and Counter Sales, NOS, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Rm. 101, Rockville, MD 20852. Check or money order (\$US) should accompany orders and be made out to Department of Commerce/NOS.

NOAA Awaits Solar Maximum

The sun is at the peak in its 11-year cycle of sunspot activity, but the reaction—for earth—is yet to come.

The forms of solar activity that affect the terrestrial environment tend to reach their peak after the "official" solar maximum, which is defined in terms of sunspots. Over the coming months, enormous solar flares will touch off magnetic storms and other disturbances on earth. It could cause occasional disruptions in radio communications and power transmission, haywire computers, even false alarms in civil defense networks.

It will also mean a hectic job for the group charged with providing critical information to explain, correct, or prevent such disruptions: NOAA's solar forecasters. From the Space Environment Services Center in Boulder, Colorado, operated jointly by NOAA and the Air Force and headed by Gary Heckman, they keep constant watch on the sun and its earthly effects with optical telescopes, satellites, and a worldwide network of ground-based magnetometers. From these data, they make regular reports and forecasts of solar and magnetic activity.

A flare is an eruption of ultra-hot gases from the sun's "surface." High energy particles rush outward into space, some near the speed of light. The particles set off storms in the earth's magnetic field,

which in turn play havoc with earthly electronics. The particles have more direct effects, too. In polar regions where the lines of force of the earth's magnetic field diverge, the particles can penetrate far enough to constitute a radiation hazard for passengers on high-flying aircraft. Forecasts from the NOAA laboratory allow pilots to avoid polar routes when radiation levels might be high.

In recent months, said Heckman, solar flares have already caused varied problems on earth. The Center has received reports that some transoceanic airliners have briefly lost their high-frequency radio communications; the Coast Guard's ship-to-shore signals have gone out; there have been communication and control problems with satellites. And, says Heckman, "we had one report that flare activity might have set off a civil defense circuit in Canada, throwing radio stations automatically into an alert mode." There is even new evidence, he added, that high-energy particles from large solar flares could be responsible for certain computer failures.

Such events, and the flares that cause them, happen almost every year. But they are more frequent and more severe during solar maximum. And this maximum is turning out to be one of the most spectacular of this century.



NOAA Aided 1980 Winter Olympics

Providing weather information to an interpreter for the West German Olympic team at Lake Placid are Gordon Tait (center) and Jack May (r), NWS meteorologists. NOAA's EDIS also helped at the Olympics by supplying climatological information to the NWS forecast team and brochures on local climate to the Olympics committee.

Joint Ventures Lawsuit Settled

An out-of-court settlement has been reached in a lawsuit filed last May by two fishing concerns against the Department of Commerce and two of its agencies over procedures for approving "joint ventures."

Under the terms of a settlement approved by U.S. District Court Judge Joyce Green on January 3, NOAA agreed to clarify the procedures for obtaining public comment on foreign applications for joint ventures before any decisions are made.

Under joint ventures, some fish caught by U.S. vessels within the United States 200-mile fishery conservation zone is delivered to foreign fish processing vessels also located there.

In the lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., the New England Fish Co., Seattle, Washington, and Icicle Seafoods, Petersburg, Alaska, questioned procedures for obtaining public comment on foreign applications for permits to engage in joint ventures.

The companies also challenged methods used by

NOAA for estimating the expected U.S. harvest of several species of fish in the Gulf of Alaska, Alaska fish processors' use of that harvest, and the amounts of fish available for joint ventures.

Under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, foreign countries may apply for permits which will allow them to receive fish caught by U.S. fishermen if the U.S. fish processors are not expected to use all the U.S. caught fish.

The permit applications are reviewed by the appropriate Fishery Management Council which also seeks public comment on them. The Council then recommends that the Department of Commerce either approve or disapprove the permit or grant it with special restrictions.

NOAA also will make available to the public an explanation of how it arrives at its estimates of the U.S. harvest, the amounts that will be used by U.S. processors, and how much of the U.S. harvest will be made available for joint venture operations.

OCSEAP Awarded Unit Citation

The Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program Office, part of NOAA's Office of Marine Pollution Assessment, has been awarded a unit citation for the development of a scientific research program in Alaska coastal areas.

Specifically, the OCSEAP office was cited for its development of a program which "meets the environ-

mental information needs of decision-makers responsible for leasing the Alaska continental shelf for oil and gas development."

The group was also cited "for the establishment of procedures for the synthesis of data from several disciplines in order to permit recognition of ecological interrelationships and critical habitats."

Red Cross Needs Help

The following memorandum was released to all government agencies by Alan K. Campbell, Director, Office of Personnel Management:

"In view of the unprecedented number of national disasters which have occurred since July 1 of this year, such as Tropical storm Claudette, and Hurricanes David and Frederic, the Red Cross has mobilized its full resources to assist the victims of these tragic disasters. Disaster relief provided by the Red Cross to hundreds of thousands of victims is concentrated on providing emergency assistance for essentials such as food, clothing, shelter and medical attention.

"As a result of the high

volume of this emergency assistance to disaster victims, the cost has virtually wiped out the Red Cross' current fiscal year budget for disaster relief. In fact, Red Cross reserve funds for commitments in the first quarter have drained their resources, it is necessary for the Red Cross to appeal to the American public through their local Red Cross chapters for help in raising a minimum of \$15 million that will be needed to help disaster victims for the remainder of the fiscal year.

"Federal employees have always responded generously when they know the need is great. While the need for an on-the-job fund-raising campaign in Federal agencies is not indicated, we would appreciate it if you would inform employees in your installations worldwide of the special needs of the American National Red Cross to provide assistance for the victims of these recent disasters and encourage them to support, along with other members of their communities, the campaign efforts of their local Red Cross chapters."

Regulations Govern Proper Use Of Uncle Sam's Postage-paid Envelopes

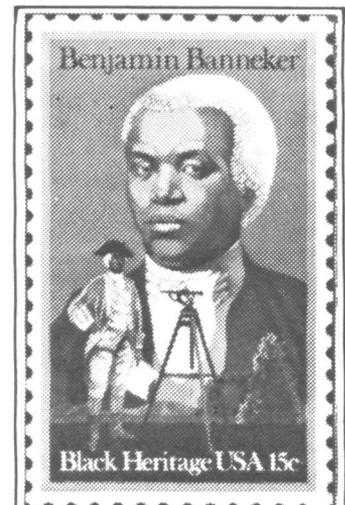
"Whoever makes use of any official envelope, label, or endorsement authorized by law, to avoid the payment of postage or registry fee on his private letter, packet, package, or other matter in the mail, shall be fined not more than \$300." (39USC415)

The above is a direct quotation from Federal statutes. It prohibits any Federal officer or employee from using postage-paid (franked) envelopes, labels, etc., for mailing any article or document that is not reasonably related to the subject matter of official correspondence.

The Office of Personnel Management is particularly concerned about the improper use of agency postage-paid envelopes being used to file applications for competitive examinations and agency merit promotion programs and to appeal ratings received under these programs. Employment applications and rating appeals are not considered official agency cor-

respondence, since the individual is not acting within the scope of present employment when applying for another position.

The intentional violation of statutes governing agency postage-paid envelopes is the basis for disciplinary action.



Stamp Honors Black Heritage

A new commemorative stamp honoring astronomer and mathematician Benjamin Banneker will be issued during the observance of Black History Month this year. The stamp is the third in the series which recognizes the contributions of black Americans to the growth and development of the nation. Banneker, free-born in Baltimore County, Maryland, was a pioneer American scientist who later served as scientific assistant to the team appointed by President George Washington to lay out the 10-mile square for the Federal Capital in the District of Columbia in 1791. The Black Heritage USA series began in 1978 with a stamp honoring Harriet Tubman and continued in 1979 with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., issue.

CURRENT NOAA VACANCIES

Announcement Number	Position Title	Grade	Organization	Location	Issue Date	Closing Date
NWS-80-47(FM)	Electronics Engineer	GS-14 (promotion potential GS-15)	NWS	Silver Spring, Md.	2/21	3/13
SR-80-37(JG)	Meteorologist (Forecaster)	GS-13	NWS	Miami, Fla.	2/26	3/11
NESS-80-9(VLM)	Meteorologist	GS-12	NESS	Fort Collins, Colo.	2/26	3/11
NCC-80-6(CLS)	Meteorologist	GS-11	NCC	Asheville, N.C.	2/26	3/11
SER-80-16(RH)	Fishery Biologist	GS-9	NMFS	St. Petersburg, Fla.	2/26	3/11
WR-80-16(DD)	Communications Manager	GS-9	NWS	San Francisco, Calif.	2/21	3/13
EDIS-80-48(CG)	Support Services Assistant	GS-6/7	EDIS	Rockville, Md.	2/26	3/11
NESS-80-10(VLM)	Meteorologist	GS-13	NESS	Fort Collins, Colo.	2/26	3/18
HQS-80-25(AM)	Supervisory Employee Development Specialist	GS-13	HQS.	Rockville, Md.	2/26	3/18
NASO-80-10(LMN)	Industry Economist	GS-12/13	NMFS	Juneau, Alaska	2/21	3/13
EDIS-80-45(CG)	Supervisory Librarian or Supervisory Technician Informational Specialist	GS-12	EDIS	Rockville, Md.	2/26	3/18
NESS-80-8(VLM)	Meteorologist	GS-12	NESS	Camp Springs, Md.	2/26	3/11

NOTES ABOUT PEOPLE



Claire D. Jensen

The new Meteorologist in Charge of WSFO Phoenix, Arizona, is Claire D. Jensen. He had been principal assistant in the Phoenix office since 1976, and had previously served as Meteorologist in Charge of the San Diego, California office.

William J. Alder has been selected as Meteorologist in Charge of the Weather Forecast Office in Salt Lake City, Utah. He holds a master's

degree in meteorology from the University of Utah, and has served at the Salt Lake Forecast Office for the past 13 years. The Salt Lake Forecast Office is responsible for all weather forecasts and warnings for the entire State of Utah.

Thomas M. Leahy, Sea Grant Communicator for the State University System of Florida, has won first place in a Reader's Digest article writing competition for an article published in the NOAA Magazine in April, 1977 entitled, "The Mystery of the Beached Mammals."

Leahy received his award at a Magazine Articles Workshop, sponsored by Reader's Digest and the University of Florida, early in February.

William H. Henning has been assigned as the new Meteorologist in Charge at Sacramento, California. For the past 15 years he has served in Eureka, California, the last two years as Meteorologist in Charge. He holds a B.S. in meteorology from San Jose State.

NOS Employee of the Year



James E. Gearhart (l) receives award from R. Adm. Herbert R. Lippold, Jr., NOS Director.

James E. Gearhart of Edgewater, Maryland, is the NOS Outstanding Employee of the Year.

Employed with NOAA since 1951, Gearhart was presented \$500 and a certificate by R. Adm. Herbert R. Lippold, Jr., NOS Director, during a special ceremony coinciding with the 173rd anniversary of NOS.

Known as the NOS resident expert in nautical cartography, Gearhart is staff cartographer for the NOS Marine Chart Division. He was praised by Lippold for his accomplishments in the preparation and publication of a definitive 10-year nautical charting plan. "It was

through the personal initiative of Mr. Gearhart," he said, "that the plan has now been accepted as a viable planning document for directing the NOS nautical charting efforts over the next 10 years."

Gearhart also received commendations for developing a pilot plan for surveying natural and man-made bottom obstructions on the Outer Continental Shelf and compiling and producing special fishing obstruction charts detailing these obstructions. Lippold said the plan was completed "through Gearhart's personal dedication and outstanding initiative within very short time constraints imposed."

U.S. Fish-Catch Up in 1978

The United States' 1978 catch of fish increased by 13.8 percent over 1977, according to preliminary figures released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome.

In 1978, U.S. fishermen landed 3,511,719 metric tons (mt) of fish and shellfish. This was an increase of 426,508 mt over the 1977 landings of 3,085,211 mt.

The U.S. increase is in sharp contrast to the small gain in worldwide catches for the same period. In 1978, the world's total catch was 72,379,500 mt, a 1.6 percent gain over the 71,212,900 tons

caught in 1977.

Just as the United States, all major countries of the Western Hemisphere — Canada, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Cuba, and Brazil — had substantial increases in catches in 1978. Islands and archipelagic nations like Greenland, Iceland, Indonesia, and Papua, New Guinea, also did exceptionally well.

In most other parts of the world there were no discernible trends, except in Europe where the catches in the most important fishing countries declined sharply. The hardest hit regions were Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.



Esther Suher, NOS support services assistant in Fleet Operations, says "Now I've got it all" as WMAL's Tom Gaeger helps her put on the \$5,000 mink coat she won recently when 20,000 Washington, D.C., area radio listeners (including Suher) sent in cards for the grand prize.



BATTER-FRIED FISH FILLETS WITH MEXICAN SAUCE

- 6 frozen batter-fried fish fillets (3 ounces each)
- 3/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- 1 can (1 pound) stewed tomatoes*
- 3 tablespoons chopped green chiles
- 1/4 teaspoon sugar



- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper

Cook batter-fried fish fillets as directed on package. Prepare sauce while fish is heating. Cook onion and garlic in oil in a small saucepan until tender, not brown. Add remaining ingredients. Simmer uncovered to blend flavors and thicken slightly, about 15 minutes. Spoon 1/2 of sauce over fish and serve with remaining sauce. Makes 6 servings about 1 3/4 cups sauce.

*Contains onion and peppers.

Shoreline Sand Movement Studied

More than 50 scientists and technicians from five universities, the Navy Postgraduate School at Monterey, and the California Department of Boats and Waterways are participating in a million-dollar study of the shore processes involved in the movement of sand by waves and currents, one aspect of which is currently underway at Leadbetter Beach, west of Santa Barbara Harbor, California.

The project, called the Nearshore Sediment Transport Study or NSTS, is funded by NOAA through the National Sea Grant College Program. The data being collected during the current winter storm period will be compared with data collected last year during a "normal" or non-storm weather cycle.

The scientists hope to develop mathematical models which can be used to predict the behavior of sand and thus aid engineers in decisions regarding sites for construc-

tion of piers, jetties, outfalls, and other coastal structures.

More than 100 electronic instruments, some especially designed for this experiment, have been installed at various points in the water or near the shore to measure wave height, current speed, current direction, sand concentration, and other variables. An automatic profiling tractor that crawls into the surf to record the slope of the ocean bottom, as well as measurements by surveying crews, are also being used to collect data in the study.

During the month the scientists expect to record more than half a billion data points, which are transmitted simultaneously to an on-shore computer for instant processing. Tapes of each day's readings are then sent to the Shore Processes Laboratory at Scripps Institution, La Jolla, for analysis; the processed data is returned to scientists in Santa Barbara for planning the next day's work.

NOAA news

Published biweekly at Rockville, Md., by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Richard A. Frank, Administrator; produced by the NOAA Office of Public Affairs, Albert Mark, Director; Norma V. Reyes, Editor; Brenda A. Diggs, Editorial Assistant.

The publication provides information for employees of NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Articles for publication should be submitted at least ten work days in advance to NOAA News, NOAA Office of Public Affairs, Room 108, Rock-Wall Building, Rockville, Md. 20852.

NOAA News reserves the right to make changes in submitted copy in conformity with the policies of the publication and of NOAA.



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

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July 23, 2010