



NOAA REPORT

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NOAA-E/A12
WSC4..RM.2A

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September 17, 1986

COMING UP

National Hispanic Heritage Week Sept. 14-20.

Toxic Chemicals and Aquatic Life: Research and Management symposium in Seattle, Wash., Sept. 16-18.

Oceans '86 in Washington, D.C., Sept. 23-25.

11th Annual Climate Diagnostics Workshop at the University of Illinois, Oct. 14-17.

Winter weather media workshop in Chicago, Ill., Oct. 24-25.

NOAA-G Launch:--The NOAA-G spacecraft was successfully mated with the Atlas launch vehicle on September 9. Launch of the polar-orbiting satellite is scheduled Sept. 17 at 9:52 local time from Vandenberg, AFB, Calif.

New NOAA Corps Director:--RADM. Francis D. Moran recently was sworn in by Secretary Baldrige as Director of the NOAA Corps. He replaces RADM. Kelly E. Taggart who retired as director after 31 years in the Corps.

Admiral Moran, most recently director of the Office of Aircraft Operations, has served in the Corps for 25 years. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in mathematics and geology, he was awarded an assistantship at the University of Tennessee before joining the Corps in 1961.

After serving aboard five NOAA ships, Admiral Moran was chief of the Pacific Tides Party and NOAA Liaison Officer to the Navy. In 1974 he was selected for full-time university training,

earning a Master of Marine Affairs degree from the University of Rhode Island that year. While at URI, he established and attended the first fisheries program for NOAA personnel. From 1975 to 1981, he was assigned to the Research Facilities Center, where he established and served as chief of the Helicopter Operations Group which supports the Outer Continental Shelf Energy Assessment Program. Admiral Moran is the only NOAA pilot who is qualified in all NOAA aircraft (both fixed and rotary wing) and has over 6,000 hours of flight time. In 1982-83 he was executive assistant in the Office of the Deputy Administrator.

Baldrige Proposes Redfish Ban:--Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige has proposed a management plan for the Gulf of Mexico redfish and called for a series of public hearings in the Gulf Coast States to gather comments on the proposal.

The proposed plan calls for a ban on direct commercial harvests of redfish, also known as red drum, in the federal Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Gulf and for a carefully conducted scientific research program to provide a better assessment of the stock and for a basis for future management measures. At its meeting on Sept. 11, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council suggested several changes to the proposed plan to protect the redfish stock while the research is being conducted.

Emphasizing the need for public comments on the proposal, officials of NOAA have scheduled nine hearings this month and next in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. They will also meet with representatives of each of the Gulf States to ensure coordination of federal and state actions to conserve the redfish.

The supply of redfish in federal waters has been under pressure from the popularity of blackened redfish, a recent culinary craze. Commercial harvests in federal waters - nine miles off Texas and Louisiana, and three miles elsewhere - rose from 216 pounds in 1983 to nearly 7 million pounds in the first half of this year.

A 90-day emergency rule by Secretary Baldrige this summer set a million pound commercial quota on fish harvested after June 25. The fishery was closed on July 20 when the quota was reached. A ban on all recreational and commercial harvests of redfish in the EEZ of an additional 90 days has been proposed by Baldrige and agreed to by the Fishery Management Council, which called upon the states to reduce the harvest in state waters.

A summary of the proposed plan and a schedule of the public hearings are available from Paul Leach, NMFS Southeast Region, 9450 Koger Blvd., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Comments on the plan are to be sent to the same address.

NOAA To Help Teach Fire Danger Rating Course:--NOAA has been asked by the U.S. Forest Service to assist in teaching a training course in the National Fire Danger Rating System at the USFS training facility in Marana, Ariz., in mid-December. Two Weather Service meteorologists, Nancy Dean, lead fire weather forecaster at Riverside, Calif., and Bill Henning, head of the NWS office in Sacramento, Calif., have been selected to instruct fire management personnel on the contribution of weather factors (such as long hot, dry periods; dry, gusty winds; and developing thunderstorms that produce cloud-to-ground lightning but little rain) to the Fire Danger Rating System which is used to alert fire fighters to the potential of wildfires.

Project Pride:--Commerce employees have been asked to set aside the weeks between Sept 22 and Oct. 3 to recognize the contributions of Department workers to American business and the U.S. economy. In the Washington area, employees are invited to a showing of "Silent Partners," an audio-visual presentation on Commerce employees as viewed through the eyes of clients. A schedule of showings will be announced soon.

Deputy Secretary Clarence J. Brown said, "I hope each of you will join us in celebrating your past accomplishments and re-dedicating ourselves to making service, excellence, and productivity our goals for the future. We owe our clients - and ourselves - nothing less."

NOAA Sets Up ADP Training Center:--An ADP Training Center has been established at NOAA's WSC5 building in Rockville, Md. The facility is equipped with ten IBM PC-XT microcomputers and will accommodate up to 20 students. Courses, taught by NOAA instructors, will cover such frequently needed subjects as Introduction to Computers, DOS, and Communications. Other computer-related courses will include training on the Time and Attendance System and the use of in-house financial management systems. Training contractors will be hired to teach additional courses. The in-house training facility, which should reduce training costs greatly, will be managed by the staff of the Budget and Finance Division's Information Technology Center (ITC) in conjunction with the NCASC Training Staff. Announcements of class schedules will be made on an electronic NOAA Microcomputer Bulletin Board and training bulletins. For further information: Rich Kissel, ITC (443-8825) or Maurice Qualls NCASC (443-1357).

NGDC Contributes to Digital World Atlas:--NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center has contributed land elevation data to a digital world atlas on compact disc for use on personal computers. The disc, from DeLorme Mapping Systems of Freeport, Me., displays political boundaries, roads, cities and other place names, rivers, lakes, islands, worldwide ocean depths, and land elevations. As this is only the beginning of a larger project by DeLorme, further contact is expected, and additional NGDC data may be added to the atlas.

Ozone Interview from Antarctica Planned:--NOAA Public Affairs and the National Science Foundation are arranging a telephoned interview in early October by the U.S. science press with Dr. Susan Solomon, the ERL scientist heading a team investigating the so-called "ozone hole" over the Antarctic. The interview is expected to receive global attention as the issue is one of prime environmental importance.

NESDIS Gains New Cooperative Institute:--NOAA and the University of Nevada-Reno will develop a cooperative institute to expand the use of satellite data in the discovery of mineral resources. The Center for Aerospace Science and Terrestrial Applications will be established at the Mackay School of Mines in Reno. The facility will obtain data from the Landsat system, as well as spacecraft orbited during the next decade. Mineral scientists will be provided with important clues to resources in the earth, including cobalt, chromium, manganese, and various platinum metals. The institute's research and training programs will help the mining industry use space sensing techniques in search for these deposits.

NOAA Leads Federal Data Management Effort:--Kenneth D. Davidson of NESDIS' National Climatic Data Center will chair the newly-formed Working Group on Data Management. This group, under the Interagency Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research, will provide continuing coordination on the planning, development, and implementation of federal data management and archiving. The Committee is a policy-level coordinating group with members representing 13 federal agencies; the Working Group also will represent these agencies.

Ocean Storms Project:--The weather services of the United States and Canada are considering establishing a joint Canadian/U.S. marine forecast desk - staffed by forecasters from both countries - at Seattle, Wash., in support of an Ocean Storms Project slated for the fall of 1987. According to CDR. Kenneth E. Lilly, chief of Marine and Dissemination Services at the Weather Service's Western Regional Headquarters, NOAA is one of the participants in the U.S./Canadian multiagency project that will deploy a number of moored and drifting buoys, and use ships and aircraft to study upper ocean dynamics and storm processes off the Pacific Northwest coast. Meteorologists at the joint marine forecast desk, located at the Seattle Weather Service Forecast Office, will use the normal marine data base along with special data from the project itself to provide meteorological support to the project, increase their understanding of marine phenomena, and develop operational techniques for improving marine forecasts and warnings.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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July 23, 2010