

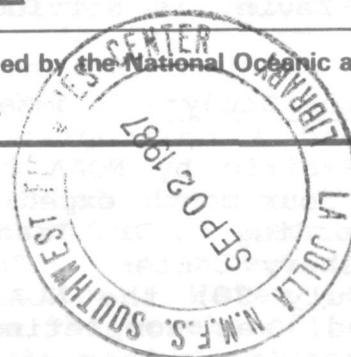


# NOAA REPORT

MAY 11 1992  
U.S. Dept. of Commerce

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August 5, 1987

## COMING UP

International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics annual convention in Vancouver, BC, Aug. 10-15.

NOAA/Geological Survey water resources meeting in Reston, Va., Aug. 12.

Advisory Working Group for the WMO Commission for Climatology in Geneva, Switzerland, Aug. 17-21.

Canada/U.S. Mapping and Charting Subcommittee meeting in Quebec, Aug. 18-20.

Geosynchronous Platform Planning Meeting in Vancouver, BC, Aug. 18-20.

**U.S.-Iceland Discussions:**--United States and Icelandic officials issued a statement July 23 announcing that Iceland's pause in whale research, initiated July 19, will be continued during forthcoming discussions between the two nations. Issues covered during discussions July 21 and 22 between delegations headed by Under Secretary Calio and Halldor Asgrimsson, Iceland's Minister of Fisheries, included the Icelandic whale research program, stock assessment methodologies, and research objectives. The United States said that during the pause in whaling and pending discussions, the Secretary of Commerce will not certify to the President that the taking of whales by Iceland for scientific purposes would diminish the effectiveness of the conservation program of the International Whaling Commission.

**NWS Regional Director Switch:**--Harry S. Hassel, former director of the National Weather Service's Eastern Region, has transferred to Anchorage to replace Stuart G. Bigler as director of the Alaska Region. Bigler, a 28-year NWS veteran who headed

operations in Alaska for 17 years, retired in July. Deputy director Susan F. Zevin, is serving as acting director of the Eastern Region.

 Pacific Dolphin Study:--A dozen scientific observers, two research ships, and a helicopter will be dispatched to the eastern tropical Pacific by NOAA this month to survey dolphin populations. The four-month expedition is part of a five-year dolphin study, according to Dr. Izadore Barrett, director of the NMFS Southwest Fishery Center. The NOAA Ship McArthur sailed from San Diego July 30; the NOAA Ship David Starr Jordan, helicopter-equipped, was completing sailing preparations this week. Each ship carries a team of observers for estimating the numbers of dolphins in a school, and others will photograph dolphin schools from the helicopter. Five million square miles will be covered.

The program to monitor the abundance of stocks of dolphins is a result of an amendment in 1984 to the Marine Mammal Protection Act. After reviewing the bill for reauthorization, Congress mandated NMFS to design and implement a program to monitor the relative abundance of dolphin stocks in the eastern tropical Pacific - the only area in the world where some schools of yellowfin tuna swim beneath dolphin herds. Tuna fishermen search for schools of dolphins as an indication of tuna. They round up the dolphins with speedboats and encircle dolphins and tuna with huge seine nets. Although most of the dolphins escape or are released by fishermen over the nets, some become entangled and drown.

Last year, more than 126,000 dolphins were accidentally killed in the area by yellowfin tuna fishermen from several countries. Under federal law, U.S. fishermen are limited to the accidental take of 20,500 of the mammals each year. Last October, NOAA banned U.S. fishermen from setting their nets on dolphins two months before the end of the season because, for the first time, the U.S. quota had been reached.

Ozone Hole Flights:--NOAA scientists were featured at a closed-circuit televised press conference July 28 at NASA's Ames Research Center and NASA headquarters in Washington when plans were announced for a NASA-NOAA airborne study of the ozone hole over Antarctica. The Environmental Research Laboratories' Dr. Adrian Tuck, project scientist, participated at Ames and Dr. Daniel L. Albritton, director of the ERL Aeronomy Laboratory, in Washington. Approximately 100 scientists and technicians will work from a Chilean airport seeking to determine the source of ozone depletion over Antarctica. Two NASA aircraft will fly 10 missions, sampling atmospheric chemicals, which will be analyzed in Chile. Instruments aboard two NOAA polar-orbiting satellites

will take daily ozone measurements which will be transmitted to England for analysis, then to NOAA's National Meteorological Center, where maps will be made for relay to mission headquarters. The Chilean program will complement a ground-based National Ozone Experiment at McMurdo Station, led by NOAA's Dr. Susan Solomon, later this year.

**NOS System Upgrading:**--NOAA has awarded a \$4 million contract to the Sutron Corporation of Herndon, Va., for 250 advanced water level measurement and satellite telemetry field units to upgrade the NOS National Water Level Observation Network. The network measures the levels of U.S. tidal coastal waters, and the Great Lakes and interconnecting waterways. The new system will enable NOAA to provide water level and weather data in near-real time. The units will replace obsolete equipment and should materially improve system reliability at a lower total cost. The new technology will also improve measurements of global sea level change, which is critical in providing better predictions of global climate change.

**Salmonscam:**--NMFS agents in Seattle, Wash., seized 121,950 pounds of frozen salmon for alleged violations of the false labeling provisions of the Lacey Act, July 29. The fish were shipped to Seattle from Japan and arrived packed in boxes labeled "Product of the U.S.A." The shipper claims to have purchased the fish from unidentified sources in Singapore. NOAA will ask the U.S. Attorney's office in Seattle to file a forfeiture action against the salmon.

According to NMFS Assistant Administrator William E. Evans, this is the fourth major investigation into the shipment of large quantities of salmon in the last year. Special fisheries agents have documented over 10 million pounds of illegally imported salmon.

**MASC Employee Wins Award:**--Vernon D. Pape of the Mountain Administrative Support Center Personnel Division, has been named winner of the 1987 Walter E. Elder Memorial Award for outstanding contributions to the employment of the handicapped. The award will be presented at a luncheon in Denver, Colo., Sept. 16.

**Sea Grant Aquaculture Program Gets Boost:**--Recognizing the Sea Grant College Program's long-term effort to develop the economy of the Pacific Trust Territories, the Department of Interior has provided \$275,000 to support an aquaculture development project in the islands under jurisdiction of the Department's Office of Territories. The University of Hawaii will provide administrative and technical support for the project, which involves continued operation of the Micronesian Mariculture Demonstration Center with its giant clam production

hatchery, formation of a Pacific Island Aquaculture Association, and development of a 10-year plan for aquaculture activities in the Pacific that will be linked to the U.S. Department of Agriculture regional aquaculture center in Hawaii.

**20,000 Areas Susceptible To Flash Floods:**--More than 20,000 communities and recreational areas are susceptible to flash floods of the kind that recently took 10 lives in Kerr County, Tex., a NOAA news release issued today reports. People living or visiting such locations were urged to learn and be ready to use life-saving measures.

Highlights of the release: When a flash flood watch or warning has been issued, move immediately to higher ground. Never drive over bridges or streets covered by flood waters. Roadways may be eroded. If your car stalls, abandon it and seek higher ground. Rising water may sweep vehicles away. On foot, never cross a flowing stream where the water is above your knees. Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize areas of high water.

**EarthSat Completes Archive Study:**--Earth Satellite Corporation (EarthSat) has submitted a final report to the NESDIS Landsat Transition Group on "Creation of a National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive." NOAA and the U.S. Geological Survey will use results of this study to help complete planning for this archive program required by the Land Remote-Sensing Commercialization Act of 1984. The final report includes findings and recommendations regarding existing and planned satellite systems of value for land remote sensing, archival media, including state of the art in storage and retrieval technology; long-term data uses and requirements for archival data established through interviews and meetings with data users; and a proposal for an automated geographic reference system for implementing the basic data set.

**A Map of Antarctica from Satellite Images:**--NESDIS has drafted an agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the United Kingdom for the production of a mosaic map of Antarctica using NOAA polar orbiting satellite radiometer data. NRSC will prepare the digital data base using the NOAA satellite data, and USGS will publish the resulting image map for public purchase later this year.

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# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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July 23, 2010