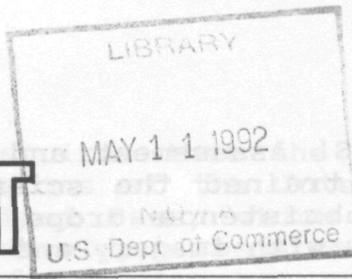




NOAA REPORT



NOAA Report is an administrative document, issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of the Administrator for the information and use of agency personnel.

February 4, 1987

COMING UP

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Cold Water Hypothermia:"
John L. Ball, Jr., OAR, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., Feb. 13
(rescheduled).

153rd National Meeting of the American Association for
the Advancement of Science in Chicago, Ill., Feb. 14-18.

GOES-H launch from Cape Canaveral, Fla., Feb. 19.

Symposium on 180th anniversary of the founding of the
"Survey of the Coast" in Rockville, Md., Feb. 26.

Supreme Court Favors Government in Weather Suit:-- On Feb. 20, the Supreme Court refused to revive a \$1.25 million lawsuit charging the government with negligently predicting the weather. The Justices, over two dissenting votes, let stand a ruling that threw out a lawsuit by the families of three New England lobstermen killed in a 1980 storm at sea.

Drought Symposium Set for March:--By the end of last July, severe or extreme drought existed in all or most of nine southeastern states - the worst drought to affect the region in at least 111 years. On March 4-5, scientists and water resource managers will concentrate on the cause and effects of this drought at a symposium in Columbia, S.C., jointly sponsored by NOAA, South Carolina's Water Resources Commission, the Strom Thurmond Institute, and the American Meteorological Society. The focus will be on the many socioeconomic and environmental problems brought about by the 1986 drought that required responses by all levels of government. Other topics will include a history of drought in the Southeast, and an in-depth examination of the causes of this latest drought.

In related news, a Certificate of Appreciation from Secretary of State George Schultz and AID Administrator Peter McPherson was presented Dr. Joan Hock for NOAA's success in training scientists of 25 African nations in satellite drought technology. The certificate recognizes a 1984-86 AID-funded program in support of an Agency Task Force on the African

Emergency. NESDIS' Assessment and Information Services Center, under Dr. Hock, trained the scientists on how to assess the potential for subsistence crops by tracking the buildup of drought conditions with imagery and data from NOAA polar-orbiting satellites.

Dolphin Survey A Cooperative NOAA Effort:--As a result of a cooperative effort by several NOAA line offices, the first phase of a 5-year program to survey the populations of dolphins in the eastern tropical Pacific ended successfully in December with the return to San Diego of the NOAA ships McArthur and David Starr Jordan after 120 days at sea. Although the primary purpose of the cruise was to monitor the number and size of dolphin schools, the ships also gathered oceanographic and atmospheric data for the Tropical Ocean/Global Atmosphere (TOGA) program. Meteorologists, oceanographers, engineers, physicists, ornithologists from NOAA and other TOGA participants cooperated in the research gathering. A 15-million square kilometer triangle extending from Central America almost to Hawaii is a key area of research in work relating climate to oceanographic events.

Tax Help:--The National Capital Administrative Support Center has made copies of a VHS videotape on the new Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, designed to help employees with income tax preparation. Copies are being issued to NOAA line offices in the National Capital region by the NCASC Personnel Division. Copies of the tape will be forwarded to other administrative support centers.

NOAA Researchers Await Boulder Chinook:--Scientists at the Environmental Research Laboratories are anticipating the occurrence of a Boulder chinook, perhaps later this week, hoping to depict for the first time the structure of this warm, wild wind as it swoops down through Front Range canyons and out over the plains, sandblasting structures and damaging anything not tightly tied down. A specially-instrumented trailer has been placed partway up Boulder Canyon where chinook winds from over the Continental Divide rush out into the plains.

Dr. R. Michael Hardesty, who heads the project, said that a Doppler lidar instrument will be used in the attempt to obtain wind field structure. The research group also hopes to launch instrumented balloons during a chinook event to provide additional wind and temperature information for their study.

Observing the structural evolution of chinooks, Hardesty explained, should increase the ability to forecast the occurrence and severity of damaging windstorms along the Front Range.

New Jersey, D.C. Face Striped Bass Penalty:--New Jersey and the District of Columbia are not complying with the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, according to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and may be banned from catching the

fish commercially. The Act requires that the Atlantic coastal states comply with the provisions of the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for the Striped Bass, which states that the individual jurisdictions must develop a resource protection plan. NOAA and the Fish and Wildlife Service are meeting to make a joint agency determination on the matter. If the agencies determine that one or both jurisdictions are not in compliance, a notice will be sent to the Federal Register announcing the non-compliance and the intent to declare a moratorium. Another notice will be sent announcing the date for imposing the moratorium. The first notice could come as early as Friday.

GLERL Director Awarded Medal:--Michigan's Governor James J. Blanchard recently informed Dr. Alfred M. Beeton, Director of the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Mich., that he has been selected to receive the Governor's 1985 Lake Huron Medal of Honor for his "many dedicated years of effort to Great Lakes research." This is one of five medals awarded annually by the Governor to recognize individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to Great Lakes protection and management. The medal will be awarded at ceremonies later this year.

The Case of the Cracked Casings:--Weather records supplied by NOAA's National Climatic Data Center may help a foundry solve a puzzle about one of their products. Acra Cast Company produces castings of different metal alloys by employing a ceramic shell mold. As about 80 percent of the manufacturing costs are involved in the production of these molds, the company is particularly interested in their failure rates, which are highest during the mid-summer and mid-winter. NOAA records will be used to determine if relative humidity extremes play a role in these failures.

Atlantic Pollock for School Lunches:--The Department of Agriculture will make a test purchase of approximately 700,000 pounds of breaded Atlantic pollock for distribution to the National School Lunch Program. Kids receiving lunches in the program already are enjoying ounce-size Alaska pollock nuggets as part of a pilot program which began in mid-December. The Atlantic pollock must have originated from landings of U.S. flag vessels and must be produced under the NOAA-run USDA inspection program.

Chernobyl Meteorological Data Gathered:--The National Climatic Data Center has compiled a summary of the meteorological data available which might be useful in studying the Chernobyl nuclear accident of April 1986. The summary was submitted to a World Meteorological Organization meeting of experts in the meteorological aspects of the emission of hazardous material into the atmosphere, held January 20-23 in Geneva.

AMS Honors NOAA Employees:--At its recent 67th Annual Meeting, the American Meteorological Society elected Kenneth

Crawford, National Weather Service area manager for Oklahoma; Glenn Hamilton, National Data Buoy Center; and Dave Rodenhuis, Director of the Climate Analysis Center, to the prestigious rank of "Fellow." At the same time, the AMS made the following awards: the Francis W. Reichelderfer Award for distinguished public service contributions by personnel of the weather services went to Robert E. Muller, area manager of North Carolina; an award for an exceptional specific prediction went to James A. Kaplan, Denver Weather Service Forecast Office; and the Charles L. Mitchell Award for long-term services by persons engaged in weather forecasting activities went to John A. Brown, Jr., of the National Meteorological Center.

Meteorological Books Donated to NOAA:--A collection of more than 200 publications on meteorology has been donated to NOAA's Mauna Loa Observatory by a former observatory director, Dr. Kinsell L. Coulson, who is now retired. The collections includes books published prior to 1900 as well as some Russian language books and pamphlets published in pre-revolutionary Russia, acquired by Coulson in trips there. Of particular interest, according to the observatory's director, Dr. Elmer Robinson, are an atlas of meteorology published in Edinburg, Scotland, in 1899, and an 1859 text, "Elements of Meteorology with Questions for Examination, Designed for Schools and Academies." The books will become a part of the more general collection of items in the meteorological museum at the Hilo office in the observatory, which is open to the public.

NCDC Provides Data on WWII Bomber Crash:--When the National Warplane Museum in Rochester, N.Y., announced its intention to recover and restore a four-engine B-24 "Liberator" bomber nicknamed "Getaway Gerti" which crashed into eastern Lake Ontario in 1944, the Oswego Independent Mirror newspaper wanted authoritative facts for its story. As poor weather conditions were blamed for the crash which killed all eight crew members, the paper contacted the National Climatic Data Center and was furnished comprehensive weather information for the area for February 18, 1944.

Government's Oldest Scientific Agency Is 180:--February 10 marks the 180th anniversary of the founding of the "survey of the Coast" in 1807 by an act of Congress during the administration of Thomas Jefferson. The Survey, the predecessor agency of NOAA's National Ocean Service, was established to chart the young republic's coastal waters to promote seaborne commerce, work still carried out by NOS.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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