



# NOAA REPORT

MAY 11 1987  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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July 8, 1987

## COMING UP

NOAA Ship Open Houses: Ferrel in Baltimore, Heck in Annapolis, July 11 - 12.  
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Satellite Data Users Conference in Boulder, Colo., July 14-16.  
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DOC Sea Grant Review Panel for Sea Grant 1987 in Washington, D.C., July 19-22.  
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UNIDATA Policy Committee meeting at University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) in Boulder, Colo., July 20-21.  
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Interagency Hydrometeorological Study Team Quarterly Review Meeting in Denver, Colo., July 29-30.  
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## A Message From Tony Calio

NOAA is on the move in more ways than one. Physically, many of us in the Washington area will be working soon in a handsome new building next to the Silver Spring Metro station. The senior management team will occupy the first building, in a phased consolidation that, over the next few years, will bring together an organization which has too long been widely scattered.

The goal of a unified NOAA has been a vision shared by all of our Administrators since the agency was established in 1970. Needless to say, achieving it has brought the NOAA management team great satisfaction.

On May 22, I had another satisfying experience -- presenting NOAA Awards and Bronze Medals to employees. I wish there had been more time to talk with these remarkable people and to discuss their accomplishments which, by the way, are singled out

in the May 27 issue of this Report. It was a pleasure to bring together and recognize people who have done so much for NOAA and their country. The wide range of their achievements brings home forcefully the great diversity of talent, background, and mission that go into the NOAA operation.

I hope that supervisors will inspire our people and stay close to their progress, so that when the time arrives for awards nominations, every deserving name will be submitted. Each Assistant Administrator should be constantly seeking candidates for NOAA honors. Over and above that, I want every member of the NOAA family to feel free to recommend outstanding performance to their supervisors as they see it during the year. Let's give the screening committee as many achievements as possible to evaluate.

NOAA people are outstanding across the board, but possibly nowhere more so than in the vital field of climate research and its support. Acid rain, chlorofluorocarbons, and ozone are very real factors in our lives. NOAA, working with our sister agencies, has been a leader in investigating these phenomena over the years. Our scientists have made outstanding contributions to the world's growing body of climatic knowledge; their efforts have made news headlines. Recently, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy asked your Administrator to chair the Committee on Earth Sciences to define science-based policy for global climate change. We will make every effort to meet this responsibility in the tradition of NOAA science and scientists.

Indeed, NOAA is on the move. Every one of us has the rare good fortune to be part of a unique organization, with perhaps the most exciting set of missions in the government.

Let's make the most of it.

**SARSAT Saves Nine In Greenland**:--Nine French expedition members stranded on the Greenland ice cap by high winds and ice were saved by Danish search and rescue forces recently, thanks to their SARSAT-COSPAS distress beacon, according to Jim Bailey of the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service. The expedition, conducting medical and dietary experiments, were caught in 150-kilometer-per-hour winds, blockaded by ice, and experiencing frost bite when they set off their distress beacon. In spite of winds and low visibility, a Danish rescue aircraft was able to land close to the expedition party and carry the expedition members to safety. The party's distress beacon signal, once activated, was received by the NOAA-9 polar-orbiting satellite and relayed to the SARSAT-COSPAS Mission Control Center in Toulouse, France, which in turn transmitted information about the exact location of the distress

beacon to Danish rescue forces. Since the 1982 inception of the search and rescue program known as SARSAT-COSPAS, the United States and U.S.S.R. have contributed to saving more than 600 lives.

Whaling Commission Results:--The U.S. delegation to the International Whaling Commission headed by Under Secretary Calio, which met in Bournemouth, England, on June 13-26, reports that it accomplished its twofold mission. The IWC approved a resolution strengthening the criteria for scientific permits that removes past ambiguities, and a quota on bowhead whales for Alaskan Eskimos of 32 strikes in 1987 and 35 strikes in 1988.

1986 Tornado Deaths At Record Low: --A total of 15 tornado deaths in 1986 was the lowest in recorded history, according to the National Weather Service. Records go back to 1916. The previous low was 24 deaths in 1981. There were 763 confirmed tornadoes last year, somewhat above the annual average of about 700.

Wave Propagation Laboratory To Use Lidar:--Wind-measuring Doppler lidar is being operated by NOAA's Wave Propagation Laboratory during a June 25 - July 15 experiment sponsored by NASA. (Lidar, a system of remote detection and ranging, is the laser equivalent of radar.) The project is developing methods to derive information on surface climatology from satellite measurements of radiation reflected and emitted from the earth. T. Gal-Chen of the University of Oklahoma is collaborating in the lidar program with NOAA scientists Wynn L. Eberhard and R. Michael Hardesty.

The lidar measures the wind in the daytime convective layer of the atmosphere by detecting the Doppler shift of light scattered from natural dust particles carried by the moving air. Processing techniques developed for Doppler radar data have been expanded and applied for the first time to lidar data to obtain vertical profiles of the flux of momentum and heat. Comparisons will be made with measurements by instrumented aircraft and surface stations.

NOAA Captain Marries Couple in Alaska:--On June 27, NOAA Corps Captain Carl Fisher, skipper of the NOAA ship Rainier, performed a wedding ceremony at the remote Round Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Alaska's Bristol Bay. After receiving special permission from the State of Alaska due to the inaccessibility of the site, Capt. Fisher united Judy Sherburne and Robert Lipchak, both employees of the state's Department of Fish and Game. Round Island, just a few hundred acres in size, is 10 miles from the nearest land and 30 miles from the closest habitation. The Rainier has been in the area most of the summer working on hydrographic surveys.

**Free Glaucoma Testing During July:**--The Health Unit at the Herbert C. Hoover Building is offering free glaucoma tests during July. Glaucoma is an eye disorder characterized by increased pressure in the eye, pain, and impaired vision. Without diagnosis and treatment the condition can lead to blindness. Testing is by appointment Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Call 377-4088 for an appointment.

**Washington TV To Air FERS Video:**--Washington, D.C.'s WETA Television (Channel 26) will carry the new Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) video, "Today's News - Special Edition," July 9 at 11:00 p.m., and July 12 at noon, according to the Office of Personnel Management. OPM asked a number of cable television and Public Broadcasting Service stations to show the video as a public service for federal employees and their families, and WETA was among the first to respond. Watch cable and PBS listings for showings in your area.

**Hershey Uses Vegetation Index:**--Hershey Chocolate has been using the Global Vegetation Index devised by NOAA's Environmental Satellite Data, and Information Service to monitor the global production of cocoa beans. Hershey has found that the governments of the cocoa-growing nations have unreliable statistics on crop growth and production. The Vegetation Index has provided the Pennsylvania-based company with an independent source of crop health and yield information, which enables them to buy cocoa beans at more reasonable prices.

**News Release Warns of Diving Dangers:**--A news story for release this Sunday warns recreational scuba divers that "America's coastal waters can be a source of joy and adventure--but the ocean can also be a killer and graveyard." The story offers safety tips from NOAA and the Hawaii Sea Grant College Program to help ensure safe and enjoyable diving. The advice includes: Always dive with a companion, never alone. Before diving, check equipment. Dive only in familiar waters. Know the location of the nearest hyperbaric chamber. Follow depth and time limits strictly. Learn buddy breathing. Copies of the story are available from Public Affairs (301) 377-8090.

**NWS Report Early Drought:**--The National Weather Service Office in Shreveport, La. reported the driest April on record at Shreveport, and in Texarkana, and Longview, Tex. Reports reveal that this April was the driest since 1887 at Shreveport, while the Red River Basin was the driest since April 1930.

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# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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