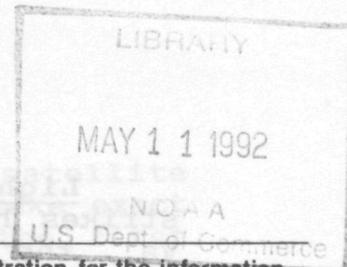
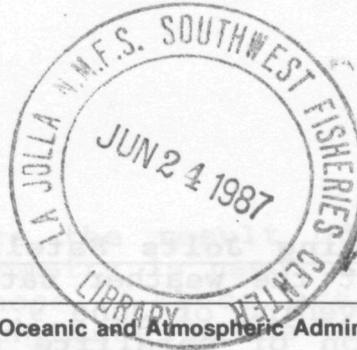




NOAA REPORT



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

June 17, 1987

COMING UP

International Whaling Commission meeting in Bournemouth, England, June 14-28.

NOAA Officer Training Class graduation in Kings Point, N.Y., June 17.

NOAA Science Seminar Series: "Applications of Biotechnology In Waste Treatment:" Dr. Ralph Portier, Louisiana State University, WSC-5, Room 926, 10:30 a.m., June 22. (Note unusual weekday.)

Interdepartmental Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research meeting in Rockville, Md., June 23.

U.S. Air Force Air Weather Service 50th anniversary at Scott AFB, Ill., June 30 - July 2.

U.S., Soviet Scientists Agree On Ozone Studies:--American and Soviet scientists have agreed to cooperate more closely in studying trace gases in the atmosphere, including ozone, which could affect global climate.

Expanding a bilateral agreement between the nations, administered in the U.S. by the NOAA-based National Climate Program Office, delegates at meetings held at the Environmental Research Laboratories in Boulder, agreed to share scientific data especially on ozone and, in particular, the Antarctic "ozone hole," which has generated worldwide attention.

Under the agreement, the United States will provide ozone monitoring equipment, including up to 50 instrument packages for measuring upper-atmosphere ozone concentrations, for use at the Soviet Union's Antarctic station.

Data on Antarctic atmospheric conditions will be exchanged systematically. The Soviet Union will provide information from rockets on atmospheric soundings from their Molodezhaya station; the United States will supply daily ozone profiles from satellites in the southern hemisphere

Lightning Jolts Satellite Receivers:--Multiple lightning strikes hit the weather satellite receiving station at Wallops, Va., the evening of June 9, causing gaps of up to nine hours in transmission of satellite weather images and data across the United States. It was the worst lightning incident the station had incurred in its 18-year history, according to Larry Heacock, Director of Satellite Operations for NOAA. Previous strikes have caused the loss of no more than an hour's worth of data and have never before hit multiple antennas, Heacock said. At least three lightning strikes caused significant damage to all six GOES antenna systems and subsystems at the Wallops station. Wallops employees worked throughout the night making temporary fixes to the transmitter and receivers. They manually refocused the antennas toward the satellites, using hand cranks. Normally the large antennas, up to 40 feet high, are automatically positioned with servo motors.

Researcher Joins Oceanographer on Climate Study:--NOAA's sister research ships, the Oceanographer and Researcher, are studying the influence of ocean circulation on global climate along an 8,000-mile course between Australia and Peru. The Oceanographer began its survey at 150 degrees west longitude, just north of Tahiti, and is sailing west to Australia. (See NOAA Report, June 3.) The Researcher began at the same location and is sailing east to Peru. The cruises will increase understanding of the upper ocean circulation across the tropical South Pacific, supplementing similar studies done in mid-latitudes. The study also will shed light on oceanic transport and storage of gases such as carbon dioxide and freon, which, in the atmosphere, can affect climate. Scientists on both ships are sampling hydrographic, nutrient, and chemical properties and conducting water circulations studies, including the circulation near the sea bottom.

NOAA Survey Shifts Points Throughout U.S.:--Satellite technology is enabling NOAA to recompute the latitude and longitude of survey points throughout the nation. As a result, National Ocean Service geodesists have changed (on paper, at least) the location of such landmarks as the Washington Monument, the Empire State Building, and the Seattle Space Needle, along with a quarter million other surveying points in North America.

An example of the precision of satellite geodesy is the "movement" of the Space Needle. As measured by satellite, it is now located 65.53 feet south and 305.26 feet west of its former position, or 312.22 feet from where it used to be.

Most people will not see these changes in their daily lives. There will be no changes to property surveys, for example. Boat owners and the marine industry, however, will notice the changes as they are applied to new editions of NOS nautical charts, and to the ultimate reprogramming of marine guidance systems.

The precise new locations are the result of satellite triangulation techniques in which geometry is used to make exact measurements of angles and distances. These are the first adjustments in latitude and longitude since 1927. The recomputations were part of a 12-year project known as the North American Datum (NAD) 83, an international task which took over 200 work-years to complete.

Hurricane Hotline Back In Operation:--For the third year running, NOAA has joined forces with AT&T, NBC News, and USA Today to offer the popular National Hurricane Telephone Hotline. The hotline, a 900 number, is activated when a hurricane or tropical storm threatens the United States. The hotline offers up to the minute information on the storm, its location, strength, and course, as well as forecasts of its movement. The hotline number: 900-410-NOAA for the continental United States and 900-410-CANE in Hawaii. The average cost of a hotline call is 80 cents.

McArthur Sails For Status and Trends:--The NOAA ship McArthur departed her home port in Seattle June 10 for work on the Status and Trends program along the Pacific coast. The program involves assessing the status and long-term changes in environmental quality of the nation's coastal and estuarine environments. Objectives include: determining concentrations of chemical contaminants in samples of sediment and bottom-dwelling fish from urban and non-urban coastal sites; and evaluating relationships between observed fish diseases and chemical contamination of fish tissues and sediment.

NMFS Man Named Congressional Fellow:--Ronald G. Rinaldo, a constituent affairs specialist with the NOAA Office of Legislative Affairs assigned to NMFS in Washington, D.C., is one of 24 federal executives chosen as Congressional Fellows in a national competition for the 1987-88 program. The fellowship recipients serve as professional staff assistants to U. S. senators and representatives for nine months beginning in November. The Congressional Fellowship Program was started by the American Political Science Association in 1953 and gives outstanding federal executives, political scientists, journalists, and medical faculty an opportunity to acquire a better understanding of the national legislative process.

NOAA Completes Monitor Mission:--The NOAA-Navy expedition to the wreck of the USS Monitor, the first national marine sanctuary, ended last week, providing the closest, most detailed look yet at the Civil War ironclad which rests upside down on its displaced gun turret in 220 feet of water 16.8 miles off Cape Hatteras, N.C. The information collected during the May 27 through June 8 archaeological expedition will be used by NOAA to study options for protecting the wreck. Expedition leaders will analyze the information gathered in the various individual studies and complete a summary report by the end of the year.

According to Dr. Dail Brown, NOAA operations manager for the expedition, "Initial analysis of the results of corrosion studies on the hull and turret indicated significant galvanic activity. The corrosion data suggest that a substantial amount of uncorroded iron remains on the wreck."

The news media was fascinated with the story of the expedition. NBC television carried several segments on the Monitor dives. The New York Times highlighted its weekly science section with a major article on the project June 9; Cable News Network ran a two minute-plus feature on June 8 and on its weekend science report June 13 and 14. Time Magazine ran a story in its June 16 issue; Parade Magazine plans a story late this summer; and numerous regional newspapers and television covered the story with feature pieces.

Don't Pester the Pups:--The National Marine Fisheries Service, with help from the Public Affairs office at the Western Regional Center in Seattle, is conducting a campaign to discourage beachgoers from interfering with seal pups there. The Fisheries Service says young seals, who seem abandoned on the beach, may be moved by well-meaning persons. The pup's parent may be foraging for food and return to find the pup missing. Deprived of its food source, the pup will starve. A program on the pups appeared on local television, and articles appeared in several coastal newspapers.

New Skipper For The Ferrel:--On June 8, Commander Burl L. Wescott relieved Commander Robert E. Hunt, Jr., as Commanding Officer of the NOAA ship Ferrel. Formal ceremonies took place on the afterdeck of the 133-foot survey ship at the Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, Va. The Ferrel is involved in projects supporting the national Status and Trends program on the Atlantic Coast.

NODC Helps Drug Interdiction Efforts:--The Coast Guard came to NOAA for help in the planning of a radar installation on Great Exuma Island in the Bahamas as part of their narcotics interdiction effort. John Sylvester, NOAA's National Oceanographic Data Center representative in Miami, recently was visited by Coast Guard personnel who needed storm surge information for Great Exuma before building the radar system to help spot drug runners.

Savings Bonds, The Great American Investment:--NOAA's Savings Bond campaign offers employees one of the fastest growing investments in America. They offer competitive market-based interest rates, tax advantages, complete security, and they're easy to buy and affordable. Payroll Savings Canvassers have complete details.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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