



NOAA REPORT

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NOAA-F/A12
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MAR 11 1994

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U.S. Dept. of Commerce

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September 2, 1987

COMING UP

U.S. Global Sea Level Observing System meeting in Washington, D.C., Sept. 8-9.

International Coordination Group for the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific meeting in Beijing, China, Sept. 8-12.

World Wilderness Congress in Denver and Estes Park, Colo., Sept. 9-18.

Mississippi River Commission low-water inspection trip down the Mississippi River, September 12-18.

NOAA-sponsored Peoples Republic of China Ocean Leading Group visit to the United States, Sept. 18-Oct. 2.

More on Arctic Project:--A research team led by NOAA's Carol Pease of the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, is engaged in an effort to understand better how the Arctic ice edge moves south in the fall, disrupting millions of dollars worth of industrial operations. (As reported in the August 12 issue of **NOAA Report**, the NOAA ship Surveyor began working on the Arctic ice project early last month.)

The group of federal, academic and industrial researchers is concentrating its efforts in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas off Alaska to study the ice edge as the freeze-up begins. Within three months, ice will cover most of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, and will move south into the Bering Sea. As it advances, fishermen, oil drillers, and tug and barge operators must modify, and in some cases suspend, operations for the winter.

Meters will be moored in all three seas to measure currents, water temperature, and conductivity. Automated weather stations will be installed at Ice Bay, Bering Strait, and east of Nome. A

helicopter crew will place instruments to record wind and air temperature and pressure along the icepack's leading edge.

The party's first goal, according to Pease, is to determine whether the ice moves south in the winter when the icepack grows in the north and is blown south, or whether the water along the leading edge freezes in place. "If we don't know what mechanism causes the freezing," Pease said, "we can't predict its advance."

A long-term goal of the studies is to enable a joint NOAA-Navy Ice Center to predict accurately the extent of sea ice at any given time, and how the ice edge advances over time.

Participating in the project with NOAA are scientists with the University of Washington, the Naval Post Graduate School, and Science Applications International Corporation. The Office of Naval Research funds the project.

Bacteria Implicated In Dolphin Deaths:--Bottlenose dolphins washing ashore from South Carolina to New Jersey are dying of infection from a range of bacteria normally found in the ocean environment with which the dolphins generally live in harmony, according to Dr. Joseph Geraci, the veterinarian heading the NOAA-sponsored team of scientists investigating the phenomena.

The team, which has been conducting its investigations of the dolphin deaths since August 6, is concentrating its efforts on what "sensitizing" event may be weakening the dolphins' defense systems, leaving them open to bacterial infection. So far, pollution does not seem to be implicated in the deaths. Other possible causes include micro-organisms - possibly a virus - or naturally occurring toxins from ocean blooms of algae. The researchers, made up of veterinarians, pathologists, oceanographers, and other from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, the Agriculture Department, Smithsonian Institution, and New England Aquarium, are continuing to perform autopsies on stranded dolphins in the Virginia Beach area.

PMC Employee of the Year:--Henry Shek, Chief of the Marine Engineering Branch of NOAA's Pacific Marine Center in Seattle, Wash, recently was named PMC Employee of the Year. Shek, a veteran of 22 years as a National Ocean Service marine engineer, was cited for managing several upgrading projects on NOAA research vessels, plus completing a number of emergency repairs, while continuing routine ship maintenance without interruption. All projects for the 12-vessel Pacific fleet were completed on schedule and within budget, according to Capt. Sigmund Peterson, PMC Deputy Director. Critical projects included the reactivation of the Oceanographer after a five-year layup completed in just two months, and the two-phase, \$4 million refit of the Discoverer.

For Spanish-Speaking Texans It's "Aviso de Tornado":--As a result of the tornado which killed 30 persons near Saragosa, Tex., last May, the Lubbock Weather Service Forecast Office was asked to assist radio station KLFB with a nearly all-day session about the storm. KLFB is the main Spanish-language radio station in the Texas South Plains and a very weather-conscious station, according to Andy Anderson, who heads the Weather Service in Lubbock. KLFB translates NOAA's watches and warnings into Spanish for immediate broadcast. The Weather Service's Spanish-speaking Alfonso Caspaneda was guest expert for the station's special tornado show which used a call-in format to allow listeners to ask questions about the Saragosa tornado and severe weather in general.

July Supply of Frozen Seafood Up from June:--The July supply of frozen fish and shellfish held in warehouses across the United States rose 11 percent from the previous month to 355 million pounds, according the National Marine Fisheries Service. Among the most important products in storage were 61.5 million pounds of frozen blocks and slabs (mostly cod, pollock, whiting, and grated minced fish), up 37 percent from June, and 70.8 million pounds of frozen fillets and steaks (mostly cod, pollock, flounders, haddock, and ocean perch), up 16 percent for the same period.

ERL Scientist Serves on Lightning Review Team:--Dr. David Rust, Chief of the Storm Electricity and Cloud Physics Research Group at the National Severe Storms Laboratory, is serving as a member of the U.S. Air Force's Lightning Review Team. The team will look into the hazards of lightning and charging phenomena to USAF launch vehicle operations. Dr. Rust has given the team the latest NOAA findings on lightning, storm electrification, and flight vehicle triggering of lightning.

"Big Bird Gets Ready for Hurricanes":--That's the title of a kit of hurricane safety material being produced by the Children's Television Network (CTN) with support from NOAA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the American Red Cross. The kit includes a 16-page, four-color brochure, a recording of "The Hurricane Blues," and a board game entitled "Hurricane Force." It provides basic hurricane facts, information about hurricanes and children, watch and warning tips, and suggestions for putting together a family safety plan and a family safety kit. The "Big Bird Gets Ready for Hurricanes" kit (named for a popular animal character appearing on CTN's "Sesame Street" television show) is the first in a series of family kits that will cover other natural hazards including earthquakes, tornadoes, etc. CTN will test all materials for their effectiveness in reaching children and their families with important safety information before they go into final production.

NOAA Anniversary Planning Begins:--Under Secretary Calio has asked the Office of Public Affairs to coordinate open house activities at NOAA facilities this fall in observance of NOAA's 17th anniversary, and has requested widespread participation. Public Affairs has offered to provide a useful checklist, model news releases, suggested radio and television announcements, and other material to help stations plan their open house. The first to respond: the World Weather Building in Camp Springs, Md., will receive visitors Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dangerous Convective Events Eyed:--Researchers from NOAA's Wave Propagation Laboratory, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and the University of Wyoming have just completed the field phase of an experiment designed to give them new insights into the life cycle of tornadic storms and the dynamics of the downdrafts that are hazardous to aircraft and the updrafts that transport polluted air into the upper troposphere. During a 47-day period, teams of scientists operated Doppler radars, instrumented aircraft, a network of surface stations, upper air sounding equipment, and photographic equipment during the data-gathering phase of CINDE - the Convection Initiation and Downburst Experiment. The observations included a wide spectrum of convective events, from the cloud-free convective boundary layer to tornado-producing severe storms. The scientists now will move on to detailed analyses of the CINDE data.

Brewer Promotes Hurricane Safety:--NOAA's work, begun last year with the Coors Brewing Company in Golden, Colo., has resulted in a three-color, 13-by-28-inch hurricane tracking chart. The chart, which also carries safety information, is available to Coors distributors as a promotional item and will be given out from Texas to Maine.

NOAA Associates Chosen for German Astronaut Program:--Two German scientists associated with NOAA have been selected to fly Space Shuttle missions early in the 1990s. Dr. Renate Brummer, attached to the Environmental Research Laboratories in Boulder, Colo., and Gerhard Thiele, a visiting scientist working with the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, N.J., were selected from 1800 German nationals who applied for the five positions available. Brummer and Thiele will start astronaut training in Germany early in 1988; beginning a three-year effort that will prepare them for the space flight as early as 1991.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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July 23, 2010