



Special Anniversary Edition

October 1, 1990

## NOAA Turns 20 With Celebrations and New Projects

NOAA employees overcame their understandable concern with the down-to-the-wire budget summit standoff and began celebration of NOAA's twentieth anniversary on September 27th.

Speaking at a party honoring NOAA's 20 years of service given by the Marine Technology Society during its MTS '90 convention in Washington last week, Deputy Secretary Thomas J.

Murrin and Under Secretary Knauss voiced concern for the hardships the budget crisis has created for the agency and urged periodic anniversary observances through the year. MTS president Richard Shamp presented Dr. Knauss with a plaque honoring NOAA—the Earth Systems Agency—and its employees on their distinguished service to the American public.

On Saturday, NOAA's Norfolk Center hosted a 20th Anniversary Open

House that drew some 1,000 visitors.

On the anniversary, October 3rd, Deputy Under Secretary Gray Castle will represent NOAA at a ceremony at the Baltimore Aquarium marking the release of the Postal Service's new "Creatures of the Sea" commemorative stamps. Featuring four marine mammals—the killer whale, the common dolphin, the sea otter, and the

Northern Sea Lion—the block of stamps is a joint issue of the United States and the Soviet Union. As part of the ceremony, the Postal Service will pay tribute to NOAA's 20th anniversary and our role as the protector of three of the four species pictured on the stamps. The featured speakers on the program are White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and NOAA's Dr. Robert Miller of Seattle.

And watch your newspaper and television (and listen to your radio) for features covering NOAA's accomplishments and scope of its mission. Team 20, NOAA's coordinating group for 20th anniversary activities, has worked closely with the Public Affairs staff and is optimistic that NOAA will be prominently featured during our anniversary week.



### Software Saves Satellite

A \$70 million NOAA polar-orbiting weather satellite, NOAA-11, has been saved from tumbling out of control 529 miles in space by the slim margin of 44 days by a computer program which successfully commanded it to fly right.

NOAA-11 provides twice-daily global visible and infrared weather pictures and monitors distress signals from aircraft and ships.

Programmers from General Electric Astro Space Division, Princeton, N.J., began the urgent task of writing a new instruction for the satellite's on-board computer, one that would allow it to be controlled by a single gyro. Satellites are launched with four gyros, and three are required to keep it from tumbling out of orbit. After one failed, and the additional gyro took over, no spares were left.

*continued on next page*

### Coming Events

- National Weather Service Employees Organization Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minn., Oct. 5-6.
- Fisheries presentation at Fish and Wildlife Service's Upper Level Management Development Program Training in Leesburg, Va., Oct. 16.

*continued from previous page*

NOAA-11 signaled to the Satellite Operations Control Center in Suitland, Md., that a second gyro was about to fail last May.

## **Satellite Rescues Fishermen, Boat**

A NOAA search-and-rescue satellite spotted a leaking Mississippi fishing boat's distress signal in the early morning darkness last week, triggering the rescue of its five-man crew.

Once located by satellite, the Silk Ridge, with Capt. Douglas Horn and a crew of four, received emergency Coast Guard assistance 10 miles off Venice, La. The vessel had taken on water through its propeller shaft, shorting out its electrical system and cutting off radio capability.

### **Radio Beacon**

The crew turned to its 406 megahertz Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), which had been installed only a month ago. The beacon transmits each ship's unique identification to a NOAA geostationary operational environmental satellite, orbiting the earth from 22,300 miles in space.

The GOES satellite detected the Silk Ridge's distress signal Friday at about 1:25 a.m. The GOES experimental system provides instantaneous alert that a ship is in trouble, but it does not define precise location. The NOAA alert was received by a Canadian-based ground station and sent to the

NOAA Mission Control Center in Suitland, Md., which notified the Coast Guard.

### **Soviet Polar Satellite**

A low-orbiting Soviet polar satellite, part of the cooperative search-and-rescue system in which the U.S.S.R. and NOAA participate, pinpointed the vessel's location for rescue controllers at NOAA and the 8th Coast Guard District, New Orleans. An 8th District helicopter found the vessel and dropped water pumps. A 41-foot utility boat from the Venice, La., Coast Guard station assisted the crew in stopping the leak. The Silk Ridge was able to motor to its home port of Pascagoula, Miss.

The international arrangement, called the COSPAS/SARSAT system, has saved upward of 1500 lives since its inception in the 1970s.

## **Whiting Spoilage Slowed**

All of the Pacific whiting caught by the domestic fishing industry in 1991 could be processed and none wasted, thanks to an enzyme inhibitor which slows the spoilage of the fish, a NOAA study reports.

The nearly completed 1991 season survey of domestic annual Pacific whiting processing says that no whiting would be lost to spoilage between being caught and being processed in the coming year if treated with the inhibitor.

The prediction of increased whiting processing comes at a time when the demand for Pacific whiting is increasing, due to the high competition and short seasons for

Alaska pollock, one of the most heavily caught fish in the U.S. commercial fishing industry. Pacific whiting and Alaska pollock are similar, allowing pollock processors to switch to the more abundant whiting.

## **McGunigal Named GOES Chief**

Thomas McGunigal has been named program manager for the GOES project (Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites).

With 30 years of experience in spacecraft and ground system design, development and operations, McGunigal will manage the development of future GOES under NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS). He has extensive experience in the development of microwave and optical systems, receivers, transmitters and antennas for NASA's Spaceflight Tracking Data Network and Manned Flight Networks.

## **Documentary to be Filmed at ERL**

*Beyond 2000*, an Australian-produced television program which looks at the future, will film a solar documentary at NOAA's Environmental Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colo., this October. *Beyond 2000* is telecast in the U.S. on the Discovery Channel.

## **Maryland Bay Joins Chesapeake Reserve**

Ceremonies to mark the inclusion of Jug Bay in the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve were held at Pautuxent River Park, Upper Marlboro, Md. on Sept. 22. Jug Bay, in Anne Arundel County, Md. is one of three components of the research reserve, and will join Monie Bay in Somerset County, and Otter Point Creek in Harford County, Md.

### **It Was 20 Years Ago Today...**

Wednesday, October 3rd, marks NOAA's 20th anniversary. And what better time to inaugurate the first of many changes you'll see in NOAA Report. We hope you like our new format. Look in coming issues for more changes, as we try to make NOAA Report easier to read and more responsive to your needs. We'd be happy to hear your thoughts on our new look. Send your comments to Editor, NOAA Report, Public Affairs Office, 6013 HCHB, Washington, D.C. 20230.

# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

## **ERRATA NOTICE**

One or more conditions of the original document may affect the quality of the image, such as:

Discolored pages

Faded or light ink

Binding intrudes into the text

This has been a co-operative project between the NOAA Central Library and the Climate Database Modernization Program, National Climate Data Center (NCDC). To view the original document, please contact the NOAA Central Library in Silver Spring, MD at (301) 713-2607 x124 or [Library.Reference@noaa.gov](mailto:Library.Reference@noaa.gov)

HOV Services  
Imaging Contractor  
12200 Kiln Court  
Beltsville, MD 20704-1387  
July 23, 2010