



October 15, 1990

South Pole Ozone Loss Nears Record

Ozone depletion over the South Pole, where an ozone hole opens annually, has nearly equalled that of 1987, the worst year on record, according to NOAA scientists.

Instruments at NOAA's monitoring site at South Pole Station, Antarctica, measured 130 Dobson units of ozone in the air column above the measuring site. That reading nearly equals the lowest ever recorded for the stratosphere over South Pole, on October 9, 1987.

Atlantic Striped Bass Catch Banned

The harvest and possession of Atlantic striped bass in Federal waters will be prohibited as of November 1.

With the exception of an area in Block Island Sound, R.I., the prohibition will affect the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), an area three to 200 miles out from the Atlantic coast. The Block Island Sound exception allows fishermen to transport striped bass taken legally in state waters to the mainland.

The new regulations will prevent large harvest of striped bass in the EEZ, which could seriously damage efforts to increase the bass stock, which is beginning to recover from a severe decline in the 1970s and early 1980s. The prohibition will also complement existing state regulations. ☉

The measurement, made by balloon-borne ozonesonde, is of the total amount of ozone in a column of air above the surface extending nearly to the top of the atmosphere. Except for this time of year when ozone deterioration occurs over Antarctica, the normal Dobson unit reading is 200.

PC Service Brings Satellite Data Down to Earth

NOAA has begun operation of a new electronic bulletin board service (BBS), NOAA.SAT, providing more timely satellite information to a wider array of users worldwide.

NOAA.SAT provides an immediate, inexpensive and simple method for individuals, schools, industry, satellite station

operators and researchers to access the latest satellite information by using a computer, a modem and a phone line. The BBS contains the latest satellite developments, launch schedules, and orbital predictions, and can be accessed through the Omnet/Sciencenet computer networks. Potential users number 2000 in more than 120 countries. ☉

Satellite Search & Rescue Exercise Slated

The U.S. and nine member countries of the COSPAS/SARSAT (Search-and-Rescue Satellite-aided tracking) system will participate in an international exercise of search and rescue beacons, satellites, ground stations and operating procedures October 22-26.

The non-stop exercise is designed to test the amount of stress the system can take, fine tuning its hardware and software. Personnel and equipment will actively process data from 36 test emergency beacons activated simultaneously around the world. Worldwide data will be forwarded to

NOAA's U.S. Mission Control Center, in Suitland, Md. for analysis.

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Coming Events

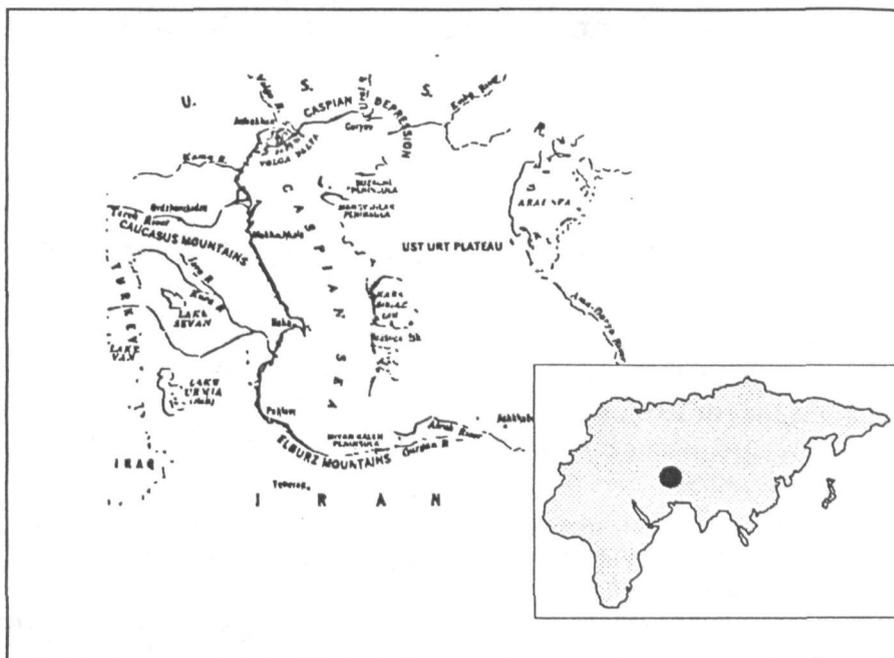
- 'Toward Improved World Fishery Statistics' Planning Workshop in Woods Hole, Mass., Oct. 22-23.
- U.S.-Iceland Workshop for Cooperation on North Atlantic Climate Variability, in Baltimore, Md., Oct. 22-23.
- Third U.S.-European Data Requirements Meeting in Silver Spring, Md., Oct. 23-25.

Short Takes

Scientists Eye Hurricanes: The oceanic convective cell--the building block of hurricanes--is being studied by airborne NOAA scientists. NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (Hurricane Research Division) studied hurricanes as they formed over the eastern Bahamas late last month. Documentation of the dynamics, microphysics and electrification of a cell will aid scientists in the hurricane observation program with interpretation of hurricane data.

Dams on Disk: NOAA's Hydrological Research Laboratory will distribute a catalog on computer disk of 70,000 dams in the U.S., including predictions of how flooding from a failure of the dam would affect towns downstream. The listings, divided by Weather Service Office areas, are being sent to each NWS forecast office, River Forecast Center and Regional Headquarters.

GLREL Goes Glasnost: Scientists from NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) are working with Soviet scientists to study how climate changes on the Caspian Sea (see map above) affect the region's water supply. Information gathered will be used to develop broader research on other U.S. and Soviet large lake systems.



NOAA scientists are studying the climate changes on the Caspian Sea, the largest inland salt lake in the world.

Monks in Decline: Births of Hawaiian monk seals were in sharp decline during the 1990 breeding season, according to observers at the Honolulu Laboratory's Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Program. Total births in the northwestern Hawaiian islands, the seal's main breeding grounds, were down 36 percent from 1988. The number of births had been increasing since 1983, when the breeding grounds were first observed.

Turtles and Fish Found on Texas Beaches: Large numbers of turtles and fish washed ashore on the upper Texas coast this summer, while shrimping and menha-

den fishing vessels worked the coastal waters. Twenty nine turtles, including 19 Kemp's ridleys, were found from early August through the end of September; of these, 18 were found within four days of the first sightings of menhaden boats. ☼

Search and Rescue

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Ground stations (called Local User Terminals) in Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Hong Kong, India, Norway, United Kingdom, U.S and U.S.S.R. will be used, as well as four fully operational spacecraft, two American and two Soviet. ☼

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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