



September 24, 1990

## COMING UP

Large Marine Ecosystem Concept International  
Conference in Monaco, Oct. 1-6.

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Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Meeting in  
Portland, Me., Oct. 11-12.

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U.S.-Iceland Workshop exploring future cooperation  
in the North Atlantic in Baltimore, Md., Oct. 23-26!

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**Marine Habitat Restoration Symposium Set:**--An international panel of experts is scheduled to explore how best to restore our nation's damaged coasts in NOAA's first-ever symposium on the subject, tomorrow and Wednesday in the Department of Commerce Auditorium in Washington.

Fifteen eminent scientists and researchers from such fields as ecology, marine biology, fisheries biology and physical and chemical oceanography will present the latest available techniques and data being used to restore habitats. Among the topics scheduled to be discussed are restoration of salt marshes, seagrasses, coral reefs, mangroves and other critical ecosystems harmed by man's actions, as well as how to determine the costs and benefits of restoration. Michael R. Deland, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, will give the keynote address.

Copies of the proceedings, including opening remarks, reports, presentations and panel discussion, will be made available at a later date.

**NOAA Researchers Speed Ozone Hole Growth Detection:**--NOAA polar satellites have detected development of the Antarctic ozone hole a month earlier than previously possible, using a new formula which utilizes infrared night sounding and new data techniques. Until now, views of the ozone hole's development have been possible only during a brief season of polar daylight.

Previous scientific observations of the ozone hole from satellites, ground-based sensors, balloons and high altitude aircraft depended upon reflection of ultraviolet light from the

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earth's surface and atmosphere, as well as directly from the sun, and could not be made in the darkness of Southern Hemisphere winter.

Year-round study of the changing size of the ozone hole gives scientists a better picture of how ozone concentrations increase and decrease, and may help explain some of the scientific uncertainties which have puzzled researchers in previous years. Historically, the ozone hole reaches its maximum size in October each year, but until now scientists could not accurately measure its growth before about September 20th. NOAA researchers used satellite sounder data to record the total amount of ozone each week, from August 20th to September 10th.

Ozone in the stratosphere protects living things from harm caused by the sun's ultraviolet rays. Excess ultraviolet rays can cause skin cancer and cataracts in humans and are harmful to animals and crops.

Previous studies by a team of researchers from NOAA, NASA and the University of Colorado have shown that ozone depletion in the Arctic is also more serious than previously thought, with some areas showing losses of 35 percent. (See *NOAA Report*, Sept. 10, 1990, p. 2)

**Monterey Sanctuary Hearings Draw SRO Crowds:**--NOAA held three days of public hearings in three central California cities on the proposed Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The hearings, in Monterey, Santa Cruz and Half Moon Bay, Calif.) drew standing room turnouts of more than 1300 people. Virtually all who testified were in favor of the largest sanctuary boundary of the seven that NOAA is considering, and asked for tight restrictions or outright bans on oil and gas development, commercial vessel traffic, sewage discharges and "thrill craft" in the area.

**Dolphin Swap Stopped:**--NOAA Public Affairs is providing information to the national media as the case of the New England Aquarium's dolphin, Rainbow, unfolds. The Aquarium planned to exchange Rainbow for a Navy dolphin, only to be sued (as was NOAA) by a New England animal rights organization, CEASE, which charged a putative violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Meanwhile, Rainbow remains at the aquarium.

**TEDs Compliance Climbs:**--Compliance with regulations mandating the use of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) by Gulf shrimpers increased to 84 percent for the week of Sept. 5 through 12. In southwest Florida, agents conducted two shrimp boat boardings and discovered no violations. According to the agents, the shrimpers said they had resigned themselves to using the devices. The report is much the same in the Canaveral area where two vessels in a fleet of twelve were randomly boarded and found to be in compliance.

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July 23, 2010