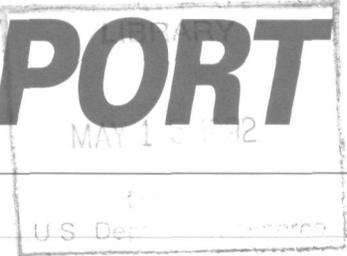


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# NOAA REPORT



Vol. 1, No. 1

May 1992

## NOAA to Take Action on Sanctuary

**Damage:** NOAA officials are examining legal options to prevent further damage to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary by Salvors Inc., the owner of a local treasure hunting and salvage company.

The action is being taken following investigations in an area of the sanctuary known as Coffin's Patch, located about three miles offshore from Marathon, Fl. Recent exploratory dives by sanctuary officials revealed the existence of a mile-long stretch of "blow holes," which are left behind when treasure hunters anchor boats and redirect propeller wash to blast holes in the ocean floor. This

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method of uncovering buried artifacts, referred to as "mailboxing," left behind dozens of large holes in the seabed, each three to ten feet deep and 20 to 30 feet in diameter.

**Gulf Dolphin Strandings:** NMFS is continuing its coordination of efforts to gather information on the recent bottlenose dolphin strandings in the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent bays. Since the beginning of March 1992, there have been at least 118 dolphins stranded along the Texas coast. The reported strandings are primarily along the bay areas adjacent to Aransas and Calhoun counties. NMFS has sent scientists to assess the situation, and to help coordinate the efforts with the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and other local agencies, researchers and volunteers.

**Chinook Listed:** NMFS has listed the *continued on page 4*



NOAA ship *Mt. Mitchell*

# Mt. Mitchell Investigates Arabian Gulf Oil Spills

The NOAA Corps ship *Mt. Mitchell* has reached the half-way point of its 100-day investigation of the environmental impact of the oil spills unleashed on the Arabian Gulf by Iraq during Operation Desert Storm last year.

Between six and eight million gallons of oil were dumped in the Gulf in January 1991. As the oil slick moved south along the Saudi Arabian coast, winds drove it onto shore and then back, leaving almost all of the northern Saudi coastline heavily contaminated. The Gulf oil spills were the largest in history, dwarfing the spill of the *Exxon Valdez* in Alaska's Prince William Sound. The Valdez leak, only four percent of the total Gulf spill, was also spread over a much larger coastal area.

Among the research the *Mt. Mitchell* will conduct are studies of the Gulf's circulation and temperature;

chemical, physical and ecological analyses of two Saudi coastal regions; and studies of the level of contamination of the Gulf's commercial fisheries.

The research cruise is part of a program sponsored by the United Nations Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment, a group of Gulf states.

The 231-foot ship is based in Norfolk, Va. at the Atlantic Marine Center, and has a crew of 50. □

After a ten-month hiatus, **NOAA Report** is back with a new look but with the same news and information you need every month. And if you have any news or developments about your program or operations, call us at (202) 377-8090, and we'll try to include it in an upcoming issue. □

# Monitor is Part of America's Heritage

**L**ike all good things, she was born in Brooklyn. The USS Monitor was the engineering marvel of its day. She had the world's first revolving gun turret, the first practical example of a sea-going screw propeller—and the first flushing marine toilet. Her short but heralded life is part of our Nation's history, and one of the important reasons the Monitor is preserved today as part of the first ever National Marine Sanctuary, administered by NOAA's National Ocean Service.

The Monitor was designed by the Swedish engineer John Ericsson, and built at the famed Brooklyn Navy Yard in only 110 days. She was an ironclad, her wooden frame covered by 3- to 5-inch thick iron plates. Launched in January 1862, the 179-foot ship would not last out the year.

During the Civil War, the Union

Navy had blockaded the Confederate port of Norfolk, Va., after earlier abandoning the Norfolk Navy Yard and sinking its ships, including the Merrimack. The Confederates later raised the Merrimack, converted her to an ironclad, and renamed her the Virginia. In March 1862, the Virginia sailed into nearby Hampton Roads, Va., trying to break the Union blockade of wooden ships. She managed to sink or destroy the Congress and the Cumberland, and scattered the remaining ships, with no damage to herself.

## An Epic Battle, Fought to a Draw

It was then that the Union decided to pit the Monitor against the Merrimack. After a precarious maiden voyage to Hampton Roads from Brooklyn, the two ships engaged in a close-range four hour duel on March 9, 1862, that left both severely damaged,

the battle a stalemate. It was the world's first battle of ironclad ships.

Neither the Monitor nor the Merrimack survived to see 1863. The Merrimack was blown up by its crew in May 1862 after the Confederates were forced to abandon Norfolk. The Monitor sank in heavy seas on December 31, 1862, with 16 sailors aboard.

## Good Condition

Today, the Monitor lies in a protected marine sanctuary, 16 miles off Cape Hatteras, N.C. A number of expeditions to the underwater site have found the ship to be in good condition, given her age. Her anchor and lantern, as well as other artifacts, have been recovered, and can be seen on display at the Mariners' Museum of Newport News, Va.

But though neither ship won the battle, they have become part of American legend: their clash signaled the end of the era of wooden fighting ships and the beginning of modern naval history. □

## NOAA Moves to Ensure Safety of USS Monitor Sanctuary and Artifacts

Ever since she was commissioned in 1862, the U.S.S. Monitor has been a ship of myth and controversy. Her short though memorable history—launched from the Brooklyn Navy Yard, a Civil War battle with the Merrimack, and her sinking off Cape Hatteras, N.C., all within a single year—is the stuff of seafaring legend. The wreck of the Monitor also holds the distinction of being the first National Marine Sanctuary, designated by NOAA in 1975 and run by NOAA's National Ocean Service. It's this latter honor that's put the Civil War ironclad, and NOAA's policy of restricting diving around the site, in the headlines around the nation recently.

"The story of the Monitor and its historical significance is known to

school children from grade one on up," said Cmdr. William Harrigan, acting director of the National Marine Sanctuary program. "It is also important from an engineering standpoint. It changed the whole complexion of the Navy and played a significant role in the Civil War, although it was only in existence about nine months." (See story above.)

While both NOAA and diver-attorney Peter Hess agree the Monitor is deteriorating in its watery grave, they differ when it comes to how fast the ship is decaying. While Hess has said that the Monitor is in danger of collapse within a few years, NOS officials and other divers dispute this. Rod Farb, a photographer and author who has been given permission to dive *continued on page 4*

## NOAA's Diving Policy at Marine Sanctuaries

Although NOAA currently restricts access to the site of the wreck of the Monitor for research purposes, the general policy in all other protected marine sanctuaries is to allow recreational diving which does not harm or remove sanctuary resources.

In fact, research on submerged historical resources which doesn't harm them is greatly encouraged, as is recreational diving. Recreational diving is allowed at all National Marine Sanctuaries, except the Monitor. The common ethic of the recreational diver is "take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but bubbles." That's a conservation attitude that NOAA—and the diving community—can share. □



Dr. Robert M. White

## NOAA's First Administrator Honored

Dr. Robert M. White, one of the nation's premier environmental scientists and NOAA's first leader, has been proving his worth as a champion of environmental causes since NOAA was just a gleam in the eye of President Richard Nixon. Through his accomplishments as NOAA's first administrator, which range from pioneering the World Weather Watch to designating the first National Marine Sanctuary, Dr. White helped design and build the machinery through which society observes and understands the Earth's natural resources. Now, 20 years later, he is receiving yet another honor for his innovative approach to the environment.

The 1992 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement seems to have been created specifically with Dr. White in mind. Conceived in 1973 by John Tyler, founder of the Farmers Insurance Group, the award is presented for the protection, maintenance, improvement or understanding of ecological and environmental conditions. With seven years as NOAA administrator and extensive service to a long list of other science organizations, Dr. White's influence can be seen in almost every aspect of the scientific world.

The Tyler prize is awarded annually to as many as three individuals active in

## NMFS Pact With Black University Sends A Marine Scientist Back to College

An arrangement between the Southeast Fishery Center and Jackson State University (JSU), Jackson, Miss., will for the first time put a NMFS research scientist on the campus of a historically Black university in a mission to attract more Black students to the marine sciences.

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the fishery center and the 6,500-student college was announced in late March. Jackson State officials say about 30

the area of environmental conservation.

Selected by President Richard M. Nixon in 1970 as NOAA's first administrator, White helped shape the future of our science agency by pushing preservation and conservation measures to the top of NOAA's agenda. Among his accomplishments were drastic improvements of U.S. weather warning systems through revolutionized satellite and computer technology, leading early efforts to curtail whale hunting, and designation of the first marine sanctuary.

As permanent U.S. representative to the World Meteorological Organization from 1963 to 1978, White was a lead scientist in the Global Atmospheric Research Program, which utilized Earth-orbiting satellites to observe the global environment. One of the most important findings of the program focused on the significance of tropical cloud systems to heat and water sources.

White was an early advocate of legislation that enhanced NOAA's marine conservation responsibilities, including the Magnuson Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act. He was also personally involved in the creation, passage and execution of the Coastal Zone Management Act, which provides for National Marine Sanctuaries.

—*Christine Bershers* □

students are expected to participate in the joint program. Of 117 historically Black schools, only four—JSU, Savannah State, Hampton Institute and University of Maryland-Eastern Shore—offer marine science programs.

### A Non-Traditional Field

"It is not traditional for minorities to choose this field," said Jonathan Wilson, director of Jackson State's marine science program. "Less than 10 percent are minorities."

As part of the agreement, a NMFS research scientist will be stationed on the JSU campus to direct projects and increase the students' awareness of career opportunities in marine science, said Dr. Brad Brown, director of the Southeast Fisheries Research Center, Miami. The pact will also enhance JSU's ties to other marine science schools. JSU students will also be able to participate on research cruises during the summer.

"Jackson State has a track record of producing students successful in this area," said Brown.

The agreement also shows the interest of both NOAA and JSU in the future of marine science.

"All who look at the demographics of our future society realize the need to increase the base from which our scientists are drawn. This is especially true in the marine science area," according to the signed MOU. "Efforts by Jackson State are effectively addressing this issue and by placing a National Marine Fisheries Service staff member on campus, we will enhance that effort."

Much of the research planned will take place in the Gulf of Mexico, off the Mississippi Gulf coast. □

*continued from page 1*  
spring/summer and fall runs of chinook salmon on the Snake River as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The decision to list was based on the best scientific data available on the status of these populations.

**Salmon Bycatch in Whiting Fishery Cut:** NMFS has approved an emergency rule that will implement measures for reducing the bycatch of salmon and rockfish in the Pacific whiting fishery? The rule approves a recommendation made by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. The main components of this emergency rule restricts the areas where whiting

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can be processed at sea and fished for, the bycatch limit of whiting, and times for the whiting fishery.

**Super Iceberg:** The Navy/NOAA Joint Ice Center has cautioned ocean vessels in the South Atlantic to exercise "extreme caution" as a super iceberg began breaking-up in "warmer" southern waters northeast of the Falkland Islands ending its five year, 2400 mile odyssey. The super berg, called "A-24," was originally larger than the size of Rhode Island (46 by 52 miles) before it broke into four colossal chunks in "warmer" 10 degree Celsius waters. The four major portions measure from 6-by-19 miles to 16-by-28 miles.

**Diving Manual Out:** An updated version of the NOAA Diving Manual, a standard reference for professional and recreational underwater divers, is available through the U.S. Government Printing Office. Cost of the over 600-page manual, historically one of GPO's best sellers, is \$56 (\$70 for non-U.S. orders).

**Three Named to Posts:** Dr. William H. Hooke was recently named as Acting Chief Scientist. Dr. W. Stanley Wilson was recently named NOS head. Stewart S. Remer, was named Director of Personnel and Civil Rights. □



*The Monitor battles the Virginia, formerly the Merrimack, in this artist's rendering based on the famous 1865 fight.*

## Monitor Sanctuary Safety Cited in Decision

*continued from page 2*

to the Monitor, was quoted by the Associated Press as saying that the ship "will probably be virtually unrecognizable in another 100 years," but was in no danger of imminent collapse. Farb has scheduled a return dive to the wreck of the Monitor this month.

Hess subsequently petitioned NOS for permission to dive to the ship, 235 feet under water, in 1991 and was turned down later that year. He later appealed, and was again denied the diving permit. NOS officials said that Hess, who had taken part in a 1990 Monitor photography expedition, had not shown he was qualified to lead a research mission to the Monitor. Hess had said he wanted to use electronic devices to measure the extent of corrosion on the ship. His appeal was denied on March 26, 1992 by NOS Deputy Assistant Administrator John Carey.

While recreational diving is allowed in all other National Marine Sanctuaries, it's greatly restricted around the Monitor, because of the wreck's fragility and its status as "the

most significant archeological site in the sanctuary program . . . [possibly] the Nation's most important undisturbed submerged historical resource. . . . [R]esearch applications are carefully scrutinized to ensure that the risk to the resource is justified by the value of the research." (See story, page 2.)

Although NOS rejected his appeal, Hess can still appeal the denial to a federal court. NOS and Hess are planning to meet to discuss the requirements for a proposed dive this summer. □

*NOAA Report* is a monthly publication for senior NOAA managers and their staffs from the NOAA Office of Public Affairs, Washington.

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Reed Boatright *Director, Public Affairs*

Jerry Slaff *Editor*

May 1992

## Rescue System Hailed; Has Saved 2,000 Since '82

The satellite search and rescue system ordered developed by Congress in the wake of the 1972 air crash deaths of then-House Majority Leader Hale Boggs (D-LA) and Rep. Nick Begich (D-AL) will be expanded to better locate downed aircraft and mariners in trouble.

In a Capitol Hill ceremony honoring Congressional proponents of the expanded system, NOAA administrator John A. Knauss hailed the SARSAT system for saving 2,364 lives and millions of dollars in property since 1982. By the end of 1993, NESDIS will have three U.S. Coast Guard-funded ground tracking stations in Wahiawa, Hawaii; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Anderson Air Force Base, Guam. SARSAT can pinpoint locations of emergency transmitter signals within one to three miles.

### *Bluefin Quota Proposed*

New NMFS regulations proposed late last month will cut by 10 percent the U.S. commercial and recreational quota of Atlantic bluefin tuna to comply with the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

The reductions in each category are based on an average harvest from recent years and more accurately reflect the dependence of each category on the bluefin tuna fishery.

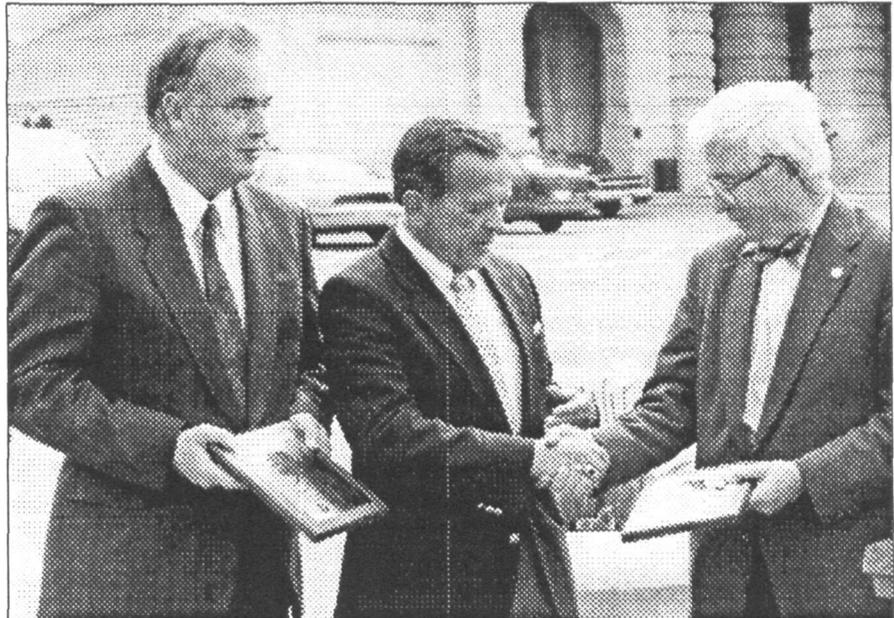
The first of several public hearings on the proposed allocation were held April 27, at National Marine Fisheries Service headquarters in Silver Spring, Md. Additional hearings will be announced. The *continued on next page*

SARSAT is the acronym for the U.S.-commanded search and rescue satellite-aided tracking network. Russia, France, Great Britain, Canada and 20 other nations participate.

The search and rescue locating system, pioneered by NASA and operated by NOAA since 1984, currently uses six polar-orbiting satellites (three U.S., three Russian) and 17 fixed ground stations in nine

countries around the globe to detect and relay emergency beacon signals sent by aviators and mariners in distress. Studies show that survivors of an aircraft crash may have less than a 10 percent chance of living if rescue is delayed beyond two days.

A new mobile tracking terminal will be used by NOAA in rapid response rescue situations in remote areas of the world. This terminal, housed in a camper-size van, contains radio reception electronics and a satellite tracking antenna mounted on a companion trailer. □



NOAA Administrator John Knauss (r.) honored Senators Ted Stevens (c.; R-Alaska) and Frank H. Murkowski (l.; R-Alaska) and four others (Ernest F. Hollings, D-SC; John C. Danforth, R-MO; Daniel K. Inouye, D-HI; and Jeff Bingaman, D-NM), at a Capitol Hill ceremony marking the passage of Senate Bill 194. The Bill improves and increases SARSAT, NOAA's search and rescue satellite-aided tracking system.

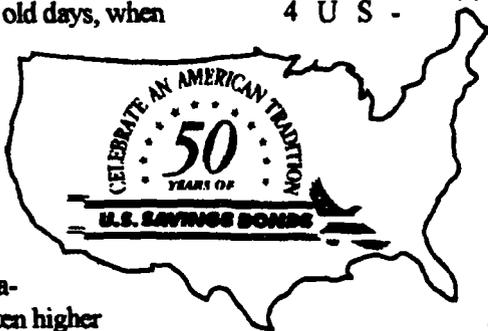
# Savings Bonds Offer Investors High Rates and Safety

This month, federal employees are being asked to help their country, and help themselves at the same time--by buying U.S. Savings Bonds.

Though they can trace their roots back to the War Bonds and Liberty Bonds of World War II, Savings Bonds are up-to-date, and may be the right investment for you now. Unlike the old days, when Savings Bond interest rates lagged behind those offered by banks and mutual funds, Bonds pay rates which are comparable to--and often higher than--certificates of deposits, money market accounts and passbook savings accounts. With today's lower interest rates, it's hard to find

a better paying investment.

If market interest rates rise, the interest your bonds pay will also rise. You can track in market-based rate for your Bonds by calling 1-800-4 U S - BOND toll-free.



And they're easy to buy--almost painless--through payroll deductions. You can name the amount you want to invest, and each pay period, that amount will be deducted from your paycheck. When you've accumulated enough to buy a bond, you'll be mailed one.

While you get the best interest rate

if you hold a bond for at least five years, they're a liquid investment, too. You can redeem a bond at any commercial bank in the country after you've held it for at least six months.

Here's a few more reasons to invest in Savings Bonds:

- Bi-weekly investments in savings bonds add up quickly. If you save \$25 every pay period, after five years you'll have over \$3000; after ten years, over \$8000. You can save as little or as much as you want.
- Bonds are one of the safest investments you can make. Bonds are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. And if they're lost or stolen, you can get a free replacement.
- Bonds may be free of federal tax if they're used to pay for higher education.
- Bonds can provide you with tax-deferred income for retirement.
- Bonds help your country and the economy. By issuing bonds to the public, the federal government doesn't have to go to other, more expensive sources to borrow funds.

## Male (and Female) Bonding

This month, chances are you'll be approached by a co-worker named as a Savings Bonds canvasser. When they call on you, read the literature and make your own decision. But if you check out your other financial choices, you'll see that U.S. Savings Bonds are one of the safest, and highest paying, investments you can own. □

## Bluefin Tuna Quota Proposed

*continued from previous page*  
proposed rules will be open for public comment until May 23. □

## 'Take Pride in America' Campaign to Clean River

The onset of spring stirs a lot of images to mind; flowers blooming, closet and garage cleaning . . . and the kickoff campaign for "Take Pride in America."

In 1985 the Department of the Interior initiated "Take Pride in America," a national public awareness program designed to educate and motivate Americans to preserve and enhance our Nation's natural, cultural and historical resources.

Over the past seven years, "Take Pride in America" has grown dramatically and now includes a nationwide partnership of volunteers from 14 Federal agencies, 50 states and the private sector.

Throughout the country, Take Pride partners have coordinated environmental conservation programs such as beach and river cleanups, nature trail clearing and mapping throughout National parks, and graffiti removal in school yards; to name a few.

Interior has officially designated May as "Take Pride in America" month. To kick off the 1992 season, the Commerce Department has coordinated with the Anacostia Watershed Society to participate in an Anacostia River clean up on Saturday, May 9.

### Restoring Riverbeds

Teams from 14 Federal agencies and private sector groups will organize to bag trash, remove debris and restore wildlife habitats along the riverbed. For more information on this project, contact your office's Public Affairs representative. Commerce officials hope all metro Washington DOC employees show their support for this effort.

Both DOC and NOAA have been avid participants in "Take Pride in America" programs since its inception in 1985 and will continue to celebrate the spirit of community involvement by promoting several projects throughout the year.

--Joan Sckalor □



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Office of the Under Secretary for**  
**Oceans and Atmosphere**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear NOAA REPORT reader:

NOAA REPORT, the newsletter for all NOAA senior managers, is back. We've re-examined it, and made some changes we think you'll appreciate:

- NOAA REPORT is now a monthly. We give you the information you need to know about NOAA, its operations, and how other senior managers in NOAA agencies are dealing with the many challenges we're facing.
- A NEWS BRIEFS section brings you up to date--quickly--on important NOAA news.
- We've switched to an easier-to-handle folded format, without staples. This will make it easier for your staff to make their own photocopies of each issue. (Unfortunately, our current budget precludes full distribution to all our 14,000 employees.) Additionally, we're making copies available at strategic locations at facilities with a large NOAA presence.

You'll also appreciate our new monthly supplement, NOAA NOW, included in every issue, which gives you late breaking, spot news. NOAA NOW has a later deadline than NOAA REPORT, meaning if breaking news develops after NOAA REPORT has gone to the printer, it will be in NOAA NOW.

I hope you'll find NOAA REPORT and NOAA NOW useful management and information tools. And since we're constantly trying to make our publications more valuable for our NOAA audience, I'd like to hear your comments and suggestions. You can write to me at:

NOAA Public Affairs  
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14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Herbert C. Hoover Building  
Room 6203  
Washington, D.C. 20230

As NOAA's role as a leading federal science agency grows in importance, there's more and more news you need to know to stay abreast in your job. I hope NOAA REPORT and NOAA NOW will help keep you informed about how the entire agency is meeting its challenges.

Sincerely,

Reed Boatright

Director  
NOAA Public Affairs



# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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