

NOAA REPORT



Vol. II, No. 6

June 1993

Leadership in Place as Baker, Hall, Sullivan Win Senate Approval

The NOAA leadership was confirmed by the U.S. Senate one day before the Memorial Day recess, on May 28.

They were scheduled to be sworn in, with ceremonies at the Department's Washington headquarters, in early June.

The new NOAA administration includes:

- ❖ **Dr. D. James Baker**, new NOAA Administrator and Commerce Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, president of the Joint Oceanographic Institutions, a Washington-based ocean research management institute. Dr. Baker previously served with NOAA at the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory as

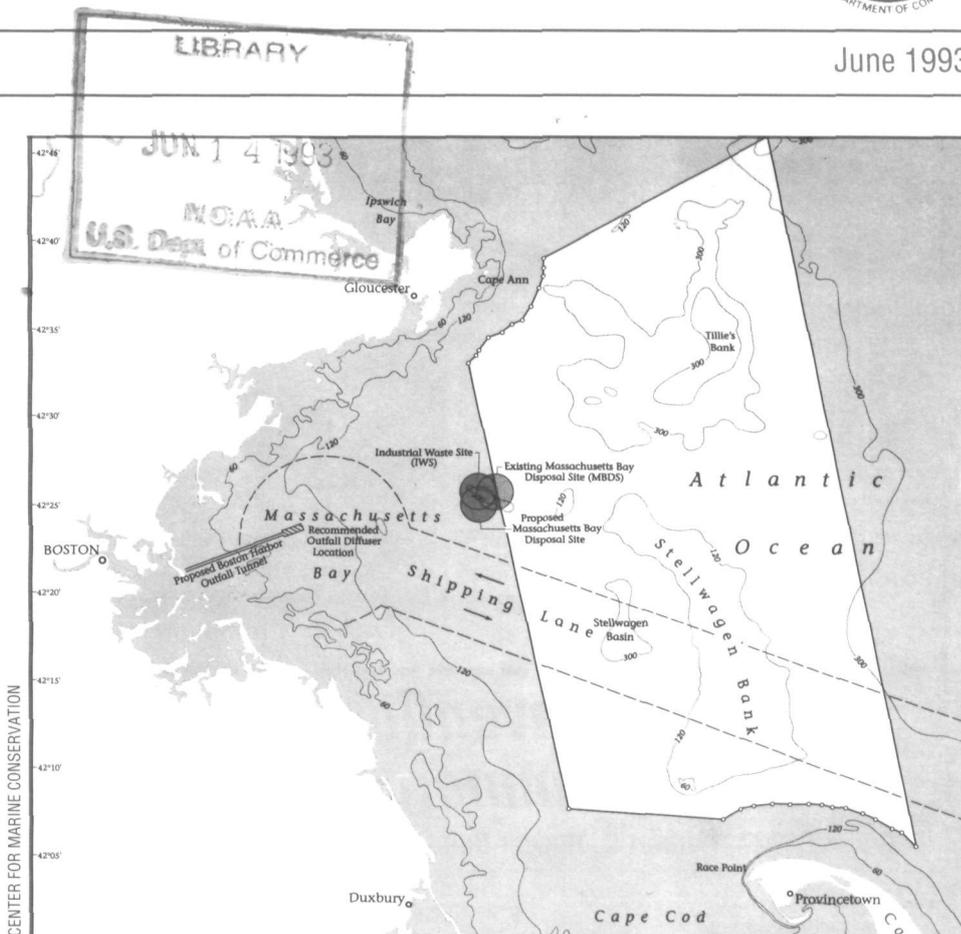
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U.S. Commends International Whaling Commission: The United States commended the International Whaling Commission last month for upholding the global moratorium on commercial whaling.

NEWS BRIEFS

At the conclusion of the 45th annual meeting in Kyoto, Japan, Michael F. Tillman, United States Commissioner, said, "World opinion has influenced the IWC to broaden its fo-

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The boundaries of the newest NOAA Marine Sanctuary, Stellwagen Bank, off the Massachusetts coast. The sanctuary is scheduled to be dedicated later this month.

13th 'Undersea National Park' to Be Dedicated

New Marine Sanctuary to Open off Massachusetts

More than 840 square miles of Massachusetts Bay—about 30 miles east of Boston—will be dedicated as the Nation's newest national marine sanctuary at ceremonies in Plymouth, Mass., later this month.

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, the 13th "undersea national park" to be administered by NOAA, was designated last November when amendments to the Na-

tional Marine Sanctuaries Program Act were signed. NOAA scientists have said the area is an important feeding and nursery ground for a variety of marine mammals, including the humpback, fin and northern right whales. The site also supports an abundant variety of fishes, seabirds and other marine mammals.

Commercially important species

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Reinvent Government: Tell Us How

Felt frustrated lately that you've had a great idea for improvement but didn't know what to do with it? Now is your chance. Change is the new by-word, and Commerce employees will soon have a chance to help bring it about. The Department wants to hear ideas from every employee about ways to "reinvent" Commerce—to make it a better and more effective place to work.

One of the changes President Clinton has promised involves changing the ways in which the Federal government functions. It's what he means when he talks about "reinventing government." In the words of the President "It is time to radically change the way government operates—to shift from top-down bureaucracy to entrepreneurial government that empowers citizens and communities to change our

country from the bottom up."
'Change the Federal Culture'

The President has asked Vice President Al Gore to lead a task force comprised of representatives from all parts of government to reinvent the systems of government, redesign agencies and programs to make them more responsive to their customers, and streamline the government. The Vice President describes his goal as "...to change the very culture of the

Federal Government." And he's asked people to think "boldly, broadly and creatively. Think big."

Formally known as the National Performance Review, this process is expected to make the Government more result oriented, to create incentives and tools that allow managers to manage, and to hand authority for resource decisions and actions in delivering services down to the level where it belongs. In addition the Review should identify opportu-

NOAA has extended its deadline for Reinvention suggestions to June 25. You should have already received a memo on NOAA's "Reinventing Government" effort from Diana Josephson, NOAA's Acting Administrator. To submit your ideas, send them to:

**NOAA
Reinventing Government
SSMC 3 / 03106
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910**

*If you have access to the Banyan E-Mail network, it's even easier. E-mail your ideas to: **Suggestions @ UnSec @ NOAA.***

Reinventing Commerce

Room H5327, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, DC 20230

Name:

Mailing Address:

Office Telephone Number:

The Idea:

The Rationale:

nities to reduce costs while maintaining the same or better levels of service to customers.

Reinventing Government means a willingness to challenge outdated ideas, to attack long-standing problems, and to attempt innovative solutions. It is aimed at establishing a productive partnership between the public sector and the private sector.
'Improvement in Every Workplace'

Secretary Brown launched Commerce's own effort in May, and the Commerce Performance Review

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Biologists Tackle Fisheries Ecosystem

NOAA's Coastal Ocean Program (COP), which integrates and coordinates scientific research on coastal issues across NOAA's line organizations, and NMFS are pursuing a potentially promising direction in fisheries science by studying commercial species in relation to the environment in which they live.

The Coastal Fisheries Ecosystem theme of COP conducts research on such things as the species's ecosystem, habitat, the other fish in the system, the predator-prey relationships, the human impacts on the system, and how much fishing is taking place there. This total view of fisheries is designed to provide the scientific basis for wise management and sustainable development. After successful experience with this methodology for menhaden in the South Atlantic Bight Recruitment Experiment and pollock in the Bering Sea Fisheries Coordinated Investigation, COP recently began a projected multiyear study of the depleted groundfish fishery—species such as haddock, cod and flounder—of Georges Bank. The findings of this study have the potential to affect the economy of a region that has been seriously undermined by declining groundfish yields.

We Eat More Fish Just for the Halibut

Americans ate more than 3.7 billion pounds of seafood in 1992, 19.4 million pounds more than in 1991, according to NMFS figures.

The per capita consumption of seafood, however, remained relatively stable at 14.8 pounds last year—a decrease of 0.1 pounds from 1991.

The slight decline compared with the increase in total consumption is attributed to a U.S. population increase of three million last year. □

Collapse of Harvested Species

Prior to the arrival of foreign fishing fleets in the 1960s, the Georges Bank ecosystem supported important commercially valuable fisheries. These fleets harvested a broad range of fish species causing some to collapse. Following the passage of the Magnuson Fishery Management and Conservation Act in 1976, although foreign fleets were excluded from Georges Bank, the fishing capacity of the domestic fleet increased. Much of this effort was directed at the most commercially valuable species. Harvests of these species have declined and the ecosystem is now dominated by low-value

commercial species, most notably dogfish, a type of shark, and skates.

The COP funding of the Georges Bank study will make it possible for scientists from the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center and university scientists to conduct this important study on the role of predator-prey relations and exploitation on the dynamics of fish populations off Georges Bank. Modeling will provide the primary means of synthesizing information and will be used to examine alternative harvesting regimes to define more effective management strategies. Among the outcomes of the effort will be science-based advice to the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils on the implications of multispecies interactions for fisheries management.

—Isobel Sheifer □

'Reinventing Government' Initiative

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team has been gathering and analyzing data since. Each of the Department's bureaus has been asked to gather ideas for improvements from throughout the organization, but the Secretary wants to be sure every employee has had the opportunity to make their ideas known. He believes that the best ideas will come from individual employees—particularly from those who are actually doing the work. Not only managing the work, but doing the work. As James King, the new Director of the Office of Personnel Management, put it: "You now have leadership that wants not only your dedication and hard work, but also your ideas for how to create a culture for improvement in each and every workplace."

Better, Smoother, Faster, Cheaper

The Reinvention team would like

to hear from anyone who has an idea on how to make things work better, smoother, faster, or cheaper. Are there programs that don't work any more or are no longer necessary? How can we bring the information age that has so transformed our private sector to the public sector? All ideas are welcome. You are encouraged to submit any idea you think will work. And don't worry about whether someone else thinks it will or not—the team wants to hear from you. Everyone who suggests an idea will get a response. You can send your ideas electronically if you have access to the Banyan network, to the following address: **Reinventing@Commerce@OSEC OPE**. Or, use the form on page two to send your ideas *by June 25*, to:

Commerce Performance Review Team
Room H5327

Herbert C. Hoover Building
Washington, DC 20230 □

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cus. I am pleased that it has agreed to expand its agenda to address non-lethal uses of marine mammals such as whale watching, the study of environmental threats to living marine resources and increased international cooperation on conservation of small cetaceans. . .

"Progress was made at this year's IWC meeting, despite the difficulty of many of the issues," Tillman added. "I believe the meeting in Mexico in 1994 will accomplish even more for the conservation of the world's whales."

Landsat 6 Scheduled for Delivery: Landsat 6, a multi-purpose satellite that will transmit images of Earth from space to land-based receiving stations, was delivered by the Earth Observation Satellite Company (EOSAT) to McGuire Air Force Base,

NEWS BRIEFS

N.J., May 24. The satellite was then shipped to Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., the next day by an Air Force C-141. At Vandenberg, it will be processed for launch on an Air Force Titan II booster. NOAA and the Air Force will coordinate the launch date, which is expected to be no later than August 11.

Once in orbit, Landsat 6 will provide coverage of Earth every 16 days. Two on-board tape recorders will transmit data to an EOSAT ground station in Norman, Okla. Landsat data are useful in studying human impact on global environment, managing the Earth's natural resources and providing national security functions, among other uses.

Contract Awarded for New Computer Systems: Control Data Systems Inc., Arden Hills, Minn., was awarded a six-year NOAA contract for an integrated network of computer systems and support services for NMFS. The initial award was \$2 million. □

NOAA Leadership Confirmed by Senate

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leader of the Deep-Sea Physics Group.

- ❖ **Douglas Hall**, new Deputy Administrator and Commerce Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, vice president and director of communications for The Nature Conservancy, a 670,000-member organization dedicated to preserving the world's biodiversity. Hall was political director for Vice President Gore during the 1992 presidential campaign.
- ❖ **Dr. Kathryn Sullivan**, new Chief Scientist, a geologist, oceanographer and NASA astronaut. Sullivan was the first American woman to walk in space, in 1984.

She is also an accomplished diver, and worked with NOAA's National Undersea Research Program.

'Perfect Balance to Lead NOAA'

Baker and Hall were nominated by the White House in March, Sullivan in April.

"We have found the perfect balance to lead NOAA," said President Clinton, in a statement in March. "Secretary Ron Brown is putting together a superb leadership team at the Department of Commerce."

Diana Josephson, Commerce Deputy Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, did not require Senate confirmation, and has been in her position since her nomination in March. □

Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary to Open

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at Stellwagen include bluefin tuna, herring, cod, flounder, lobster and scallops. Dockside value of commercial fishing at the new sanctuary was more than \$23 million in 1990. The growing whale watching industry, with tour boats from Plymouth, Gloucester and Provincetown, attracts an estimated 1.5 million visitors each year.

Marine Life Protected

Regulations governing activities at the sanctuary prohibit sand and gravel mining, prevent discharge or disposal activities and bar construction of any kind on the sanctuary's seabed. Other regulations protect marine mammals, sea turtles and sea birds.

The dedication celebration, which begins Saturday, June 26 at 10:30 a.m., will take place near the *Mayflower II*, a replica of the original vessel. Local, state and federal officials, representatives of environmental, commercial fishing and other

groups, and interested citizens are expected to attend.

Stellwagen Bank is the country's northernmost marine sanctuary. NOAA also administers 12 other marine sanctuaries in the Florida Keys, off California, Georgia, Hawaii and North Carolina, in the Gulf of Mexico and American Samoa. □

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Address comments to:

Editor
NOAA Report
NOAA Office of Public Affairs
6013 Herbert C. Hoover Building
Washington, DC 20230
202-482-6090 (voice)
202-482-3154 (fax)

Banyan E-Mail Address:

JerryS@PA@NOAA

Timothy A. Tomastik

Acting Director, Public Affairs
Jerry Slaff Editor

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NOAA NOW



June 1993

Two Scientists Honored at AGU Baltimore Meeting

Two NOAA scientists were honored in separate ceremonies last month at the American Geophysical Union spring meeting in Baltimore, Md., on May 26.

A standing-room-only crowd of approximately 300 government, university, and private sector earth scientists, officials, and reporters heard Dr. Jerry D. Mahlman, director of NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory present the first annual Jule G. Charney Lecture at the meeting.

In his presentation, entitled "Dynamics and Chemistry of Polar Ozone Depletion," Mahlman explained the physical processes involved in ozone depletion and the potential for large polar ozone losses in the northern hemisphere.

The Charney Lecture, named for the late Massachusetts Institute of Technology dynamic meteorologist Jule G. Charney, is an annual AGU presentation by an individual who can provide a visionary overview of any aspect of atmospheric sciences.

Dr. Manabe Wins Revelle Medal

Syukuro Manabe, senior research meteorologist at the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory and a preeminent expert on the "greenhouse effect," received AGU's 1993 Roger Revelle Medal later that same day.

Dr. Manabe received the second annual Revelle Medal for his research in atmospheric sciences and climate change.



Dr. Syukuro Manabe

Named after the late Scripps Institution of Oceanography oceanographer, the Roger

Revelle Medal honors outstanding accomplishments or contributions toward an understanding of the Earth's atmospheric processes.

Dr. Manabe "pioneered a new scientific field of major international importance, then dominated it for the next quarter century," according to Mahlman, his laboratory director, in introducing the award. "He was literally the inventor and initial developer of numerical modeling approaches to climate dynamics. Remarkably, he is still the major force and leader in this field today, even though it is now the focus of widespread scientific, public, and political attention.

"Our understanding of climate change would be perhaps a decade behind today's level if he had chosen the medical profession that his family appears to have preferred for him," Mahlman said. □

NOAA Scientist Wins Science Writing Award

Dr. Thomas M. Georges of NOAA's Wave Propagation Laboratory in Boulder has won the Acoustical Society of America's newly instituted Science Writing Award.

An article by Georges in *The World & I* magazine entitled "Taking the Ocean's Temperature with Sound" won the award for the NOAA scientist. It described the 1991 Heard Island experiment in which Georges took part; a test of global underwater sound transmission.

That experiment paved the way for the use of acoustic techniques in monitoring temperatures—and the effects of climate change—at ocean depths. □

Decline in Arctic Pollution Measured at Alaska Lab

Atmospheric pollution in the Arctic, as reflected by springtime measurements at a NOAA observatory in Barrow, Alaska, has declined significantly during the past 10 years.

Decrease in the "Arctic haze," a visually apparent cloud that forms in layers over the Arctic each spring, appears to stem from a decline in the output of pollution in Europe and the former Soviet Union, according to NOAA scientists Barry A. Bodhaine and Ellsworth G. Dutton.

The scientists said the lessening of Arctic pollution is due, at least in part, to the Soviet Union's increased use of natural gas as fuel and decreased use of coal and oil during 1980-89. Stricter pollution controls were also instituted during that period in western Europe.

Earlier studies have shown that Arctic haze is the result of long-range transport of pollution materials from industrial regions of the northern mid-latitudes, particularly Eurasia and, to a lesser extent, North America.

Aerosols Measured

Downward trends since 1982 were recorded by measuring aerosols in the atmosphere and the optical depth of air masses transported across the Arctic to the NOAA Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory's observatory at Barrow, Alaska.

Pollutant decreases of as much as 50 percent have been observed since 1982 for the months of March and April, the

two months of maximum Arctic haze and strongest atmospheric transport from Eurasia and North America. Trends in the other months of the year, Bodhaine and Dutton reported, were not significant.

A similar, but smaller and statistically less significant, decrease in pollution during March and April was seen in the aerosol monitoring record at a Canadian observatory in Alert, Northwest Territory, Canada, the NOAA scientists report.

Climate Impact Possible

The decrease may have an impact on climate. Research on the haze in the early 1980's suggested that Arctic warming

was occurring due to the absorption of solar radiation by the haze. That potential warming may now be reduced by about 50 percent, Bodhaine and Dutton say in an article to be published in an upcoming issue of *Geophysical Research Letters*. Warming of the Arctic is important because it could reduce Arctic snow and ice cover, lower the reflectivity of the planet, and thereby compound existing concerns about global warming.

Measurements Since 1976

Continuous measurements of aerosols and routine optical depth observations have been made at Barrow since 1976. The Barrow observatory is one of four operated by NOAA. The others are in Hawaii, American Samoa and South Pole. □

Leatherback Sea Turtles Protected

Special protection for endangered leatherback sea turtles will be in place for this month in waters from the Virginia-North Carolina border south to Cape Canaveral, Fla. □

Lightning Deaths May Be Underreported

The number of deaths caused annually in the United States by lightning, averaging 83, may be under-reported by nearly 30 percent, a NOAA study says.

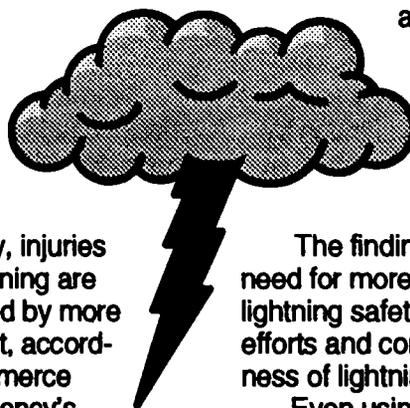
Additionally, injuries caused by lightning are under-estimated by more than 40 percent, according to the Commerce Department agency's study of Colorado lightning deaths and injuries.

Scientists Raul Lopez and Ronald Holle of NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory in Norman, Okla., headed the study. They were assisted by colleagues from the Denver office of the

National Weather Service and St. Anthony Hospital Lightning Data Center, also in Denver. The group analyzed lightning death and injury statistics for Colorado from a variety of sources.

The findings underscore a need for more effective lightning safety educational efforts and community awareness of lightning danger.

Even using understated mortality figures, lightning causes more deaths annually than do tornadoes and hurricanes together, the researchers said. Except for flash floods, lightning kills more people in the U.S. on the average than any other meteorological phenomenon. □



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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12200 Kiln Court
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