

NOAA REPORT



Vol. IV, No. 11

DEC 15 1995

December 1995

If U Cnt Rd Ths Stry, U Nd a Satllte Glssry: A satellite controller has helped solve the puzzle of satellite acronyms. Alfonso Diazdelcastillo, who works in NOAA's Satellite Operations Control Center in Suitland, has compiled a 100-page glossary of acronyms on NOAA's polar-orbiting and geostationary satellites. On his own initiative, Diazdelcastillo put together a list of about 4,000 commonly used acronyms, abbreviations, definitions, and other information. The glossary is intended to improve the understanding of operational satellite terms. Diazdelcastillo received a Cash-in-a-Flash award for his efforts. "This is a much-needed solution to winning the

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war on satellite acronyms," said Gary Davis, director of satellite operations.

Commission Adopts Fish Protective Measures: Historic provisions—which include trade sanctions—to protect Atlantic swordfish, tunas, and billfish from further decline through overfishing have been adopted by an international fisheries commission. At its meeting last month in Madrid, Spain, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) established long-term allocation shares for swordfish that restored U.S. historical share of the resource.

Additionally, the commission adopted a provision that allows for trade sanctions to be taken against non-ICCAT members who refuse to cooperate with the commission's conservation pro-

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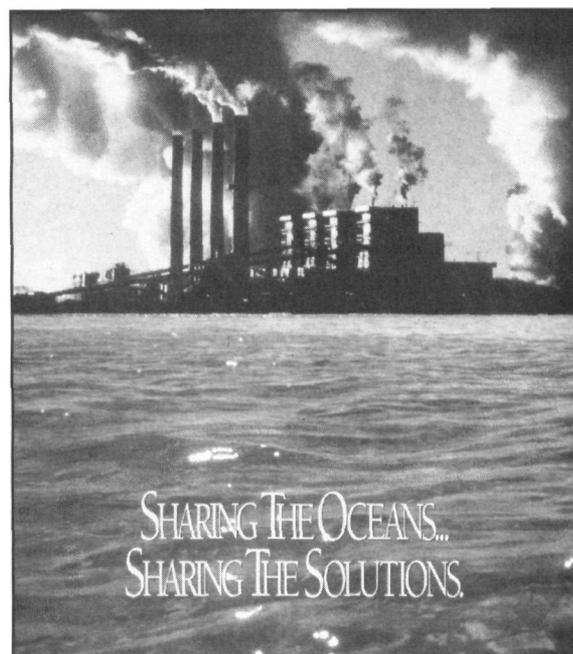
Conference Yields Action Program

U.N. Plan to Protect Oceans

NOAA played a major international role last month towards enhancing the health and economic well-being of the more than 3.5 billion people that live in or near the Earth's coastal areas by working for the adoption of a detailed global Programme of Action aimed at preventing the further degradation of the world's marine environment.

NOAA, EPA, and the State Department worked together to host the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protecting of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities Oct. 23 through Nov. 3, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The Global Programme of Action is the culmination of



As a poster for the conference implies (above), the UN Environmental Program attempted to bring solutions to the problems of the world's oceans.

Back in Business Again

On Nov. 19, after three and one-half days of an unprecedented government shutdown, President Clinton announced that an agreement had been reached to reopen the government. The agreement will allow us once again to serve the American people while we work with Congress on balancing the budget in a way that is good for our economy and

RON BROWN



that maintains our values.

Thank you for your patience and

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Diversity in Marine Sciences Topic of NMFS Conference

In an unprecedented attempt to bring together a range of decision-makers who could directly influence the success of minority graduate students at large marine science institutions, more than 100 people attended a two-day conference, "Expanding Opportunities in Ocean Sciences," at Virginia's Hampton University in mid-September.

The attendees represented faculty, staff, and students from historically minority serving colleges and universities (HMSCUs) and blue-

water graduate schools, and the leadership of private marine labs, Federal marine science agencies, and leading non-government organizations with interests in marine science. Both Dr. Nancy Foster, Deputy Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, NOAA's Chief Scientist, attended.

'Good Crop of Minority Students'

Dr. Ambrose Jearld of the National Marine Fisheries Service in Woods Hole, Mass., began to organize the conference early this year, following

up on discussions about preparing for diversity in marine science that occurred at last year's NOAA-University Partnership conference. Says Jearld, "There is a good crop of minority students out there ready to pursue graduate training in the ocean sciences, and the big ocean schools want more diversity. We needed some way to get the two together."

The NMFS Equal Opportunity Office, directed by Natalie Huff, was the prime sponsor for the event. The

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All Employees Are Essential to Commerce's Mission: Brown

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understanding during a very uncertain week. Now that we're back in business, it is imperative that we pick up where

First Night Lights Up Silver Spring

More than 40 sites in Montgomery County, Md., including NOAA's Silver Spring Metro Center campus, will be ringing in the New Year later this month as part of the county's First Night, its first ever alcohol-free New Year's Eve celebration.

An estimated 10,000 people are



expected to make First Night their choice for a safe and pleasant New Year's Eve. There's still time to volunteer to be greeters, ushers and part of the cleanup crew. And high school students can receive credit toward their community service requirement. To volunteer, call (202) 392-4630 or (301) 986-2045. Admission to First Night is \$7, and can be purchased at local Giant Food stores. 🐾

we left off, with the professionalism, enthusiasm and focus that has made the Commerce Department one of the top operations in government.

Let me be very clear about this. You were missed. Each and every one of you performs an essential function. While we operated last week with a bare-bones staff of excepted employees, a prolonged shutdown would seriously hinder our ability to carry out our mission of enhancing and

ensuring economic opportunity for all Americans. Whatever your position in Commerce, you have a stake in and are a valuable contributor to this essential mission.

Our mission and functions have also received increased support on Capitol Hill. We received good news during the shutdown period. Congress decided to exclude the dismantling

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UN Program to Aid the World's Oceans

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13 years of efforts by the international community to assist countries in taking practical action to maintain and improve the productive capacity of the marine environment, to ensure the protection of human health and to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.

With nearly 80 percent of all marine pollution being caused by various human activities on land, the Programme of Action not only identifies the problems and ecosystems under particular threat, but also recommends specific practical actions at national, regional and international levels.

The conference ended with the adoption of the Global Program of Action that will move the world community closer to cleaner seas and a healthy marine environment. The Program of Action provides hands-on, practical guidance to countries on how to deal with the most critical threats to coastal areas—threats emanating from land-based activities, such as sewage, pesticides and other nutrients and habitat destruction. The participating governments further committed to moving forward to implement the Program of Action in an associated Washington Declaration.

—Matt Stout 🐾



Celebrating 25 Years of Science and Service... in Style

The year of celebrations came to a climax last month as NOAA celebrated its 25th anniversary as a Federal agency with gatherings and presentations in its Silver Spring Metro Center campus, and at the Federal Center in Suitland, Md. Here are some photos of those gala events.

Former NOAA Administrator Dr. Robert White (above left) and current administrator Dr. D. James Baker (above right) bridge the gap of 25 years of scientific leadership to make the first cut at the anniversary cake, while the demonstration of the National Ocean Service's award-winning CD-ROM, *Turing the Tide*, is so touching that it brings NOS Public Affairs Officer Eliot Hurwitz (right) to his knees. The program at the Suitland Federal Center (below right) featured Dr. White's address on videotape.



Tribute to 25-Year Vets Follows

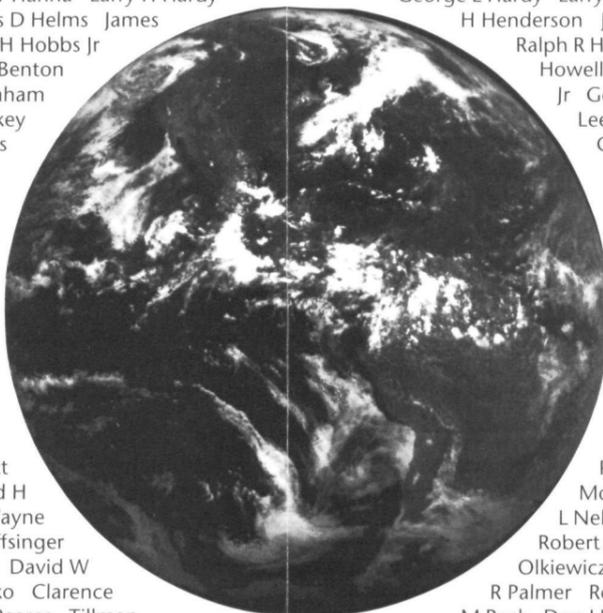
In the centerspread of *NOAA Report* this month is our tribute to those hardy souls who have spent every day of the past 25 years here at NOAA. We've listed, in alphabetical order, these nearly 1,100 people, who were also honored at NOAA's 25th Anniversary ceremonies in Silver Spring and Suitland, Md. All 25-year NOAA veterans also received a certificate signed by D. James Baker, NOAA Administrator.

If you or a colleague have been with NOAA since its inception in 1970, and are not on this list, please contact NOAA's Office of Public and Constituent Affairs at 202-482-6090, or by fax at 202-482-3154, attention 25-Year Employees.

(Note: Names current as of November 24, 1995.)



Clarence Aaland Everett A Abbott Michael D Abell Thomas E Adler Wayne P Albright John C Albright Daniel L Albritton Antonio Alcides William J Alder John C Alishouse Herbert J Alleman Tommy S Allen Roy S Allen Paul Clifton Allen Orlando R Almarza James A Almazan Thomas A Aloise Nicholas Eugene Alsop Wallace Amborn Walter R Anderson Richard G Anderson George L Andrews James K Angell Gerald Francis Appell Howard L April Ronald M Aranita Philip A Armstrong John Armstrong Reed S Armstrong Bobby L Armstrong Russell C Arnold Robert M Arthur Jr Terryel R Ashby Richard W Asper Raymond A Assel Elizabeth Ann Atkinson Richard P Augulis Arthur W Ayers Jr Malin M Babcock John A Babinchak Chester E Babylon Lee F Baca Jr Donald R Baer Sr George W Baggett Betty A Bales Richard M Barazotto Louis Peter Barbieri William E Bareis Delano Barr William Augustus Barr Celso S Barrientos Elliott G Barske Jr Paul J Bartolome Michael A Basileo Gregory Bass Russell D Batson Paul E Bauersfeld Jr Gerald M Beach Clarence G Beale Jr Henry R Beasley Rodney J Becker Alfred J Bedard Jr Meredith Beeg Gary M Beeley Deloris Belle James D Belleville Delma Lamar Bennett Donald W Beran George A Berberian Robert S Berkovitz Robert J Bermowitz Knute A Berstis Rosetta Beuerlein Robert L Birchfield Clarence R Birks Edward W Bisone Peter G Black William J Blackburn III Thomas M Blackburn Michael Edward Blackford James F Blair Jr Donald L Blevins Kenneth A Bliss Ernest E Block Charles E Blood Harry E Bly Darlene J Blythe Joseph Richard Bocchieri Louis J Boezi Robert Bonner James W Boone Arthur L Booth Beth A Bordeaux Betty A Borger John F Borgia William J Bostelman Carl F Bott Robert D Bottom Carolissa M Bowie Joanne C Bowman Edwin O Bowman Harold D Bowman II Diane N Boxley Daron E Boyce Robert L Boyd Jr Robert E Boyle Jr Dean T Braatz Carolyn C Bradford Patricia H Bradley James Thomas Bradley Ira S Brenner Paige Arlington Bridges Brenda K Brock Stephen J Broumas Robert L Brower David C Brown Maxie R Brown Rodger Alan Brown Elizabeth C Brown Bradford E Brown Terry E Bryan Obama Buckner William C Bumgarner Roger G Bunting Patrick Leonard Burek William Cary Burkhardt Bruce R Burns William D Burton Thomas G Burt Stephen T Butler Louis Winters Butler II James L Byrd Jr David W Cain Anthony Calabrese Richard J Calcaterra Partheina Caldwell Geary M Callan Susan Callis George A Calzada Kenneth Arthur Campana John Carballa Michael G Carelli Harry R Carlson Charles Franklin Carpenter Jr David Carpenter George Wayne Carte Gary M Carter Henry L Carter Forrest E Carvey Jr Bonilla Antonio Castillo Michael W Chalfant George A Chalupnik Randolph K Chang Michael J Changery Gary L Charson R Romaine Chase Richard C Chia John Fee Chin Jason K Ching Clarice K Ching Darryl J Christensen Lynn C Chrystal Frank W Chupka Robert H Churchill Wallace L Clark Jr Delores J Clark Dennis R Clark Phillip E Clark Jennifer H Clark Robert C Clark Thomas P Clarke Roger A Clifford Steven F Clifford James C Cloar Wendell Reo 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D Dimare Lanny L Dimmick Francis M Divilio Marylyn S Doan Arthur W Dodds Jr Laura N Dodson Douglas H Doles Russell A Dorr Ronald C Dotson Kathleen M Downs Antonio A Dreumont James Drosdak Sandra F Drucker Shelby B Drummond Frederick Ronald Dudley James V Dugan Robert Duke James W Duk Carol A Dundon Fred P Durrett Hendra R Dye Farnsworth M Dye Scott S Dye John W Eason Mel W Eklund Maxwell B Eldridge Michael G Elias Melvyn Ellentich Barbara Sue Ellis Robert C Elvander Gifford F Ely Jr Dennis A Emiliani David W Engel Barbara R Engstrand William D Ernest Alfonso Escobar Bernard L Esposito Charlie O Evans Nancy Ann Everson Michael P Fahay Jackie L Falls T L Farrow Ted F Fathauer Carl Fefe Earl W Feigel Ronald E Ferguson Amet Figueroa Doris M Finan Ronald J Finnican Rusty L Foley Clark T Fontaine Robert S Ford Jr John T Forsing Dave Forsyth Alan R Fortner Prudence I Fox Ann B Frame Michael W Franjevic Gary C Franson Richard W Frazier Jeffery G Fredrick Mary B Freeland Roy F Freiburger 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Wanja Robert P Wanton Rankin B Ward Kendall Hazard Ward David Q Wark Stanley M Warlen Albert T Wataoka Jesse C Watkins Richard Allen Watson John W Watson Jr Eleanor M Waymer Eleanor M Waymer Morris S Webb Jr Paul E Webber Jerry G Weese David J Weinbrenner Michael P Weinreb William Laurence Weinreich Jerome Weinstock Stanley M Weiss John C Wekell John P Welch Betty M Wells Nancy Jean Weslager Jean B West Lee Oliver West David A Westnedge Richard T Wetherald Joseph W Wheeler Jr Herbert L White Gloria Steens White Hugh Max White Marie F Whitt Donald A Wickham Ronald M Wickland Gary A Wiese Victor Wiggert Stuart J Wilk George R Wilken Frank M Wilkins Bertha C Williams Peggy S Williams Peggy S Williams Gareth P Williams Thurman D Willis Danial V Wilson Bruce L Wing Lelia M Wise Harold W Wood Aaron H Woodard William E Woodward Harold M Woolf Thomas J Wright Michael D Wrinkle Charles W Wyckoff Jr Donald Faulkner Tracy A Yamashiroya Florence E Yasuhara Martin J Yellin Gary M Young Michael T Young Jim Zaitzeff Frederick S Zbar Zoula P Zein-Eldin Thomas A Zickus Kenneth W Ziegenbein Joseph Zimmer Benjamin C Zollman Robert L Zurfluh



Minority Success in Marine Sciences Studies Examined

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American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), The Oceanography Society (TOS), the Southern Association of Marine Laboratories, and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges co-sponsored the event.



NOAA Chief Scientist Kathy Sullivan speaks to a conference on student diversity in graduate marine studies.

A 15-member steering committee composed of top administrators and educators from academia and agencies was organized by Jearld. This committee developed the conference program and the list of invited participants, as well as assisting in obtaining the co-sponsorships.

Welcoming speakers included Hampton President Dr. William Harvey and Dr. Nancy Foster, Deputy Administrator of NMFS. In her remarks, Foster emphasized the importance of capitalizing on personal contacts made at the meeting, "It's absolutely true that nothing in the world is more effective in making a change in the way we do business than the personal commitment of people who are in positions to make decisions about the way we do business... I hope that when we leave this conference, we'll be able to look back over the next few months and say that this

was one of the rare meetings that actually made a difference."

The meeting began with three discussions led by panels comprising top administrators, faculty, and minority graduate candidates in marine science degree programs. This was followed by topic-oriented workgroups on recruiting students, retaining students, using faculty-student relationships to improve students success, the role of faculty-to-faculty interactions between HMSCUs and graduate schools, and bridging programs.

Recommendations, conclusions and specific actions for implementation from the conference are being compiled by Dr. Jearld and should be available soon from his office: NEFSC/NMFS, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543; 508-548-5123 or by e-mail, ajearld@whsun1.wh.who.edu. ☺

Research Ships Decommissioned in Ceremonies

The end of two eras came earlier this year as the NOAA oceanographic research ship *Surveyor* was decommissioned on Sept. 29 at the Pacific Marine Center. Pictured at the ceremony are outgoing commanding officer Captain Michael A. McCallister (*left*) and Rear Admiral John C. Albright (*right*) of the NOAA Corps. The *Surveyor* was commissioned in 1960.

Decommissioned on Oct. 25 at the Atlantic Marine Center were NOAA hydrographic survey ships *Mt. Mitchell*, commissioned in 1968, and *Heck*, commissioned in 1967. At the ceremony were outgoing NOAA Corps commanding officers Cmdr. Roger L. Parsons (*Mt. Mitchell*) and Lt. Cmdr. George E. White (*Heck*).

Rear Admiral William L. Stubblefield, Director of the Office

of NOAA Corps Operations, and Rear Admiral Albright, director of the Pacific and Atlantic Marine

Centers, attended both ceremonies. ☺



Capt. Michael McCallistar (*left*) and Rear Admiral John C. Albright (*right*) at decommissioning ceremonies for the *Surveyor* at the Pacific Marine Center in Seattle.

Local Mentoring Program in Silver Spring

NOAA a Magnet for Md. Science Students

Students from the science and math enrichment "magnet" program at Montgomery Blair High School, a neighbor of NOAA's in Silver Spring, Md., often win local and national academic awards. Last month, a group of these budding scientists visited the NOAA Silver Spring campus as part of NOAA's contribution to Blair's academic program.

Last month's visit was the first of these planned activities and was designed to expose the students to the broad range of science being done at the agency. NOAA also gains through the partnership, since the multi-ethnic school supports NOAA's diversity goals. Blair's magnet program is highly selective and competitive, and admits approximately 100 students per year selected from throughout Montgomery County in suburban Maryland.

Following welcoming remarks from NOAA Chief Scientist Kathy Sullivan and tour of NOAA's Internet sites by Capt. Bill Turnbull of the High Performance Communication and Computing office, the students broke into small groups and visited NOAA offices throughout the Silver Spring campus. The rest of the day was divided into 45-minute time slots with each group visiting four offices.

One of the highlights was seeing the array of remote sensing instruments installed on the roof of SSMC building two. Collectively, these instruments comprise the NWS Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS). Students toured the NOAA Library and were encouraged to use the library for their school projects. Two of the groups participated in a video conference with the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) in Norman, Okla. The students heard about NSSL's Vortex field experiment to collect data on tornadoes. The Offices of Hydrology and Meteorol-



Advanced math and science students from Montgomery Blair High School were treated to demonstrations, as well as hands-on sessions by NOAA staffers during their visit to the Silver Spring campus last month. Here, Andy Horvitz, from NWS's Office of Meteorology, demonstrates the N-AWIPS system, which displays meteorological data for use by forecasters.

ogy also demonstrated and discussed Weather Service systems.

The National Ocean Service also hosted many groups. Sessions were held discussing geodesy, ocean mapping, measuring tides and ocean levels, radar altimetry, the environmental health of the oceans, and physical oceanography. During lunch, a satellite global positioning system was demonstrated.

Blair students work on a long-term research project, beginning in the second semester of their junior year, under the guidance of a mentor in the

sciences. NOAA scientists are now participating in the mentoring program, joining colleagues from NASA, the National Institutes of Health, and the Smithsonian Institution.

Within the next few months, staff from Blair will be invited to describe the Blair senior research project requirement and the role that NOAA mentors could play in supporting that program. If you think you might want to be a mentor to a Blair student and want to learn more, email your name and Internet address to rkidwell@hq.noaa.gov. ☺

Earth & Sky Radio Schedule

Here's the schedule for Earth & Sky radio spots for December that are sponsored by or related to NOAA:

The Plow Wind: Dec. 8
Global Warming: Dec. 11
CO₂ Forest: Dec. 12
Tsunamis: Dec. 27
Taming the Ocean: Dec. 28

The Washington, D.C. affiliate for Earth & Sky is WDCU-FM, 90.1, airing Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. For the station nearest you, or for a faxed copy of the scripts, call Jeanne Kouhestani at 202/482-6090 or e-mail her at jeannek@pa.noaa (Banyan) or jkouhestani@hq.noaa.gov (Internet). ☺

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gram for swordfish. The adoption of this trade provision, similar to last years historic trade sanction provisions for Atlantic bluefin tuna, will help ensure that ICCAT conservation measures for swordfish are respected. ICCAT is a 22-country international management body for tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

Gulf "Dead Zone" Examined: A six-year study has established the critical role of Mississippi River-borne nutrients in oxygen depletion in the Gulf of Mexico, and mapped the extent and severity of the Gulf's so-called "dead zone." Study findings have aroused concern over oxygen depletion in the Gulf of Mexico, particularly in the dead zone, so-called because fish and shrimp can-

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not flourish in the low-oxygen bottom waters. This low-oxygen condition (hypoxia) results from high nutrient inputs that encourage algal growth. In the summer of 1995, the dead zone covered a 7,000-square-mile area off the Louisiana coast that stretched to the upper Texas coast.

The Nutrient Enhanced Coastal Ocean Productivity project study was funded by NOAA's Coastal Ocean Program. Researchers will highlight their findings at the Louisiana Coastal Hypoxia Conference to be held in New Orleans, La., this month.

NOAA Home Page Redesign: A new design for the NOAA home page on the Internet means faster connections for users dialing in from commercial services such as America On Line and CompuServe. Users can now choose to display the page's award-winning graphics or go directly to the information they want. The home page's address is <http://www.noaa.gov>. ☺

Women Honored for Marine Involvement

Four NOAA staff members recently were honored by the Women's Aquatic Network (WAN) during an awards ceremony held in October at the Gold Room of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington. They include NMFS' Deputy Assistant Administrator Nancy Foster, Assistant General Counsel Margaret Frailey Hayes, Foreign Affairs Specialist Rebecca Rootes, and NOS Program Analyst Lynne Mersfelder.

The event also marked the tenth

All Employees Are Essential: Brown

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language from the budget reconciliation. While we may not be out of the woods yet, the immediate threat to the Commerce Department's continued existence has dissipated.

We were able to weather this storm because of the high-quality work and dedication of Commerce employees in every one of the Department's agencies and bureaus. We also were helped by your ability to maintain your focus and carry on the Department's mission through these difficult times.

We anticipate that sometime soon Congress will report out of conference committee the Commerce appropriations bill. As I have said before, the funding levels in many of our programs are too low and will hurt American competitiveness. The President has pledged to veto this bill. I will keep you updated on the status of this legislation as it progresses.

Once again, thank you for your continued commitment and outstanding work. Together, we have met every challenge and cleared every obstacle. Now, more than ever, we must remain dedicated to continue to provide the best possible service to the American people. ☺

anniversary of WAN, an all-volunteer network of women and men whose interests include marine and aquatic policy and legislation, promoting women's roles in those fields, and sharing information, resources and contacts.

Foster, Rootes and Hayes received the WAN Achievement Award for their "outstanding" efforts in "influencing and promoting the role of women in aquatic affairs."

"This achievement award is particularly special because it comes from friends, many of whom I've known and worked with for many years," said Nancy Foster. "When I began work with the Fish and Wildlife Service 20 years ago, the management echelon was a lonely place for a woman. Things have changed significantly and any role I've played in that change has been with the support of the many colleagues who wisely recognized the value of diversity."

Lynne Mersfelder, the current Chair of WAN, was honored with the WAN Volunteer of the Year Award for her "outstanding contribution and efforts to further WAN as an organization and its objectives."

—Greg Hernandez ☺

NOAA Report is a monthly publication for NOAA employees from the Office of Public and Constituent Affairs, Washington.

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July 23, 2010