

# NOAA REPORT



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**Global Environmental Information Service to be on Internet:** Experts from around the world have agreed on a standard for locating information, whether held in libraries, data centers, or published on the Internet. This lays the foundation for a virtual library of environmental data and information that will be easily accessible on global networks.

"An information locator service is useful wherever people communicate, but there is a special urgency to the worldwide sharing of environmental information," said U.S. Vice President Al Gore. "Every year, governments and others

## News Briefs

spend billions of dollars collecting and processing environmental data and related technical information.

"The service... is designed to make information easy to find," said Eliot Christian of the United States Geological Survey, one of the representatives to the Global Information Society Initiative, which NOAA also attended. "It is a natural complement to the World Wide Web that is such a wonderful tool for presentation. When we look for a particular piece of information, we often need to search many separate sources. We may not be satisfied with just scanning World Wide Web pages, just accepting the suggestions of one publisher, nor just being limited to information published in English."

Further information on the information locator service can be found at <http://www.g7.fed.us/gils.html>. ☺



*Incoming Sec. William Daley (left) greets NOAA Acting Assistant Secretary Terry D. Garcia (right) during an open house after his confirmation.*

## Daley Sworn in as Commerce Sec'y; Kantor Leaves

### Hello...and Goodbye

New Commerce Secretary William Daley was faced with numerous questions about NOAA projects at his Congressional confirmation hearing last

month, and in response committed to making a deployment decision on the weather service's Advanced

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## NOAA's FY 1998 Request Announced

### \$2B Budget Shows Support for Science & Environment

NOAA's budget request for fiscal year 1998 of \$2 billion reflects the Clinton Administration's support for science and the environment while still helping reach its goal of a balanced Federal budget by the year 2002.

The budget request, which includes a four percent net increase of \$78.5 million over last year's request, was announced on February 6 at Commerce Department headquarters in

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# Daley Succeeds Kantor as Commerce Chief

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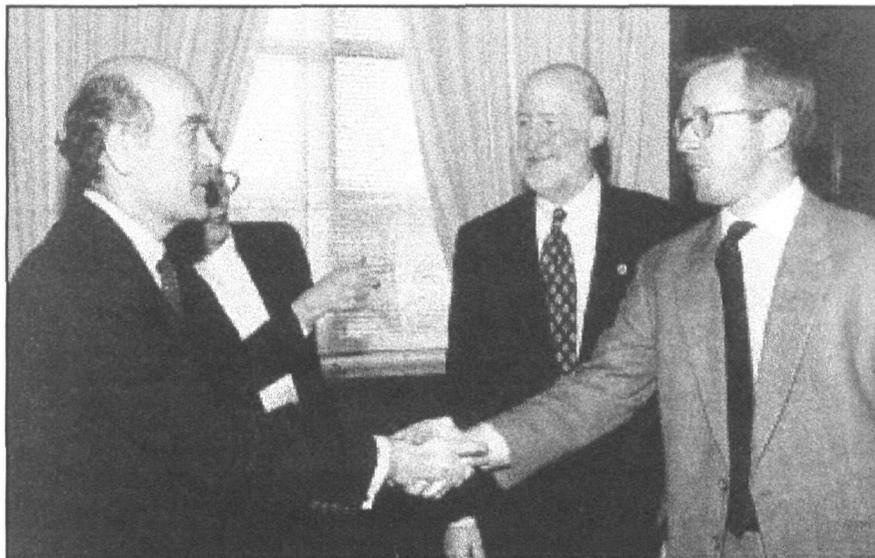
Weather Interactive Processing Systems (AWIPS) "immediately," and noted the importance of NOAA operations around the country.

Daley later announced the deployment of 21 AWIPS systems at sites around the country on February 13.

He received bi-partisan support at the hearing, and was quickly confirmed as Commerce Secretary by the Senate, succeeding Mickey Kantor.

Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun of Illinois, one of four former or current Congressional members who presented Daley, called Daley "the ideal person to build on the great work done by Mickey Kantor and Ron Brown."

"I do not believe [President Clinton] could have made a better choice for secretary to lead this department into the next century," she added.



*Commerce Secretary William Daley (left) greets NOAA Legislative Affairs Specialist Jim Schufreider at a Hoover Building open house to celebrate his swearing in. NOAA Deputy Under Secretary Diana Josephson and Chief Financial Officer Joseph Kammerer look on.*

Congressman Henry Hyde, also of Daley's home state of Illinois, called Daley "a civic leader [and] a business leader."

"We couldn't have a better nominee for secretary than Bill Daley," he continued.

## 'No Place for Politics'

During his opening statement, Daley acknowledged the criticism the Department has received from some quarters for politicization, and announced steps to deal with it.

"Within an era when government plainly must do more with less, we must never be satisfied with the status quo," he said. "We must continue to hold every position and program within Commerce to a stern test, keeping those we need in order to meet our goals and searching for new and more efficient ways to get the job done. In the end, I believe every program at the Department of Commerce must justify itself every day. It is, Mr. Chairman, a matter of trust.

"I want to manage in a way that you and other members of the committee and the American people can have absolute confidence that we are doing the right thing for the right reasons, that the decisions we make each day at Commerce are based



*Sec. Kantor gave an emotion filled speech as he stepped down as Commerce secretary.*

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**Praises Daley, Brown**

# Kantor Leaves Commerce in Emotional Speech

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solely on the best interests of the nation and our people.... There is a place for politics in our public life, but there is no place for politics in the Department of Commerce."

Daley said he would defer all department overseas trade missions and conduct a "top-to-bottom" review of them within 30 days. He also said he would reduce the number of political positions at Commerce by 100 by the end of the year.

**AWIPS Deployment**

During the hearing, Daley was asked by Sen. Ted Stevens of Alaska about AWIPS, whose deployment has been delayed by the Commerce Inspector General's office. Daley said he would "definitely commit" to a decision immediately.

In announcing the limited deployment of the AWIPS system, which will allow forecasters to display and analyze satellite imagery, radar data, automated weather observations and computer-generated numerical forecasts, all in one workstation, he called the system "an invaluable resource at 12 initial test sites."

"The National Weather Service has clearly demonstrated that AWIPS will help forecasters provide better weather and flood-related services to protect our citizens," he added.

Reacting to Secretary Daley's announcement, NWS Director Elbert W. Friday Jr. said he was "pleased."



*Sec. Mickey Kantor shakes hands with Commerce employees after his farewell speech at Washington headquarters.*

"We are pleased with the Secretary's decision to move forward with installation of the centerpiece of our agency's modernization," he said. "AWIPS will allow our forecasters to make the most of the new technologies that we've put in place with the modernization. Now they will be able to rapidly gather and assess the most meaningful information needed to issue critical forecasts and warnings for the protection of life and property."

Sen. Byron Dorgan of North Dakota also asked Daley about a weather service issue—the legal requirement that service not degrade during and after modernization.

"Good weather service is a matter of life and death for us," Sen. Dorgan said. "It's not a matter of convenience."

"It's pretty obvious the way this winter is going the importance of our weather service in the protection of the lives, property, and the economic interest in the parts of the country that are having such a severe winter," Daley replied.

After taking office, Daley held an open house in his Commerce Department office to meet and get to know employees.

**Kantor Says Goodbye in Speech**

As Daley was getting ready for his

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# Focus On...

## NOAA's FY 1998 Budget Request

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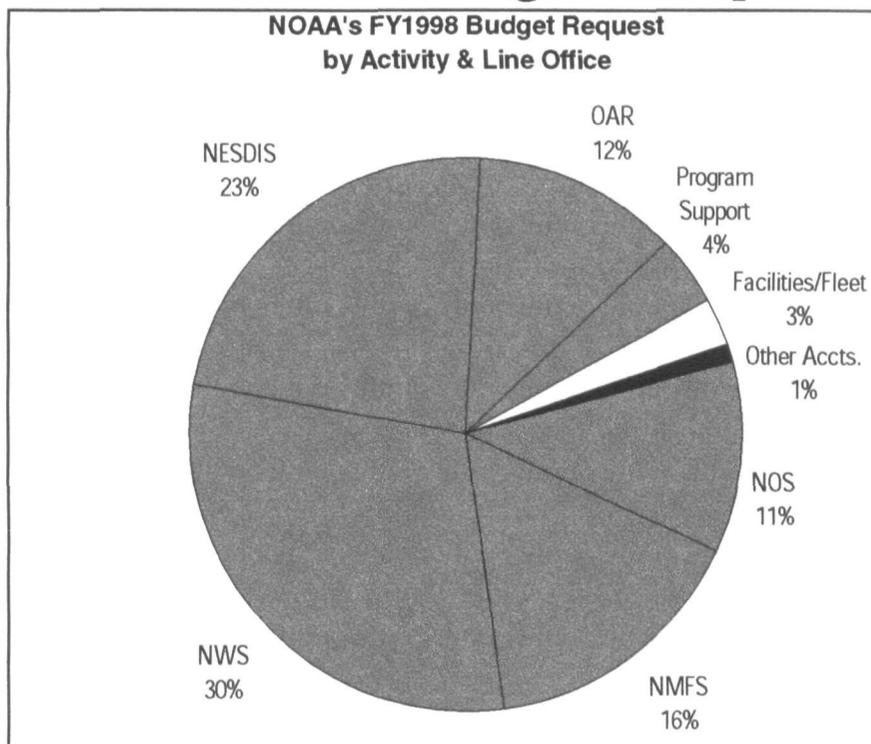
Washington. The White House and the Commerce Department had announced their budget requests earlier in the day.

"This budget reflects the need to downsize the Federal government, while at the same time preserving the Administration's priorities in sustaining investments in science and technology and environmental protection," said D. James Baker, NOAA Administrator. "We have carefully scrutinized NOAA's mission of prediction and protection in our natural environment, and used the President's priorities to determine how we can best distribute our budgetary resources."

### Savings in Construction, Satellites

These increases in priority program areas are offset by reductions in other areas totaling \$174 million, which leaves the NOAA budget with a net increase of \$78.5 million. Areas where savings are being realized include construction projects that have been completed and completion of the current series of polar satellites, along with reductions in some other programs.

"NOAA has always contributed to efforts to make government work smarter and we will continue to do so," Baker added. "Our investment in the convergence of civilian and military satellite programs is a prime example of how we can do more with less."



The Administration has proposed a new Capital Assets Acquisition Account, representing \$503 million of NOAA's 1998 budget request, that will include funding for current projects. Also, advance appropriations of \$723 million within this account have been requested for fiscal year 1999 to complete these projects.

"We believe that multi-year funding will provide the certainty to allow us to more effectively plan and manage these major acquisition projects. By providing the resources necessary to maintain essential services, facilitating continued progress in critical investment areas, and addressing statutory obligations, the President's

fiscal year 1998 request for NOAA affirms the importance of the agency's role in sustaining our Nation's investment in science and technology and environmental protection," Baker said.

As in the past three years, NOAA released its budget to reflect both the traditional activity-based line office structure, and the goal-based approach of the seven NOAA Strategic Plan elements: Advance Short-Term Warning and Forecast Services, Implement Seasonal to Interannual Climate Forecasts, Predict and Assess Decadal to Centennial Change,

Promote Safe Navigation, Build Sustainable Fisheries, Recover Protected Species, and Sustain Healthy Coasts.

**Budget Highlights**

Highlights of the budget request include:

- ❖ \$22.5 million increase for continued investments in a converged civilian and military polar orbiting satellite program, which will ultimately save taxpayers more than \$1 billion over the life of the program.
- ❖ \$66 million increase for continued development of next generation geostationary weather satellites that provide weather forecasters with vital information on severe weather events, including thunderstorms and hurricanes.
- ❖ \$22 million increase for NOAA's role in the Clinton Administration's Clean Water initiative, which includes \$18 million for state grants, technical assistance and demonstration projects under the Coastal Zone Management Act and \$4 million for the Community-Right-to-Know Project on toxins.
- ❖ \$16.6 million increase for restoring the health and wealth of America's fisheries and protecting species in danger of extinction, including West Coast salmon. Funds will also be used to carry out mandates under the newly authorized Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation Act.

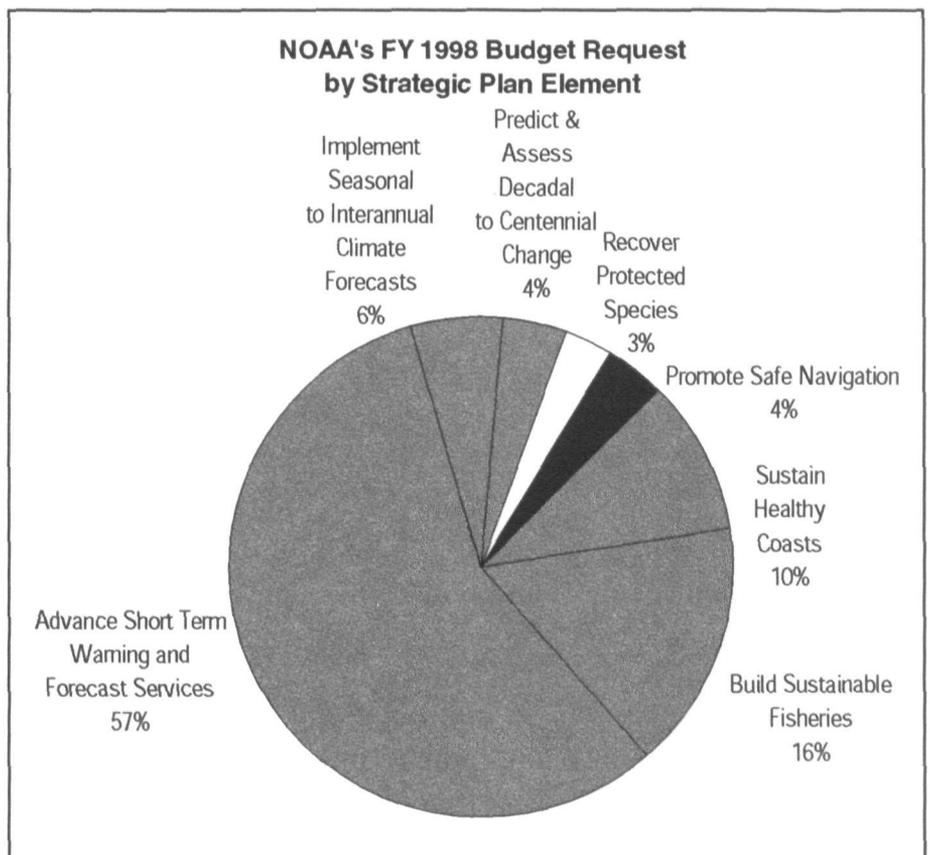
- ❖ \$5 million increase to ensure systems critical for production of climate forecasts that benefit all sectors of the economy by providing an advanced picture of likely weather patterns.
- ❖ \$11 million for restoration to base funds to allow the National Weather Service to maintain functions necessary to perform its primary mission of forecasting weather to protect life and property.
- ❖ \$17 million increase for deployment of the National Weather Service Advanced Weather Interac-

tive Processing System, which will allow forecasters to integrate a variety of vital weather information in a glance.

- ❖ The transfer of the Aeronautical Charting Unit to the Federal Aviation Administration, which will be accomplished over a two-year time frame.

**Budget Available Online**

NOAA's FY 98 budget proposal is available in its entirety on NOAA's Internet web site at: <http://www.noaa.gov>. The President's budget is also available online at <http://www.access.gpo.gov>. ☺



## NCEP Modeling Chief Receives Presidential Rank Award

Eugenia Kalnay, Director of the National Weather Service's (NWS) Environmental Modeling Center has been named winner of the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Achievement. She received the coveted honor for her leadership in the improvements of computer models which are the foundation of accurate and timely weather forecasts.

"Dr. Kalnay has demonstrated outstanding leadership as a scientist and innovative manager," said Elbert W. Friday Jr., NWS director. "Her scientific and technical insight into the complex field of numerical weather prediction has improved the weather services provided to the United States."

Kalnay was among five Department of Commerce recipients of the President's annual award. The award is presented to civil servants for outstanding career achievements, significant cost reduction, workforce productivity, initiative and innovation, quality of work, cooperative efforts and successful efforts in fostering diversity.

The Environmental Modeling Center (EMC), one of the NWS's National Centers for Environmental Prediction, improves weather, marine and climate predictions for the nation by developing and improving computer models of the atmosphere and oceans. Computer models developed and improved by the Center provide the basic guidance for meteorologists and oceanographers in making forecasts.

Kalnay has served as EMC director for the past 10 years and has been recognized by the Department of Commerce, the American Meteorological Society and NASA for her achievements, as well as for the successes of the Center. She has



NWS director Joe Friday congratulates NCEP's Eugenia Kalnay on her Presidential Rank award.

served on many professional committees and working groups and has

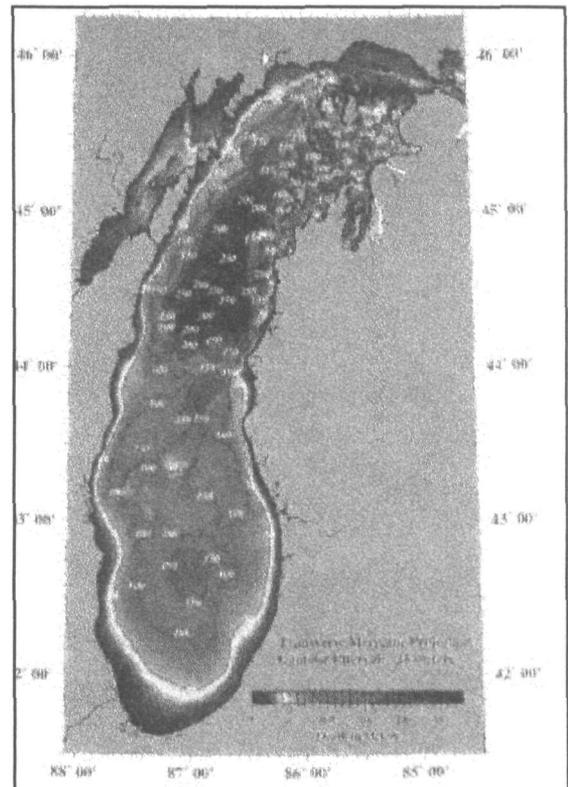
published more than 200 papers in scientific journals.

—Kim Comba ☺

## New 3-D Map of Lake Michigan Floor Available as Poster and CD

NOAA oceanographers have compiled a new 3-D map that more clearly depicts previously known physical features of the lakefloor of Lake Michigan and reveals a number of features seen for the first time. The poster and accompanying data base on CD-ROM are now available to the public.

More than 600,000 high-quality depth measurements, or soundings, collected over a 120-year period were used in making the new map. The data, collected



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# Elections Alter Congressional Committees

The 1996 Congressional elections have altered drastically the makeup of the House and Senate committees that cover NOAA. Here's a rundown of some of the important changes.

## Appropriations

**New Republicans:** Randy "Duke" Cunningham, Calif.; Todd Tiahrt, Kan.; Zack Wamp, Tenn.; Tom Latham, Iowa; Anne Northup, Ky.; Robert Aderholt, Ala.

**Republican Departing:** Frank Riggs, Calif.

**New Democrats:** Rosa DeLauro, Conn.; James P. Moran, Va.; Ed Pastor, Ariz.; John W. Olver, Mass.; and Carrie P. Meek, Fla.; David E. Price, N.C.; Chet Edwards, Texas.

## Resources

**New Republicans:** Bob Smith, Ore.; Chris Cannon, Utah; John E. Peterson, Pa.; Rick Hill, Mont.; Robert W. Schaffer, Colo.; Jim Gibbons, Nev.

**Republicans Departing:** J.D. Hayworth, Ariz.; Richard "Doc" Hastings, Wash.

**New Democrats:** William D. Delahunt, Mass.; Chris John, La.; Adam Smith, Wash.; Donna Green, V.I.

**Democrat Departing:** Sam Gejdenson, Conn.

## Science

**Republicans Departing:** Zack Wamp, Tenn.; Lindsey Graham, S.C.; Todd Tiahrt, Kan.; Steve Largent, Okla.; Van Hilleary, Tenn.; Barbara Cubin, Wyo.; Sue Myrick, N.C.

**New Democrats:** Walter Holden Capps, Calif.; Deborah Ann Stabenow, Mich.; Danny K. Davis, Ill.; Bobby R. Etheridge, N.C.; Nick Lampson, Texas.

**Democrats Departing:** John Tanner, Tenn.; Jane Harman, Calif.; David Minge, Minn.; John W. Olver, Mass.; Karen McCarthy, Mo.

## Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

**Departures:** Sens. Larry Pressler (R-SD) and J. James Exon (D-NE);

**Additions:** Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS)

## Senate Appropriations Committee

**Departures:** Sens. Mark Hatfield (R-OR), Connie Mack (R-FL), James Jeffords (R-VT), Robert Kerrey (D-NE) and J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA)

**Additions:** Sens. Larry Craig (R-ID), Lauch Faircloth (R-NC), Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-TX), Byron Dorgan (D-ND) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA).

## Senate Environment and Public Works Committee:

**Departures:** Sens. Lauch Faircloth (R-NC), Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Robert Bennett (R-UT)

**Additions:** Sen. Tim Hutchinson (R-AR), Jeff Sessions (R-AL) and Wayne Allard (R-CO)

## NOAA Ship Hosts Special People for Seattle's Parade of Lights

For the eleventh consecutive year, the NOAA ship *John N. Cobb* participated in Seattle's annual Christmas "Parade of Lights." This evening event—the largest of its kind in the Nation—is sponsored by AT&T and includes more than 400 boats decorated and lighted for the season. The parade route takes the participants on a round trip cruise

from Lake Union, through the Montlake Cut, and onto Lake Washington.

The Cobb participates each year as part of an effort by Seattle's Seafair Foundation to allow developmentally disabled adults and children to participate in the annual event, which is called the Special People's Holiday Cruise. It is also one of the mainstays of NOAA's Pacific Marine Center's ongoing diversity and outreach activities.

This year, the eight-member crew of the Cobb, commanded by Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth W. Barton, hosted 15 special guests along with 32 volunteers for the three-hour cruise. Both guests and volunteers enjoyed watching the beautifully decorated boats and the antics of Santa and his elves on jet skis. One of Santa's helpers even boarded the Cobb during the cruise to add to the festivities.



The NOAA ship *John N. Cobb* in Seattle during that city's Parade of Lights.

—Cmdr. Lawrence F. Simoneaux ☺

## Kantor Says Goodbye as Daley Takes Over

*continued from page 3*

confirmation hearings, Secretary Kantor was saying goodbye to Commerce Department staff in an emotion-filled speech in the Department's lobby.

Praising President Clinton for his choice of Daley to succeed him, Kantor noted Daley's "tremendous ability and commitment," saying that "the leadership shown by Ron Brown and so many people in this department will continue."

Calling Commerce "the crossroads of a diverse economy and the cutting edge of change in America," Kantor said that Commerce's performance had been "brilliant."

"All of you who have spent much of your life working here quietly, efficiently, and with great dedication" made it happen, he added.

Like Daley, who worked with Secretary Brown during the North American Free Trade Agreement congressional hearings, Kantor praised Brown, whom he replaced after Brown's death in a plane crash in Croatia last year, which also claimed the lives of 11 other department employees.

**'No One Can Replace Ron Brown'**

"I could not replace him, I could only succeed him," Kantor said of Brown. "No one can replace Ron Brown. He cared about you, he cared about the people we serve... He worked his heart out, and gave his life, as did many of our friends."

Kantor also praised the department staff, telling them too many people

blame "bureaucrats" as a last resort.

"It's difficult to leave," he said. "You have blessed me with your friendship. I consider you all colleagues. I look forward to making sure that I stand up for you wherever I am, whatever I'm doing, for all that you're doing for the Nation."

—JS ☺

## 3-D Map of Lake Michigan Available as Poster and CD

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by NOS's Coast Survey and the Army Corps of Engineers, were originally collected for nautical charting, but fully assembled, they constitute the best data set available for compiling bathymetry, or lakefloor topography.

Both the poster and the CD-ROM picture files may be viewed in 3-D using Chromadepth™ high-definition glasses, which will be distributed with the poster. The 3-D effect is particularly enhanced in custom plotter versions of the poster which are plotted using high-intensity color inks.

The oceanographers involved with the project are from NESDIS, OAR's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory; and the University of Colorado's and NOAA's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES).

New bathymetry for the four international Great Lakes is being prepared in a cooperative effort between NOAA and the Canadian Hydrographic Service. The University of Minnesota Large Lakes Observatory is also cooperating in the preparation of new bathymetry for Lake Superior.

To order the color poster or the CD-ROM, contact Robin Warnken, National Geophysical Data Center, 325 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80303, telephone 303-497-6338, fax 303-497-6513, (email [rwarnken@ngdc.noaa.gov](mailto:rwarnken@ngdc.noaa.gov)). The poster is \$20.00 and the CD is \$50.00.

*For more information and sample imagery, visit NGDC's Lake Michigan web page at: [http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/announcements/announce\\_lakemich.html](http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/announcements/announce_lakemich.html).* ☺

### Got Something to Say? Write a Letter

*NOAA Report* will begin a Letters column in the near future, and we're waiting to hear from you. You can send your letters by e-mail, fax, or plain old U.S. Mail to the addresses in the box on the right side of this page. No matter how you send it, we'd like to hear from you. Deadline for each issue is the 15th of the previous month. We can't print them all, but we'll read all of them. ☺

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