

NOAA REPORT



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July 1997

El Niño to Play Prominent Role In Coming Weather:

With the strong El Niño conditions currently developing in the tropical Pacific, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center is predicting wetter, cooler weather for the southern half of the United States from November through March, while the northern part of the country from Washington east to the western Great Lakes should experience warmer than normal temperatures.

Scientists at the center said, however, that forecasts for the summer were more uncertain because El Niño impacts during this time normally are not

News Briefs

consistent. The current Climate Prediction Center forecast for the summer is for above normal temperatures in the southeast and southwest with cooler than normal conditions from Oklahoma northwestward to Idaho.

Scientists to Investigate Aerosol-Greenhouse Effect Ties: Some 200 scientists from Europe and the United States will join forces this summer to investigate how smog, smoke and other "atmospheric aerosols" affect climate and the extent to which they may offset the greenhouse effect.

"The global distribution of aerosols, their characteristics and the way they interact with solar radiation and clouds are all poorly known, which prevents both precise calculations of the effect

continued on page 8



NOAA's new Gulfstream IV jet, introduced by Dr. Baker, was the highlight of the National Hurricane Center's 1997 hurricane season press briefing.

Hurricane Season Begins

New Gulfstream IV Jet is Hurricane Forecasting Tool

NOAA ushered in the 1997 hurricane season with a high-flying new twist this year. The National Hurricane Center held its annual press briefing away from home at NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., with its newest high-tech forecasting tool as a backdrop: a Gulfstream-IV high-altitude jet that will begin hurricane surveillance operations this year.

The jet is expected to improve hurricane landfall and intensity predictions by up to 20 percent.

NOAA officials participating in the event included NOAA Administrator Dr. D. James Baker; NWS Director Dr. Joe Friday; Jerry Jarrell, Deputy

Director of the National Hurricane Center; Rear Admiral William Stubblefield, Director of NOAA Corps Operations (ONCO); and Captain George Player, Director of ONCO's Aircraft Operations Center.

"NOAA forecasters will for the first time have atmospheric data at high altitudes where steering currents direct the motion of hurricanes," Dr. Baker said at the unveiling of the jet. The jet will fly above and around hurricanes at altitudes up to 45,000 feet.

According to Dr. Friday, "The data...will supplement the low-and mid-altitude data collected by NOAA P-3 and Air Force WC-130

continued on page 3

Federal-State Sanctuary Partnership to Help Protect Endangered Hawaiian Humpback Whales

For the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, five years of public meetings, debate, and deliberation came down to one day—June 6. At issue: whether the state of Hawaii will join NOAA in creating a marine sanctuary to protect the most important breeding and calving ground for the endangered humpback whale.

On June 6, Hawaii Governor Ben Cayetano decided that the humpback whale sanctuary was the right thing to do for the citizens of Hawaii, and the humpback whales. Governor Cayetano cited the sanctuary's potential to help Hawaii make its mark as an Ocean State, reinvigorate the economy by

bringing tourists back to the islands, benefit the children of Hawaii through education and research, and address local concerns over federal role in state waters in making his decision to support the sanctuary.

"Working together with the local community and the state of Hawaii, the sanctuary will further our appreciation and understanding of humpback whales," said NOAA Administrator Dr. D. James Baker. "I want to thank Governor Cayetano and the people of Hawaii for joining in this cooperative effort to benefit the marine environment and the economy it supports."

The final sanctuary agreement alters the boundary to maintain waters

EDITOR'S NOTE

The headline on pages 1 and 2 of the June 1997 issue should have reflected that with the dome-raising at Hytop, Ala., the NWS Radar Network was completed across the southern United States. ☺



Joining Governor Cayetano (center) in his Chambers at the State Capitol following the June 6, 1997 Press Conference are (from left to right): Kelvin Char, NOAA/NMFS; Kelli Araki, SRD; Margo Jackson, NOAA/GC; Governor Cayetano; Allen Tom, SRD; Debra Malek, SRD; and Naomi McIntosh, SRD.

around each of main Hawaiian islands, with smaller areas for the Big Island, Maui, Molokai, and Kauai. Consistent with the original proposal, the sanctuary does not add new regulations or permit requirements for commercial or recreational activities. The sanctuary complements existing efforts to protect the humpback whale and its habitat through coordinated education, research, long-term monitoring, and

enforcement programs.

Sanctuary management continues to rely upon the advice and recommendations of a sanctuary advisory council, comprised of local citizen and government agencies.

Sanctuary staff have already begun reaching out to the community—particularly those opposed to the sanctuary—and begin fulfilling the sanctuary's promise. ☺

NMFS Launches Mentoring Program

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has instituted a pilot mentoring program for its headquarters staff, designed to give participants a better understanding of how NMFS really works.

Under the guidance of the Program's coordinators, Natalie Huff and Lu Cano, Project Manager Nikki Bane, and Diane Rhodes and Kathy Wentworth

Drahosz from the Training Connection, the program is also meant to expose employees to managers and leaders throughout NMFS and NOAA, help employees explore employment and growth opportunities, and to achieve NOAA's diversity goals.

Some of the program's participants have gone on to other Fisheries developmental programs. ☺

New Jet is Hurricane Forecasting Tool

continued from page 1

aircraft that penetrate hurricanes, giving us a complete picture of the atmosphere in, over, and around a developing hurricane.”

Increased Coastal Threat

Jarrell warned, however, that “The threat of hurricanes along coastal areas has increased because more people live there. Tools such as the new G-IV jet that help forecasters predict the track of hurricanes will help coastal residents prepare...but these tools are only part of the equation. People should remember they are ultimately responsible for preparing for their own safety and protecting property. This is a message that must not be lost in the wave of new technology.” Jarrell estimated \$5 billion in hurricane damage occurs during an average year. Improved



The new Gulfstream IV jet (above) will be known as Gonzo, after the Muppets character. The two other NOAA hurricane hunter aircraft have the Muppet characters Kermit and Miss Piggy as their mascots.

landfall predictions of even 10 percent would save \$500 million, he said.

The G-IV and P-3 “hurricane hunters” are flown by NOAA Corps pilots and maintained by AOC engineers.

—Jeanne Kouhestani ☺

Management Changes in Line Offices, Headquarters Announced

NOAA Administrator Dr. D. James Baker announced a number of management changes late last month.

- Dr. Nancy Foster, formerly the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service, has been named the new Assistant Administrator in charge of the National Ocean Service.
- Elbert W. “Joe” Friday, the director of NOAA’s National Weather Service since 1988, has been reassigned to the position of assistant administrator for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. Friday began his new assignment on June 30.

The OAR director’s office had been vacant since the retirement of the late Ned Ostenso last year. Alan Thomas had been acting assistant administrator, and now

returns to his position as deputy assistant administrator.

- Robert Winokur, assistant administrator for NESDIS, was named acting NWS director.
- Former NOS Assistant Administrator Dr. Stanley Wilson was also named Deputy Chief Scientist, and Dr. Baker’s senior advisor on ocean issues. He will lead NOAA’s participation in organizing and implementing our activities in support of the United Nations 1998 Year of the Ocean, as well as other duties.
- Dr. David Evans will assume the Deputy Assistant Administrator responsibilities in NMFS. His scientific credentials and management expertise will allow him to work closely with the NMFS management team to tackle the complex fisheries management

issues faced by the fisheries service.

- Captain Evelyn Fields, currently Director of the Commissioned Personnel Center for the NOAA Corps, will assume duties of Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator of NOS in mid July. ☺

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In response to the many inquiries we’ve gotten about NOAA Report and recycled paper, all government publications printed through the Government Printing Office—including NOAA Report—**must** use recycled paper approved by the Congressional Joint Committee on Printing. This paper contains at least 20 percent post-consumer waste. The matte (non-glossy) paper we use for NOAA Report can be recycled in many areas. Check with your local recycling coordinator for details. ☺

Focus On...

Coastal Zone Management in the Great Lakes

A beautiful June morning greeted a group of Federal, state and local officials, the news media, and curious citizens as they gathered along the shore of Lake Erie near Cleveland's Great Lakes Science Center to mark Ohio's entry into the National Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program.

The level of lakeshore-oriented activity that surrounded NOAA Administrator Dr. D. James Baker, and Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Donald Anderson and others at the June 5 ceremony was a perfect illustration of the need for, and importance of, coastal zone management.

Across the harbor, hundreds of high-school students clambered aboard a ship for a day cruise while inside the science center a seemingly endless stream of younger kids wound their way through every level and wing of the facility exploring exhibits and learning about the lake and the environment. Just off to the East, music fans began pouring into the lakefront Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and along the docks to the West tons of steel were being hoisted onto freighters. Tourists walking along the lakefront joined officials at the ceremony to see what was happening.

COASTS UNDER TREMENDOUS STRESS: BAKER

"Our coasts are under tremendous stress," Baker told the crowd. "More people live and work near the coasts



(from left) Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources Director Don Anderson, NOAA Administrator Dr. D. James Baker, National Ocean Service (NOS) Assistant Administrator Dr. Nancy Foster, and NOS Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management Coastal Programs Division Chief Joe Uravitch display Ohio's Coastal Zone Management Plan Federal certificate of approval during a June 5 ceremony in Cleveland, with the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in the background. The Hall is in the same area as the Great Lakes Science Center.

and come to enjoy areas such as this beautiful lakefront here in Cleveland. Careful planning and management like that outlined in Ohio's (CZM) plan are the keys to meeting the needs of people while preserving the coastal environment," he said.

Anderson, whose agency is responsible for the state's CZM plan, focused on the crucial role played by coasts, ports and harbors in the lives of citizens in the Buckeye State. "Our coast is the catalyst for economic revitalization of northern

Ohio, a habitat for abundant fish and wildlife, a transportation link to world markets, and a recreational resource without equal," Anderson said of Lake Erie and Ohio's 262-mile shoreline and coastal zone.

Anderson's remarks prompted Baker to add "catalyst" to his list of key factors — now called the "Seven C's" — for successful coastal zone management; Challenge, Cooperation, Communications, Community, Catalyst, Commitment and Consistency.

Following the ceremony, Dr. Nancy Foster, newly appointed head of NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS), noted that the people who understand the "Seven C's" better than anyone are probably the dozens of NOAA and Ohio DNR staff members and others who did the behind the scenes "trench work" for the project. Some of the people involved in the development of Ohio's plan include Ellen Brody, Office of Coastal Resource Management, who served as Great Lakes Regional Manager from 1992-1995; Diana Olinger, Great Lakes region

program specialist; and Pamela Lawrence, NOAA Office of Assistant General Counsel for Ocean Services.

Also, from Ohio DNR's Real Estate and Land Management division, Michael Colvin, coastal management administrator, and; Christine Kasselmann, coastal management assistant.

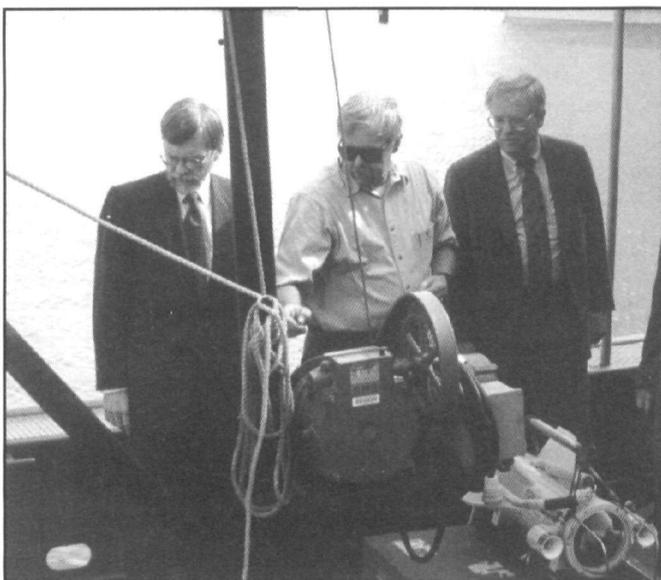
LAKE ERIE CZM PLANNING COMPLETE

Federal approval of Ohio's CZM program completes coastal zone management planning for the U. S. side of Lake Erie and brings the total of coastal states and territories

participating in the program to 31 out of a possible 35.

The CZM program is an outgrowth of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972, and subsequent reauthorizations of the law, which asks states to work with NOAA to identify, solve, and prevent problems in the Nation's coastal areas through planning and management. Qualifying state plans are eligible for Federal matching funds and cooperation from Federal agencies in coastal zone management.

—Dan Dewell ☺



(left to right) Dr. D. James Baker, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) coastal geologist and research vessel "GS-1" skipper Dale Liebenthal, and Ohio DNR Director Don Anderson inspect the GS-1's equipment prior to the June 5 ceremony marking Federal approval of Ohio's coastal zone management plan.

Learn About Ecology at Ohio's Old Woman Creek

Dr. D. James Baker and National Ocean Service chief Dr. Nancy Foster were among a group of Federal, state, and local officials who recently visited the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) near Huron, Ohio.

The reserve is part of Ohio's statewide preserve system operated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and is part of the NERR system administered by NOS.

The reserve serves as a field laboratory where scientists can study a naturally functioning estuarine system and a place where students and the general public learn about ecology in a natural setting. Baker and the rest of the group toured the reserve following ceremonies in Cleveland June 5 that marked Federal approval to Ohio's Coastal Zone Management program.

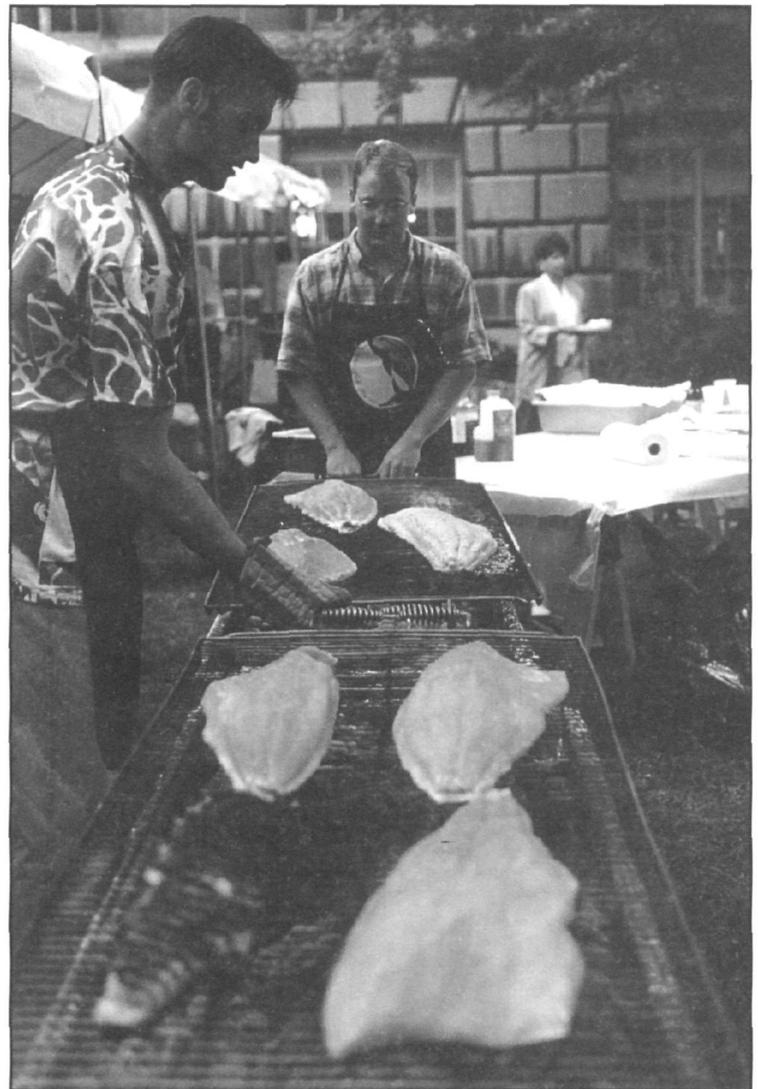
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22nd Fish Fry Draws Top Chefs

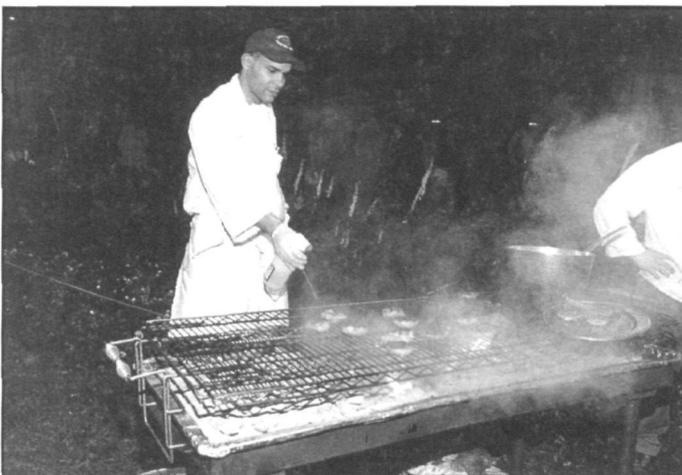
Seafood chefs from the Washington area converged on the Commerce Department last month to help out and cook up some fine food for NOAA's 22nd annual Fish Fry. This year's event was in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Coastal Zone Management Act and the National Marine Sanctuary Act. The Fry was cosponsored by NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. ☺



(Above) Chef Dreew Raggs from Copeland's of New Orleans tossed up some crawfish in a tent in the DOC courtyard.



(Above) Peter Dye and Rafe Peterson of the Alaska Fisheries Marketing company kept the grills smoking.



(Above) Sure, some of the food was hot. But here's one chef who was putting out a fire of a different kind.



(Above) What are these women doing? Yes, they are petting fish at Washington's National Aquarium, another site of the Fish Fry.



The NOAA Ship Whiting held an open house in Wilmington, NC in May.

500 Enjoy Whiting's Open House

NOAA Ship Whiting welcomed visitors aboard during "Maritime Day" on May 17, in Wilmington, N.C. The event, hosted by the North Carolina State Ports Authority, was designed to further public understanding of the significant local impact of maritime commerce and industry.

Whiting crew members took the opportunity to educate visitors on the importance of accurate nautical charts. Whiting is one of only three NOAA ships currently collecting hydrographic data for NOAA's charts. Nearly 500 people enjoyed tours of the ship, including the mayor of Wilmington.

Whiting has nearly completed a hydrographic survey of the approaches to the Cape Fear River. These approaches are transited each year by some 1,800 vessels, many of which draw the maximum draft in the river channel. In addition to agricultural products, consumer goods and automobiles, many of these ships carry hazardous cargo, such as explosives, highly-enriched uranium, petroleum products, and fertilizer. This survey will enable these larger, deeper-draft ships to safely navigate to the Port of Wilmington, North Carolina's leading port, with a resulting increase in commercial trade.

—LCdr. Emily Christman ☺

Old Woman Creek, Where 'Real Public Education' Happens

continued from page 5

Reserve manager Eugene Wright led the group through the reserve's laboratories and visitor center before escorting them down a trail to a wildlife viewing area. They later visited the reserve's beach area and a dormitory used by students and researchers working at the site.

"This is where real public education and learning take place," Baker said, surrounded by exhibits and artwork in the visitors center. He applauded the work of reserve education coordinator Linda Feix and others who devote their time and energy to public outreach, preservation, and research. "We talk a lot about public education back in Washington D.C., but it's good to get out here and see where it actually happens. It wouldn't be possible without people like you," he said.



NOAA and State of Ohio coastal zone management specialists take in the beauty of Old Woman Creek estuarine reserve in Ohio.

Old Woman Creek reserve is made up of 571 acres of land, water and wetland areas including beaches,

forests, a small island and old crop fields.

—Dan Dewell ☺

continued from page 1

of aerosols on climate and accurate predictions of future climate change," said principal scientist Timothy Bates of NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle. Only recently have scientists suspected these effects might also influence global climate.

In the 2nd Aerosol Characterization Experiment (ACE-2) June 16-July 25, scientists within the International Global Atmospheric Chemistry Project will equip a ship, and coastal and mountain top sites in Portugal and on the Canary Islands and Madeira with the most advanced observational equipment to study man-made aerosols from Europe and natural dust aerosols from the Sahara. Six research aircraft will perform dedicated flights to make measurements within these aerosol plumes and

News Briefs

the surrounding clouds. The area will also be monitored with the NOAA12, NOAA14, NOAA/k, Meteosat, and ER-2 satellites.

Navy Modifies Atlantic Operations to Reduce Interactions with Protected Species: Measures proposed by the U.S. Navy have significantly reduced the likelihood of interactions between Navy ships and aircraft with northern right whales and with other protected species, concludes an Endangered Species Act "biological opinion" issued by NMFS.

The opinion concludes that measures adopted by the Navy will help ensure that their activities along the southeast U.S. coast are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species such as the northern right whale, humpback whale and other large whales, along with Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead and green sea turtles. ☺



Girl Scouts experiment with "tornado tubes," with the Lunar Lander exhibit in the background. NOAA was one of the sponsors of Girl Scout Day at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum recently.

Strengthening Girls' Interest in Science

They didn't get there by selling cookies, but Washington-area Girl Scouts got a special look at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum recently, aided by NOAA volunteers.

The annual event of the Girl Scout Council of the National Capital Area is part of its goal to strengthen girls' interest in science.

Designed to offer girls hands-on activities presented by professionals in the fields of science, engineering, and mathematics in noncompetitive situations, the Girl Scout Council seeks to encourage girls to share in the fun and excitement of science-related careers and carry this enthusiasm with them into their classroom studies.

Girl Scouts who attended the event were able to earn a special badge for their participation.

NOAA has been part of this educational program for the past four years, and was one of seven Federal agencies represented among 21 exhibitors this year.

The hands-on activities included a

"tornado tubes" experiment, in which girls were able to create a vortex using two soda bottles, water, and a special plastic connector.

NOAA volunteers included Chris Duda, Frances Holt, and Carmella Watkins (NESDIS); Ida Hakkarinen (NWS); and Mary Ann Whitcomb and Carol Knight (OAR). ☺

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