

noaa week

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NOAA-4 Launch Successful

NOAA's new environmental satellite, NOAA-4, was launched successfully from Vandenberg Air Force Base at 12:11 EST on November 15 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The satellite is in near perfect geosynchronous orbit, with an apogee of 1461 kilometers (907 statute miles), and a perigee of 1453 kilometers (902 statute miles). NASA and NOAA's National Environmental Satellite Service are in the process of checking out the spacecraft's sensors. To date, their checks indicate that scanning radiometers, vertical temperature profile radiometers, the solar proton monitors are operating normally. The very high resolution radiometers will be checked later this week. It is expected that the satellite will be turned over to NOAA for operational use on December 5.

Idyll Named to National Ocean Policy Study Post

Dr. Clarence P. Idyll has been appointed Study Director, National Ocean Policy Study, in the Office of Planning and Program Coordination of the Office of Marine Resources. Since 1971 he has been Senior Fishery Management Consultant of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. He will coordinate studies on behalf of the Special Committee on Ocean Policy Study of the Interagency Committee on Marine Science and Engineering arising from the activities of the National Ocean Policy Study of the United States Senate. The Senate National Ocean Policy Study, created in February 1974, will examine many aspects of ocean affairs, with the intention of improving Federal programs and increasing marine research, development and protection activities. Dr. Idyll served for eight years as biologist for the International Salmon Fisheries Commission. (Continued on page 2)



A NOAA UNIT CITATION has been awarded to National Geodetic Survey Level Parties G-36 and G-37 in recognition of outstanding individual and collective contributions in conducting a special geodetic survey of the Galveston-Houston, Tex., area last year. In this photo, NGS Director Captain Leonard S. Baker (left) presents the plaque to Party G-37 members (standing) James W. Taylor, Lieutenant Lewis A. Lapine, Rankin B. Ward, Robert L. Waldon, (seated) George A. Sowell, David B. Crockett, and Ronnie L. Taylor.

A similar plaque was presented to Party G-36.

Seaweed Farms Would Pay, Says Sea Grant Biologist

A two-acre "farm" growing a common red seaweed found in the Florida keys would be a paying proposition, says a biologist at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Working under a NOAA Sea Grant, Dr. Clinton J. Dawes calculates that intensive tank culture of the Florida seaweed called *Eucheuma*—which is much in demand for commercial extracts—would yield up to \$9.72 per square meter per year.

A "farm" of seaweed-growing tanks taking up a little over two acres of land (about the size of three football fields) would thus be expected to bring the growers a gross of about \$85,000 a year. The three-year study points out that harvesting the red algae

under field-grown conditions would yield only about 16 cents per square meter, meaning that more than 12 acres of area would be required to yield around \$8,000 annually.

"The 60-fold increase in gross revenue by tank culture will have to be considered in the light of such costs as tank construction, water movement, and temperature control," Dr. Dawes notes. "However, based on our study of the ecology, biochemistry, and economics of the plant, mariculture seems feasible and desirable."

He points out that only after a pilot plant has been established can a sound cost vs. profit balance be struck.

Dr. Dawes proposed the use of plastic or fiberglass-coated plywood containers with about three square meters of surface area and using compressed air for water circulation. In a tank of this size about 20 kilograms (44 lbs.) of plant material could be allowed to cycle for about 30 days, increasing in size to about 36.2 kilograms (almost 80 lbs.). This would reduce in dry weight, to about 7.24 kg (almost 16 lbs.). Ten such harvests could be carried out each year in each tank using plants collected from the wild or grown under controlled conditions.

Our New Look

NOAA Week has a new and smaller look today. Our page content has been halved and several features dropped, in the interest of saving paper. Although articles will, in general, be shorter, we shall continue to bring the NOAA family all the organization's major news.

Sea Slicks May Save Lives

A harmless manmade sea slick that is being studied as a hurricane suppressor may also help save lives another way, according to an Oceanographer with the Environmental Research Laboratories' Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories. Duncan Ross, of AOML's Sea-Air Interaction Laboratory in Miami, Fla., believes that a slick-forming chemical, added to the dye packets of life jackets and rafts would make it easier for rescuers to spot shipwreck victims or others cast adrift at sea.

Certain chemicals form temporary sea slicks on the surface of the ocean, covering the water with a thin, polymer membrane only a few molecules thick. A small amount of one such compound—polyvinyl alcohol, linoleic acid and derivatives of polyvinyl acetate—can produce an acre of slick in 20 minutes, with a clearly visible, stable boundary. The chemicals used have been found to be of low toxicity, and the amounts involved are too small to harm aquatic life.

Last year, two scientists with ERL's National Hurricane Research Laboratory and the Illinois Institute of Technology announced that such a slick could block one of the channels feeding hurricanes. Hurricanes draw their destructive force from evaporation-produced heat energy from the ocean's surface. After experiments in the Gulf Stream east of Miami, the scientists concluded that the chemical film could effectively suppress evaporation and waves, and, therefore, inhibit the development of storms.

The manmade slicks, which produce a smoother-looking patch of water, even suppress the ripples on the bow wave of a ship.

This wave-suppressing property, says Mr. Ross, makes polymer sea slicks potential life-savers. Many life jackets and rafts carry dye packets used in an emergency to create a splash of bright orange in the water—which, however, is soon dissipated by waves.

The ability of sea slicks to calm the seas, Mr. Ross says, would assist in prolonging the life of the dye patch. Since two ounces of

(Continued on page 2)

NGS Surveying In California

The National Geodetic Survey is beginning a five-month geodetic survey along a 320-mile route in central California. The survey, designed to update measurements of elevations for use in monitoring earth settlements along the California Aqueduct, is being done by the NGS in cooperation with the California Department of Water Resources.

The 20-man survey party headed by Robert R. Gerrish will measure over 300 elevations on a route extending from Oakland through San Leandro, Midway, San Luis Dam, Kettleman City, Lost Hills, Tupman, Maricopa and Pastoria Creek. The route passes through the counties of Alameda, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, Kings and Kern.

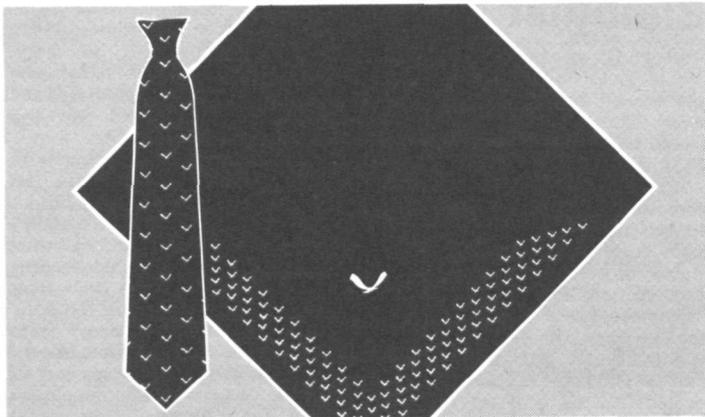
Manmade Sea Slicks

(Continued from page 1)

oleal alcohol will form a slick about 200 feet (60 meters) in diameter that lasts several hours, he suggests adding such a substance to life jacket dye packets.

The slick, he points out, is highly visible and can be detected by airborne radar, so an all weather search could be conducted from high altitudes, greatly improving the efficiency of search and rescue operations.

Employees Association Selling Ties, Scarves



The NOAA Employees Association is offering dark blue Italian silk scarves (28 inches square) and ties, with a sea gull design that is an exact replica of the gull in the NOAA emblem. These are available at \$7.50 each, suitably boxed for gifts. Washington, D.C., area employees should place their orders through their NOAA Employees Association delegate. Field employees should send their checks or money orders (payable to the NOAA Employees Association) to: Gene Dancico, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, Room 1117, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230. Deliveries to field locations will be expedited if con-

SDO Begins 1974-75 School Lecture Visitation Program

The 1974-75 School Lecture and Visitation Program of the National Weather Service's System Development Office began with a visit to Montgomery Junior College by Dr. J. Murray Mitchell, Jr., Senior Climatologist of the Environmental Data Service. His lecture on "Weather Modification and Some Phases of Climatic Variations" to a physical science class was TV-taped for replay on future dates to meteorology classes in the college.

The program, a regular part of SDO's long-range participation in the Equal Opportunity Program initiated in April 1971, is aimed at promoting more interest in the sciences and encouraging a greater number of students from minority groups to consider careers in science.

Richard L. Crisci, Research Meteorologist in the Techniques Development Laboratory, is chairman of SDO's Equal Opportunity Program, and Daisy L. McKelly, Operations Research Analyst in the System Design and Experimentation Division, is coordinator for the School Lecture and Visitation Program.

Violet B. Roadcap Receives Commerce Bronze Medal



VIOLET B. ROADCAP recently received a Commerce Bronze Medal for "sustained high performance and many contributions to improved operations in the field of Climatology and Hydrology in the National Weather Service Central Region." Here, Mrs. Roadcap, who has retired after 30 years' Federal service in Kansas City, Mo., is congratulated by Alfred Skrede, Chief of the CRH Data Acquisition Division, where she was last employed.

Dr. Idyll Named to Ocean Policy Study Post

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Dr. Clarence P. Idyll

mission, and for twenty-two years was on the faculty of the University of Miami, Fla., serving in latter years as Professor of Marine Science and Chairman of the Division of Fisheries and Estuarine Ecology at the Institute of Marine Science. In 1969 he was given the University's Outstanding

Teacher Award.

He received a B.S. with First Class Honors in zoology and an M.S. from the University of British Columbia, and his Ph.D. from the College of Fisheries at the University of Washington.

Dr. Idyll has authored technical papers on salmon, shrimp, aquaculture and other fishery and conservation topics; published two books, *Abyss—The Deep Sea and the Creatures that Live in It*, and *The Sea Against Hunger*; and was co-author and editor of *Exploring the Ocean World, A History of Oceanography*.

He has served on numerous national and international committees, including the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee and the National Academy of Sciences Committee Advisory to NOAA.

solidated orders are submitted. Please be sure to include the address to whom the material should be delivered.

NOAA tie tacks and cuff links are still available at \$5.00 a set.

next week's best fish buys

According to the NMFS National Consumer Educational Services Office in Chicago, the best fish buys for the next week or so are likely to be salad shrimp and fresh pollock filets along the Northeast Seaboard; fresh whole croakers and fluke filets in the Middle Atlantic

States, including the D.C. area; fresh Spanish mackerel and all forms of shrimp in the Southeast and along the Gulf Coast; fresh smelt and frozen ocean perch in the Midwest; fresh oysters and red snapper filets in the Northwest; and frozen haddock and turbot filets in the Southwest.

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Catherine S. Cawley, Editor
Anna V. Felter, Art Director

Dr. Hellmut Schmid Retires; Directed Geodetic R&D Lab



Dr. Hellmut H. Schmid

Dr. Hellmut H. Schmid, who has been Director of the Geodetic Research and Development Laboratory in the National Ocean Survey's National Geodetic Survey since 1968, has retired after 29 years' Federal service.

He has accepted a professorship in the Institute for Geodesy and Photogrammetry at the Technical University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Dr. Schmid began his career with NOAA as Scientific Advisor to the Director of the Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1963, and from 1965-1968 was Director of the Geodetic Research Laboratory in the Environmental Research Laboratories.

While with the Federal government, his specialities have been research and development in precision geodetic and photogrammetric data acquisition, data reduction systems directed toward worldwide geodetic and mapping problems and related areas in navigation, lunar mapping and gravitational studies.

His major accomplishments have included formulating a comprehensive solution to numerical photogrammetry including a generalization of least square to cover hybrid measuring systems; developing the well known BC-4 Ballistic Camera; and pioneering the method of geometric satellite triangulation applied by NOS for the establishment of a new geodetic world datum.

Dr. Schmid's many honors included the Colbert Medal of the Society of American Military Engineers; a Department of Commerce Gold Medal; the Talbert Abrams Award of the American Society of Photogrammetry; the National Award of the International Society of Photogrammetry; an Honorary Doctorate in the Engineering Sciences by the University of Bonn; and a Group Achievement Award from NASA for his participation and contribution to the Apollo Orbital Sciences Photogrammetry Team for Apollo Missions 15, 16, and 17.

Captain M. J. Tonkel Receives Commerce Bronze Medal



CAPTAIN MILLER J. TONKEL (right), Chief of the Program Planning, Liaison and Training Division in the Office of the Director of the NOAA Corps, recently received a Commerce Bronze Medal. He was cited for 32 years of outstanding performance of duty as a commissioned officer and Federal program administrator.

Rear Admiral Harley D. Nygren, Director of the NOAA Corps, presented the medal, as Mrs. Tonkel watched.

Coastal Zone Grant Meeting Held

Representatives from all 30 states and territories awarded development grants in the coastal zone management program attended a two-day working meeting early this month at Airline House in Virginia.

More than 75 persons, including Office of Coastal Zone Management staff and observers from a number of regional agencies, participated in sessions designed to aid state program managers in the planning of their coastal zone management pro-

grams, and to clarify the interrelationships between the states and the Federal office.

A highlight of the meeting was the presentation to New York State of its development grant.

Robert W. Knecht, Director of OCZM, said state reaction to the meeting, first of its kind since the Coastal Zone Management Act was passed in 1972, demonstrated their commitment to the partnership program designed to protect the Nation's coastline.

NESS Men Learn Emergency Aid

Eight men of the National Environmental Satellite Service Command and Data Acquisition Station in Wallops Island, Va., have completed a newly instituted course in Advanced First Aid for emergency care. Responding to a need identified by the local

Employee Advisory Council, Dick Turner and Tom Griffin used a National Red Cross course in the program. The course will be repeated at selected times under the auspices of the Station Safety Committee.



(Kneeling, from left) Phil Miller, John Boa, Bob Vincent, Mr. Griffin, (standing, from left) Mr. Turner, Ken Hastings, Jim Bryant, Art Davis, Gene Bailey, and Barry Mills.

NWS Supports 6th 1974 Visit Of SST to U.S.

For the sixth time in 1974, the Upper Air Branch of the National Weather Service's National Meteorological Center has been asked to provide forecasts of winds and temperatures for stratospheric levels in support of the British-French supersonic transport (SST), the *Concorde*. The latest in the *Concorde's* flight series has taken it from Europe to Bangor, Maine, and thence to Moses Lake, Wash., where it will remain for several weeks, conducting "cold weather flight tests."

It was only for the portion of the flight taking place over the U.S. (mostly over the northern tier of states, including Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, and Washington state), that the Flight Service Stations, using conventional NMC products as well as the 50,000-ft. (stratospheric) forecasts from the Upper Air Branch, were called upon to provide support.

According to a statistical study sponsored by the British Aircraft Corporation and Aerospatiale Francaise, the desert of eastern Washington (where the Moses Lake test-site is located) is the most favorable place in the world for making tests of aircraft icing.

The Seattle Weather Service Forecast Office of the NWS will provide the principal weather support for the *Concorde* during its test-series over the state of Washington.

Shenehon Completes Work in Saginaw Bay

The NOAA Ship *Shenehon* has completed its work on the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory/Environmental Protection Agency Buoy Project in Saginaw Bay. The 18 current meters installed at nine separate locations on the Bay early in the season have been removed and returned to the Instrument Branch at its new location in Monroe, Mich. The vessel, operated by the Lake Survey Center in support of GLERL activities, has resumed its support of the GLERL water qualities studies being conducted on the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers and Lake St. Clair.

Mark W. Ellett Dies

Mark W. Ellett, former Quality Control Officer at the Atlanta, Ga., Weather Service Forecast Office, died on November 8. He had retired in 1971 after 39 years of Federal service. Before moving to Atlanta in 1941 he had worked in Davenport, Iowa; Rock Springs, Wyo.; and Kansas City, Mo.

He is survived by his wife, Maxine; of 2513 North Clark Drive, East Point, Ga., 30344; two daughters; and two grandchildren.



THE MARINE PETROLEUM AND MINERALS ADVISORY COMMITTEE held its first meeting recently. Participants were (from left) David H. Wallace, Associate Administrator for Marine Resources, NOAA, and Committee Vice Chairman; Ben C. Gerwick, Jr., Consulting-Construction Engineer, San Francisco, Calif.; Edwin M. Hood, President and Board Chairman, Shipbuilders Council of America, Washington, D.C.; Melvin N.A. Peterson, Project Manager, Deepsea Drilling Project, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, Calif.; Betty N. MacDonald League of Women Voters, Madison, Wis.; Robert Mauermaun, Executive Secretary, Texas Shrimp Association, Brownsville, Tex.; Leon Hess, Chairman and Executive Officer, Amerada Hess Corporation, New York, N.Y.; Marne A. Dubs, Director, Ocean Resources, Kennecott Copper Corporation, New York, N.Y.; Edwin L. Paramore, President, Halliburton Company, Dallas, Tex.; Dr. Thomas D. Barrow, Director & Senior Vice President, EXXON Corporation, New York, N.Y.; Louis P. Struble, Jr., Executive Vice President, Dravo Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pa.;

Robert B. Ziegler, Vice President, IHC Dredger Division, Mystic, Conn.; Norman Wilder, Executive Director, Delaware Nature Education Center, Wilmington, Del.; Dr. Robert M. White, NOAA Administrator; Herbert Brand, President, Transportation Institute, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Dayton Clewell, Senior Vice President, Mobil Oil Corporation, New York, N.Y.; Amor L. Lane, Chief, Non-Living Resources Office, NOAA, and Committee Executive Secretary; and Howard W. Pollock, NOAA Deputy Administrator and Committee Chairman.

Members not in the photo are William T. Burke, Professor of Law, University of Washington Law School, Seattle, Wash.; John E. Flipse, President, Deepsea Ventures, Inc., Gloucester Point, Va.; Thomas L. Kimball, Executive Vice President, National Wildlife Federation, Washington, D.C.; Cecil J. Olmstead, Vice President, Texaco, Inc., New York, N.Y.; and John G. Winger, Vice President-Energy Economics Division, Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, N.Y.

U.S., Japan Discuss Marine Facilities

William M. Nicholson, Associate Director of the National Ocean Survey's Office of Marine Technology, headed an eight-member U.S. panel which met in Tokyo with a Japanese panel for a discussion of marine facilities. The meeting concluded November 2.

The groups reviewed U.S. and Japanese programs in the design and development of marine facilities, as well as their environmental effects.

In addition to NOAA, the U.S. panel included representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Naval Research, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Naval Academy, Westinghouse Electric Corp., Exxon Production Research Co., and General Electric.

notes about people

Bruce Douglas, a General Physical Scientist, and Soren W. Henriksen, a Geodesist, have recently joined the Geodetic Research and Development Laboratory of the National Ocean Survey's National Geodetic Survey.

Mr. Douglas was previously employed by a private contractor working on projects in satellite geodesy at NASA's Goddard Space Center in Greenbelt, Md. Earlier he worked for a California aerospace firm, and taught courses in satellite geodesy and physics in colleges in California. He also was a Planetarium Lecturer at Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles.

He is Program Chairman for the Section of Geodesy of the American Geophysical Union.

He received his Masters Degree in astronomy and also did graduate study in planetary and space science at UCLA.

Since 1951, Mr. Henriksen has been working for the U.S. government and private industry on problems in solar physics, terrestrial and extraterrestrial geodesy and mapping, design of satellite-tracking cameras and radars, and theory and analysis of ocean wave spectra.

From 1971-1974 he was an AGU Editor of the forthcoming work on the National Geodetic Satellite Program.

He received his M.Sc. degree in mathematics from the University of Illinois.

Ivan L. Crabbe is the new chief of National Geodetic Survey Party G-21, a transcontinental traverse team now conducting geodetic surveys in California. He formerly headed Party G-18, which has been taken over by John R. Shea. G-18, a triangulation party, is headquartered at Alamogordo, N. Mex., where it is conducting surveys at the Holloman Air Force Base.



Ivan L. Crabbe

Donald J. Close, who has been Principal Assistant at the National Weather Service River Forecast Center in Harrisburg, Pa., since 1971, has been selected as the NWS Eastern Region Assistant Regional Hydrologist. He joined the NWS in 1951 after service with the Air Force Weather Squadron in Alaska, and has served in Washington, D.C.; Allentown, Pa.; Winston-Salem, N.C.;



Donald J. Close

Energy-Saving Tip

If you use electric heating, consider a heat pump system. The heat pump uses outside air in both heating and cooling and can cut electric heating costs by as much as 60 percent.

Spartanburg, S.C.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Hartford, Conn.; and Fort Worth, Tex. He holds B.S. degrees in forestry and meteorology and a M.S. in regional planning from Pennsylvania State University.



William M. Nicholson



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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