

# **This Week In NOAA**

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**Activities for the week ending**

**February 8, 1985**

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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

THIS WEEK IN NOAA

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\*An asterisk indicates no items this week.

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OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Live from WKOP in the Page 2 Bldg.

Made the first in what is hoped to be a series of videotapes for F/Mx1. Discussed the Lovgren decision and Nichiro settlement on a tape that will be duplicated and sent to regional NMFS enforcement offices. The plan is to have GCEL provide up-to-date information on new administrative and judicial decisions, or enforcement policies. Coming attraction: What the ESA and MMPA Mean to Me (a GCEL/ F/Mx1 joint production, for use by State deputized enforcement agents).

GCSW Settlements

Within the past two weeks GCSW received \$64,875 in settlement payments. The largest amount, \$51,000.00, was received as the last installment due on an \$85,000 settlement covering 17 Taiwanese non-permitted coral draggers (for illegal fishing off the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands). Since the Coast Guard was unable to seize these vessels, they were all processed as administrative civil penalty cases. \$10,000 was received to pay a civil penalty assessed against a U.S. tuna purse seiner for violating the two speedboat limitation rule (non-certificated purse seiners catching yellowfin tuna in the Eastern Tropical Pacific are not allowed under the MMPA Tuna/Porpoise regulations to carry more than two speedboats). The balance of the \$64,875 came from a groundfish trip limit case (\$2,500), a MMPA charter vessel case (\$700), a halibut case (\$375), a MMPA shooting case (first installment - \$50), and a groundfish vessel numbering case (\$250).

Emergency Rule Issued for Gulf of Alaska Groundfish

The NPFMC concluded at its early December meeting that certain optimum yields will be fully utilized by U.S. fishermen. Under the current plan that use would prevent allocations to foreign nations because of impermissible foreign by-catches. The Council indicated its intent to reconsider its December actions at its early February meeting. The emergency rule was necessary to amend the FMP to establish small amounts of certain fish as prohibited species in order to avoid disrupting fishing while the Council reviews the issues. The emergency rule was filed 1/24/85 and published 1/29/85 (50 FR 3911).

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Budget Briefing Held - More than a score of media representatives -- largest turnout in memory -- attended the budget briefing for FY 1986 held Monday, Feb. 4 at HCHB. John Carey, Director of Budget and Finance, and Jack LaCovey, Director of Public Affairs, conducted the event. Representation was especially heavy from the aerospace press. Both wire services and the Washington Post carried stories on the NOAA budget proposal.

U.S.-U.S.S.R. Signing Noted - The international press covered the signing Tuesday, Feb. 5 of a document extending the life of a U.S.-U.S.S.R. bilateral agreement in climate research. In ceremonies held at the EPA, NOAA Acting Administrator Anthony Calio and EPA Administrator Lee Thomas made official the extension of the decade-old agreement. Media representatives attending included the Associated Press, United Press, Science Magazine, Tass, the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, and the U.S. Information Agency.

Historic Satellite Ends Career - Upon learning of the demise of GOES-1, the U.S.'s oldest geostationery weather satellite, the Office of Public Affairs issued a release saying it had failed at 12:05 a.m., Feb. 3, after a career spanning nearly a decade. Its radiometer was functioning in a limited mode, visible data only, at 130 degrees west longitude, supplying imaging to such areas as Alaska and Hawaii. For these regions, its data will be replaced by information from NOAA-6's polar-orbiting weather satellites. All other users will continue to receive data from the fully-functioning GOES-6 spacecraft, located at 108 degrees west longitude. The failure was caused by an open filament in an incandescent lamp which positions the satellite's scanner. Another such lamp failed last Oct. 8. At that time the spacecraft got a new lease on life when NOAA controllers used rocket engines to shake it and free its scanner. NOAA now will make GOES 1 its third geostationery spacecraft to head for that great graveyard in the sky. It will be boosted at least 200 kilometers above orbit, safely out of a position where it might jeopardize future operations or otherwise clutter the geostationery orbit. GOES-1 had a long history of public service. It served as an operational spacecraft at four different times, and also supported the Global Atmospheric Research Program, on loan to the European Space Agency, in 1978-79.

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National Ocean Service

National Ocean Service (NOS)-State Partnership Workshop - NOS and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources hosted a NOS-State Partnership workshop on February 7, 1985, in Baton Rouge. NOS and State of Louisiana officials discussed NOS program activities and services in the areas of air and sea navigation, coastal hazards, resource management, and mapping. Workshop participants examined the correlation of NOS services to State activities, the relationship in terms of meeting State needs, and the potential for cooperative projects. (L. Lapine, 377-2363)

Shipboard Environmental Acquisition Systems (SEAS) - Three SEAS systems manufactured by Bathy Systems have been received and are presently undergoing inspection and acceptance testing. Preliminary operational testing of one SEAS system is in process. GOES channel assignments have been obtained and message transmission will begin this week. (C. Kears, 443-8013)

Film on Applications of Real-Time Tides and Currents Information - NOS has produced an 18-minute documentary entitled "Give Me the Tides, Give Me the Currents." The film illustrates the importance and application of real-time tides and currents information to ship navigation, commerce, rescue operations, and environmental protection. (J. Hayes, 443-8487)

Pacific Marine Center Holds Marine Command Seminar - The 1985 Pacific Marine Center Marine Command Seminar was held January 27-31, 1985. Participants included the Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management; Director, Office of Marine Operations; and Pacific Marine Center (PMC) commands and staff. This year's seminar focused on operational problems and management training. (R. Dale, FTS 399-7656)

Annual Land Surveyors Meeting in New Mexico - On February 1, 1985, R. Adm. John D. Bossler addressed the Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Land Surveyors Society in Farmington, New Mexico. As President-elect of the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping and Director, Charting and Geodetic Services, Admiral Bossler was invited to make the convention speech. His presentation was entitled "In Search of Professionalism." (B. Maynard, 443-8204)

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Pacific Tsunami Data Now Available from Nauru and Majuro - The National Weather Service (NWS) Pacific Region, in cooperation with the University of Hawaii, has extended its satellite data acquisition program to include continuous sea-level data from the Republic of Nauru and from Majuro, Marshall Islands. The Handar Data Collection Platforms previously installed by the University, at no cost to NWS, have been reprogrammed to transmit tsunami data in addition to the sea-level data required for the Integrated Global Ocean Services System. The tsunami data are transmitted to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center via Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite for the detection and evaluation of possible tsunamis in the southwest Pacific. (Dick Hagemeyer 8-808-546-5680)

Drought Warning - A drought warning has been issued by the Delaware River Basin Commission for the Delaware River. This is for the New York City water supply system. On January 18, 1985, the New York City (Catskill System) water supply was at 41.6 percent and (Delaware System) 49.8 percent of capacity. The State Drought Management Task Force is meeting on February 13, to review the drought situation. The area manager of the Albany National Weather Service Forecast Office will be at the meeting. The National Weather Service is providing biweekly water resource statements highlighting a long-range outlook of precipitation and streamflow conditions. (Sol Summer 8-649-5463)

Forecasters Aid in Great Salt Lake Planning - The Hydrologist in Charge of the National Weather Service Colorado Basin River Forecast Center and the Meteorologist in Charge of the Salt Lake City Weather Service Forecast Office presented a comprehensive briefing to the Utah Legislative Caucus recently. The key elements of their briefing were historical hydrologic and weather data available from NOAA agencies, and long-range forecasts, all supporting a prediction of Lake level. The rising Lake has caused millions of dollars of damage. The Utah Caucus is considering a variety of mitigating actions and the legislation necessary to enact these. (Mark Fair 8-588-4000)

Spring Flood Outlooks - The national interagency briefing depicting the potential for spring flooding across the country is scheduled for February 25, and March 11, 1985. This year the briefings will be held at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Corps of Engineers Headquarters. The flood outlooks are valued by the national agencies for long-range planning. (Jose Marrero 427-7624)

Hardcopy Spotter Reports - A group of amateur radio operators have installed a radio teletypewriter receiver at the National Weather Service Forecast Office (WSFO) in Lubbock, Texas. The system allows hardcopy of rainfall and other reports to be made available to the WSFO from amateur stations. (Mel McLaughlin 8-334-2659)

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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Nation's Oldest Operational Environmental Spacecraft Fails After 9 1/2 Years. GOES-1, the nation's oldest operational geostationary weather satellite, failed at approximately 0505 GMT (1205 a.m. EST) on February 3, 1985. The failure was caused by an open filament in an incandescent lamp, which positions the scanner. The instrument had two lamps, the first of which failed October 8, 1984.

The GOES-1 Visible and Infrared Spin Scan Radiometer (VISSR) was functioning in a limited mode, visible data only. At 130°W longitude, GOES-1 supplied imaging to the far west regions such as Alaska and Hawaii. For these users, the GOES-1 data will be replaced by data from NOAA's polar-orbiting weather satellites. All other users will continue to receive data from the GOES-6 spacecraft located at 108°W.

The GOES-1 spacecraft was launched on October 16, 1975, with a projected 3 year lifetime. It was built by Ford Aerospace Corporation, and its primary instrument, the VISSR, was built by the Santa Barbara Research Center. The spacecraft has had a long history. It served as an operational spacecraft at 4 different times in its 9 1/2 years. It also supported the Global Atmospheric Research Program on loan to the European Space Agency in 1978-1979. During this period it was located over the Indian Ocean to observe Asia.

NESDIS now plans to make GOES-1 its 3rd geostationary spacecraft to be deorbited. Following SMS-1 and SMS-2, GOES-1 will be boosted at least 200 km above geosynchronous orbit. This procedure will take GOES-1 out of a position where it could interfere with future spacecraft and help keep the geostationary orbit free of space debris. (G. Davis, 763-1610)

Marine Environmental Guide to Chesapeake Bay Published. The NESDIS National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) and the Maryland and Virginia Sea Grant Programs have cooperatively produced the Bayside Guide to Weather on the Chesapeake. This pocket-sized brochure provides boaters, fishermen, and vacationers with data on winds, and waves, and air and water temperatures, plus information on weather hazards and safety precautions. The brochure is the fifteenth in a series of environmental guides to U.S. coastal areas supported by NODC. (R. DeAngelis, 634-7394)

Climate Data Base for Offshore Drilling. The National Climatic Data Center (NODC) is working with a major oil company that is planning a climate data base tailored to their specific requirements for offshore drilling. Offshore drilling is a major area of interest to this firm. Descriptive material was furnished on many of NODC's marine climate data sets. (A. Wallis, FTS 672-0682)

Ladybugs Invade Dewey Beach, Delaware. NODC furnished the U.S. Department of Agriculture with weather data for the first week of June 1984 to help them determine why millions of ladybugs apparently drowned and were washed ashore at Dewey Beach, Delaware. The bugs were probably descendants from exotic ladybug colonies, which were purposely placed in New Jersey in an insect control program. The ladybugs were used as predators in an effort to reduce troublesome aphid infestations. (H. Vigansky, FTS 672-0448)

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## ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

Port of Miami Study - The installation by AOML/OAD of acoustic equipment for an experimental test of the transverse Doppler current profiler technique is being completed in the Government Cut channel at the Port of Miami by OAD personnel with support from Marc Kaiser of the NOAA Diving Office. The transverse Doppler profiler uses a different operating principle than presently available commercial instruments. Comparison of measurements of flow in Government Cut made by the transverse Doppler profiler technique with measurements made by the NOS AMETEK-Straza Doppler profiler, and with Port of Miami circulation survey measurements being made by General Oceanics, should establish the potential usefulness of transverse Doppler profilers. (Dr. T. Clarke, FTS: 350-1415)

Winter Cloud Program - The dual-channel microwave radiometer and millimeter-wave Doppler radar of the Wave Propagation Laboratory are being used in the winter-cloud program of the Utah Division of Water Resources, in mountains near Beaver, Utah. The main objectives are determination of the spatial distribution of super-cooled liquid, and trajectories of ice particles. The program is joint with the University of Utah, NCAR, the Desert Research Institute, and Colorado State University. (D. C. Hogg, FTS: 320-6375)

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NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM

New Procedure Stimulates Coho Spawning -- When adult coho salmon return to hatcheries, they must often remain in raceways for extended periods before ovulating, and death sometimes occurs first. A pituitary extract has been used successfully to stimulate ovulation, but this method is costly. A new procedure, developed by Oregon Sea Grant researchers, involves the injection of .5 micrograms of a synthetic hormone (mammalian luteinizing-hormone releasing hormone -- LHRH) at a cost of about \$0.03 per fish. The technique is now in use at the Oregon Aqua Foods hatchery in Springfield.

(R. Kolf, 443-8977)

Nutritional Content of Halophytes Evaluated -- Several salt-tolerant plants, or halophytes, have been identified as having potential for use as food, feed, or forage crops. Kosteletzkya, seashore mallow, yields seeds whose oil is very high in linoleic acid, an essential fatty acid, and which is similar to that of safflower; its crude protein is almost 25 percent, compared with the 30 to 40 percent found in soybeans. Cereals made with Kosteletzkya seeds have a higher protein efficiency ratio than those made with corn, wheat or rice, indicating that Kosteletzkya seed protein is used more effectively in the body. Delaware Sea Grant researchers are now testing possible use of Kosteletzkya in poultry feed, breads and commercial gums, and they are also evaluating how the nutritional value of Atriplex withstands cooking and freezing.

(D. Attaway, 443-5940)

Manual on Soft-Shell Crabs Issued -- The past few years have witnessed a resurgence of interest in the production of soft-shell blue crabs, and Virginia Sea Grant has responded to this interest by producing a Manual for Handling and Shedding Blue Crabs. The manual presents details about constructing and operating closed recirculating water systems for soft crab shedding. Such systems are becoming more popular because they provide a controlled environment and do not require waterfront property. The manual includes photographs which show how to determine the time left until shedding and covers all aspects of commercial production through packaging and marketing.

(D. Attaway, 443-5940)

# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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