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NOAA Electronic Products and Services

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Good afternoon, my name is Anna Fiolek. I am a Documents Coordinator and Cataloging Librarian at the NOAA Central Library. I am very pleased to have an opportunity to meet with you today and share some interesting information about NOAA and its electronic products and services. I am also pleased to introduce to you two of my colleagues: Doria Grimes, Chief of the Contract Operations at the NOAA Central Library, who will tell you about the NOAA's CD- ROM publications, and from the same Library, Dottie Anderson, Reference Librarian, who will present you the NOAA's services on the Internet. NOAA stands for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency within the Department of Commerce.

NOAA was formed on October 3, 1970, as a result of a series of decisions during the Nixon Administration that recognized the importance of the oceans and atmosphere to the nation's welfare and economy. NOAA is a young agency with a rich historic past. Its roots date back to 1807 when President Thomas Jefferson ordered a survey of our new nation's coastline. Just as the country has grown mightily since the early 19th century, NOAA's responsibilities have become increasingly wide.

On the National Ocean Service home page we can read: At some point during your day you will come face to face with NOAA, although you might not realize it. NOAA conducts research and gathers data about the global oceans, atmosphere, space, and sun, and applies this knowledge to science and service that touch the lives of all Americans every day. On the sea and in the sky, the NOAA scientists and forecasters are on the alert, scanning the oceans we rely on for commerce and pleasure, the skies we depend on for travel and protection, and the weather we can enjoy... or protect ourselves against <http://www.nos.noaa.gov>.

NOAA provides these services through five major organizations:

National Weather Service;

National Ocean Service;

National Marine Fisheries Service;

National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

You might be interested in finding more information about NOAA's historical background and its offices via some of NOAA's home pages on the Internet. For that purpose here is a handy address:

<http://www.noaa.gov>

Some additional information is included in the packets that we made available for you at the display table.

NOAA marked its presence on Internet in early 1994 when many NOAA facilities developed World Wide Web home pages that provide environmental information and news of their activities, services and products. NOAA's home page is an entry point for Internet users to a wide range of information about the agency's programs and data as well as a gateway to Federal, academic and other services. As of my last count there are over 200 NOAA home pages.

NOAA's home page links you to the NOAA Network Information Center. The Center provides access to the NOAA FTP server, and various Gopher pages (for example, weather/ environment related, etc.)

NOAA's home page also provides ties to the NOAA Data Set Catalog, a forms-based tool that allows searching of publicly available environmental data held by public and private sources throughout the world. That service is provided by NOAA's EIS (Environmental Information Services) as a partial fulfillment of the agency's responsibility to archive and document environmental data. The data sources include descriptions related to climatology, meteorology, ecology, pollution, geology, oceanography, and remote sensing satellites. The wide variety of data and data sources described in this catalog make it a valuable multidisciplinary research tool for the scientist, educator, researcher, or any member of the general public.

Another interesting source of information about and by NOAA is its headquarters library (the NOAA Central Library). In late 1994, the Library launched its own home page that over time developed into the design that you see today. The library's home page serves also as another gateway to the NOAA electronic resources. The library's goal is also to provide full text access to the NOAA electronic publications. The NOAA Central Library is located at NOAA's headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. That scientific library maintains a collection of more than one million books, journals, technical reports, microform documents, compact discs, and databases that support research in atmospheric sciences, fisheries, marine biology, meteorology, oceanography, and related disciplines.

The library currently receives over 300 active journal subscriptions, hundreds of technical report series, and hundreds of publications through the international agreements. There you can find significant collections containing climate and weather observations from foreign countries from the late 1830s to the present, a historical Coast and Geodetic Survey

collection, begun in 1807, and proceedings of international meetings on meteorology and navigation.

The library also contains Special Collections where the historic material from the U.S. Weather Bureau, the U.S. Fisheries Commission, and the Environmental Data Service is preserved. The oldest book in that room is dated from 1483. It is a translation of a Greek work by Hippocrates describing how weather affects the human body.

The NOAA Central Library is one component of the Library and Information Services Division (LISD) which also manages libraries in Seattle, Miami and Charleston, SC. Even as we speak, LISD is signing a contract for an integrated library system that will link all of the NOAA libraries on an OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog). Our goal is that within the next six months, you will be able to access the NOAA library catalog on the Internet.

In September 1993, NOAA Central Library was designated as a selective Federal depository library, with 27% items selected on NOAA related topics.

Mrs. Dottie Anderson will present some specific information on NOAA electronic services and products.

This afternoon I'm going to tell you a little bit about each of the NOAA five line offices. They are the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Ocean Service, the National Weather Service, the National Environmental Satellite and Data Information Service, and the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. I will just touch on the very few of the electronic products available, for the list is endless and growing rapidly.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/>

One of NOAA's five major operating units, the National Ocean Service (NOS) coordinates ocean services and coastal zone management programs throughout NOAA, and provides services, predictions and warnings, as well as maps, charts, and publications, to ensure safe use of U.S. marine waters and air space. It maintains the National Geodetic Reference System.

NOS carries out NOAA's responsibilities in marine environmental quality research, development and monitoring. It develops and manages programs in physical, biological, chemical, and geological oceanography required to provide ocean services, to access the marine environment, and to establish a scientific information base on which to support development of a national policy for oceans and their uses. NOS administers NOAA's coastal zone management, marine sanctuaries and estuarine research reserves, and related programs. It conducts national assessments of the use and health of marine resources, and implements programs for the development of ocean mineral resources and energy.

I'm going to give you an example of some products available from one of the offices in NOS. You can see that we can click on many different options from the home page of NOS. Today we are going to take a tour downstream to visit the Office of Ocean Resources Conservation and Assessment, commonly known as ORCA. ORCA provides information for decisions affecting the quality of natural resources in the nation's coastal, estuarine, and oceanic areas. This information ranges from strategies for oil spill response and short-term cleanup activities to the long term effects of national and regional management strategies on marine and coastal environmental quality.

As we go to the ORCA home page, you will see that the inquirer can find out about ORCA itself, access the ORCA database, and find out about ORCA projects and products. From here we will go to What's New? and find out about the latest projects and products. This page lists publications available at the moment. The bold faced items are available electronically. The Coastal Trends Series is among the most popular. Several of the titles are Selected Characteristics on Coastal States 1980-2000, 50 Years of Population Change along the Nation's Coasts 1960-2000, and Coastal Wetlands of the United States. The Data Product Details and Order Forms allow you to order publications electronically by either downloading the products or having them sent to you.

ORCA also produces CD-ROMS. One of the newest is "Turning the Tide: America's Coasts at a Crossroads." It focuses on the Nation's coasts, which are under increasing pressure from economic development and human activities. It is designed for use in museums, schools, and exhibits, and makes full use of multimedia including video, animations, music and sound, and imagery. Another CD-ROM that was recently released is the Analysis and Planning for Integrated Coastal Management. This CD debuted in October 1995 at a week-long United Nations Environment Programme conference on protecting the marine environment from land based activities. The conference was attended by delegates from over 300 countries. The CD contains imagery, video, and audio in explaining integrated coastal management.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>

The National Weather Service (NWS) is responsible for providing the nation with accurate and timely weather information for the protection of life and property. This includes severe weather, hurricane and flood watches and warnings, short term weather forecasts and long-lead climate outlooks. The NWS is in the midst of a massive modernization and associated restructuring program based on new technology and knowledge in the sciences of meteorology and hydrology. Recent advances in satellites, radars, sophisticated information processing and communication systems, automated weather observing systems, and super speed computers are the foundation of more timely and precise severe weather and flood warnings.

One area of the NWS is the National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). Virtually all the meteorological data collected over the globe arrives at NCEP where they are analyzed and used to generate a variety of products that are distributed to NWS field offices, private meteorologists, the media, government offices, and the international meteorological community. Another center is the Climate Prediction Center which

diagnoses and analyses climate and also generates climate predictions. The Center provides climate outlooks from 2 weeks to several seasons in length.

As you can see there are lots of offices under NWS. We will briefly look at the Office of Meteorology home page which is a recent addition. Here you can find information about ongoing significant weather events. There is a list of Publications and Resources. Two of them are The Aware Report (Warning Coordination and Hazard Awareness Report) and The Presto Report (Precipitation Summary and Temperature Observations for the Washington DC & Baltimore Area), which are available electronically. From the list of National Weather Service Publications you see a list of publications that can be ordered. Several are available full text online and the others can be ordered over the Internet.

Another page I wanted to show you is the Interactive Weather Information Network. This is one of the best pages for obtaining weather data. It is lots of fun to play around on.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL, SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE (NESDIS)

<http://www.noaa.gov/nesdis/>

NESDIS manages U.S. civil Earth observing satellite systems, as well as global databases for meteorology, oceanography, solid earth geophysics, and solar terrestrial sciences. From these sources, it develops and provides environmental data and information products and services critical to the protection of life and property, the national economy, energy development and distribution, global food supplies, and the development and management of natural resources.

I'm going to tell you about two of the data centers under NESDIS.

The National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) is the national repository and dissemination facility for global oceanographic data. It manages and distributes physical, chemical, and biological oceanographic data collected by organizations and institutions in the United States and dozens of other countries. Available is a list of NODC CD-ROM data products. In 1990, NODC launched a project to make its archive data files and other ocean data sets available on CD-ROM. NODC can provide customers with data selected from its archive data files on Write Once CD-ROMs as well as on magnetic tapes, diskette or over the Internet by FTP. There is also a list of publications that are still in print and available from NODC.

The National Climate Data Center (NCDC) is the world's largest active archive of weather data. NCDC archives weather data obtained by the National Weather Service, Military Services, Federal Aviation Administration, and the Coast Guard, as well as data from voluntary cooperative observers. NCDC also collects data from around the globe. This is the data center that produces the material we get the most requests for. All of the Local Climatological Data and State Climatological Data is produced from here. If you want to know what the weather was ten years ago, we can look it up for you. There are more than 200 major stations around the United States plus many smaller stations that are listed in the state material. NCDC also puts out many interesting publications such as The Blizzard of

96" and Billion Dollar U.S. Weather Disasters 1980-1996. These are both available over the Internet.

OFFICE OF OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

<http://www.noaa.gov/oar/>

NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) looks at weather, climate, air quality, the oceans and Great Lakes, with an eye for better understanding the Earth's environment--everything that goes together to make our earth system. This leading edge research is carried out by NOAA scientists in a network of environmental laboratories and monitoring stations and alongside university researchers supported by NOAA through the National Sea Grant College Program and the National Undersea Research Program.

OAR conducts environmental research and develops technologies needed to improve NOAA services by studying the earth as a system extending from the surface of the sun to the floor of the ocean; improving environmental predictions affecting public safety and quality of life by using better observations, assessments and models; creating economic opportunities from the wise use of marine resources and providing the scientific basis for sound national and international environmental policy.

We will briefly look at just a couple of pages of their home page. The various labs are each represented here. The National Sea Grant College Program is a national network of over 300 colleges, universities, research institutions, and marine organizations that work in partnership with industry, the Federal Government, and State governments to support marine and Great Lakes research, education, and extension services. They have a national depository library in Rhode Island and the national offices are in Silver Spring. Another popular item produced by the Undersea Research Program is the Diving Manual. It is available from GPO.