

NOAA Forms Ocean Remote Sensing Lab

A laboratory dedicated to studying the oceans from satellites, aircraft, and other remote platforms has been created in Miami, Fla., the U.S. Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has announced.

The new Ocean Remote Sensing Laboratory will be one of the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories (part of NOAA's Environmental Research Laboratories, with headquarters in Boulder, Colo.) which occupy a major oceanographic research facility on Virginia Key near Miami.

According to Dr. John A. Apel, director, research emphasis will be on studying such physical and chemical aspects of the oceans, estuaries, and oceanic boundary layer as can be determined via remote sensing from spacecraft, aircraft, buoys, and ships; and to develop new instruments and techniques with which to do this.

"We have barely crossed the threshold of knowing how to use satellite sensors to observe the oceans," he says, "and technology in this area is progressing at an extremely rapid rate. We expect that 'ocean-tuned' satellites will eventually give oceanographers a flow of information and a breadth of vision comparable to that which meteo-

rologists have had from weather satellites.

"At present we are conducting research that uses oceanic data from existing satellites—for example, the high-resolution images from NOAA spacecraft and NASA's first Earth Resources Technology Satellite, ERTS-1, which were not designed primarily to gather oceanic data. And we are helping guide programs in new ocean-looking satellites and sensors, now in their early development stages.

"The other side of our effort is to apply the remote-sensing tools of the trade to ocean research conducted from ships and aircraft. Some of these are microwave radiometers, laser and lidar (the laser equivalent of radar) sensors, acoustic sounders, infrared and visible sensors, precise radar altimeters, and microwave scatterometers."

Among the Ocean Remote Sensing Laboratory's planned projects are studies of major current systems and hurricane-ocean interactions using data from GEOS-C, the geodetic satellite planned for a 1974 launch; Gulf Stream dynamics and internal waves using data from the second Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS); and various studies of surface and internal wave dynamics in the sea, using available satellite data and acoustic remote sensing from ships.

supply in the coming months. For this reason, the number of permits issued to foreign fishing vessels will be limited only to those which have customarily been calling at Canadian ports and which can also show that a genuine hardship will result if fuel is not made available to them.

Under no circumstances will fuel be supplied to foreign fishing vessels if there is any danger that Canadian requirements for fishing purposes cannot be met.

Because Canadian fishing vessels often fuel in United States ports as well as the fact that their vessels are traditional customers, the restrictions will not apply to United States fishing vessels. This arrangement will continue as long as reciprocal privileges are available to Canadian fishermen in United States ports.

OIL RATIONED FOR ICELANDIC VESSELS IN FOREIGN PORTS

Icelandic fishing vessels are now subject to oil rationing in many foreign ports, especially in Western Europe reports the Worldwide Information Service. In some ports the maximum has been set at 40 tons, and if more oil is requested, special permission has to be gained from London. There is no shortage of oil at present in Icelandic ports, yet foreign vessels do not get unlimited oil supplies.

Eighty percent of Iceland's oil supplies comes from the Soviet Union and this has been so since 1953. Originally the oil was bought in exchange for fish and fish products. The remaining 20 percent, which is mainly lubricants and aviation fuel, comes from the west.

Iceland's fishing fleet is heavily dependent upon Soviet oil. Prices are expected to go up tremendously and the foreseeable price increases in oil and fishing gear (produced from oil) are expected to cost the Icelandic fishing fleet at least US\$12,000,000 in 1974. Many fear that the price of oil will go still higher.

Fishery Notes

Alaska Sockeye Salmon Get More State Protection

The Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula red salmon runs will be managed for maximum escapement next season under a policy adopted by the Board of Fish and Game.

Carl Rosier, director of the department's commercial fisheries division,

Foreign Fishery Developments

Petroleum Shortages Hit Fishing Vessels

CANADA'S FOREIGN FISH FUEL CUT SPARES U.S.

In view of possible shortages of petroleum products in Canada, the supply of fuel for foreign fishing vessels will be cut back. The order, announced November 30, 1973 under the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act, became effective immediately, according to Fisheries Minister Jack Davis.

It is anticipated that the kind of fuel that has been made available to foreign fishing vessels may be in short