

**NCAR**



## Information Release

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### Atmospheric Scientists Study Lake Ontario

Brockport, New York--This summer and fall, Brockport will be headquarters for a group of researchers from Florida and Colorado who are studying the influence of Lake Ontario on the atmosphere in an area beside the lake about 20 miles west of Rochester.

This study, which is supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), is under the direction of Dr. Mariano Estoque (pronounced Ess-tokey) of the University of Miami. According to Dr. Estoque, the scientific objective of the experiment is to determine the influence of Lake Ontario on atmospheric motions in the early summer, when the lake is relatively cold, and in the fall, when it is relatively warm.

This project is part of the International Field Year of the Great Lakes (IFYGL), a joint U.S.-Canadian study of Lake Ontario and its basin, designed to provide the scientific basis for better management of the Great Lakes. Many U.S. and Canadian institutions are participating in separate but related research projects that contribute to the overall study. The lead U.S. agency is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Canada's IFYGL participation is focused in the Canadian Centre for Inland Waters. IFYGL is sponsored by the Canadian and U.S. national committees for the International Hydrological Decade.

Dr. Estoque's study will utilize measurements obtained from a network of meteorological observing instruments operated by a group headed by Dr. Harold W. Baynton, of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), in Boulder, Colorado. This network, which extends from the lakeshore north of Brockport inland to a point just south of the New York Thruway, will include ten surface weather stations, for measuring winds, temperature, pressure, and humidity at

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ground level. Two tethered-balloon systems will be used to make similar measurements in the boundary layer of the atmosphere up to about 2000 feet above ground. The network also includes two stations for releasing and tracking pilot balloons to follow wind motions, and two stations for photographing clouds. An NCAR research aircraft will make some flights over the area to obtain additional data. During the first phase of the study, from mid-May through June, headquarters for the project will be at State University College in Brockport.

According to Dr. Estoque, in the early summer the relatively cold lake tends to produce a lake breeze, blowing toward the land. In the fall, the heat from the lake tends to produce upward convective motions in the air. The experiment is designed to gather detailed data that can be used to analyze the role of these seasonal lake influences in the behavior of the atmosphere.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research, which is providing field observing support for Dr. Estoque's study, is supported by the National Science Foundation and operated by a nonprofit consortium of 37 universities. In addition to conducting its own basic research programs in the atmospheric sciences, NCAR also provides technical and logistical support for atmospheric research projects conducted by university scientists.

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(NOTE: This release is being issued simultaneously by IFYGL Field Headquarters, Rochester, New York.)

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