

## THE U. S. NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC DATA CENTER

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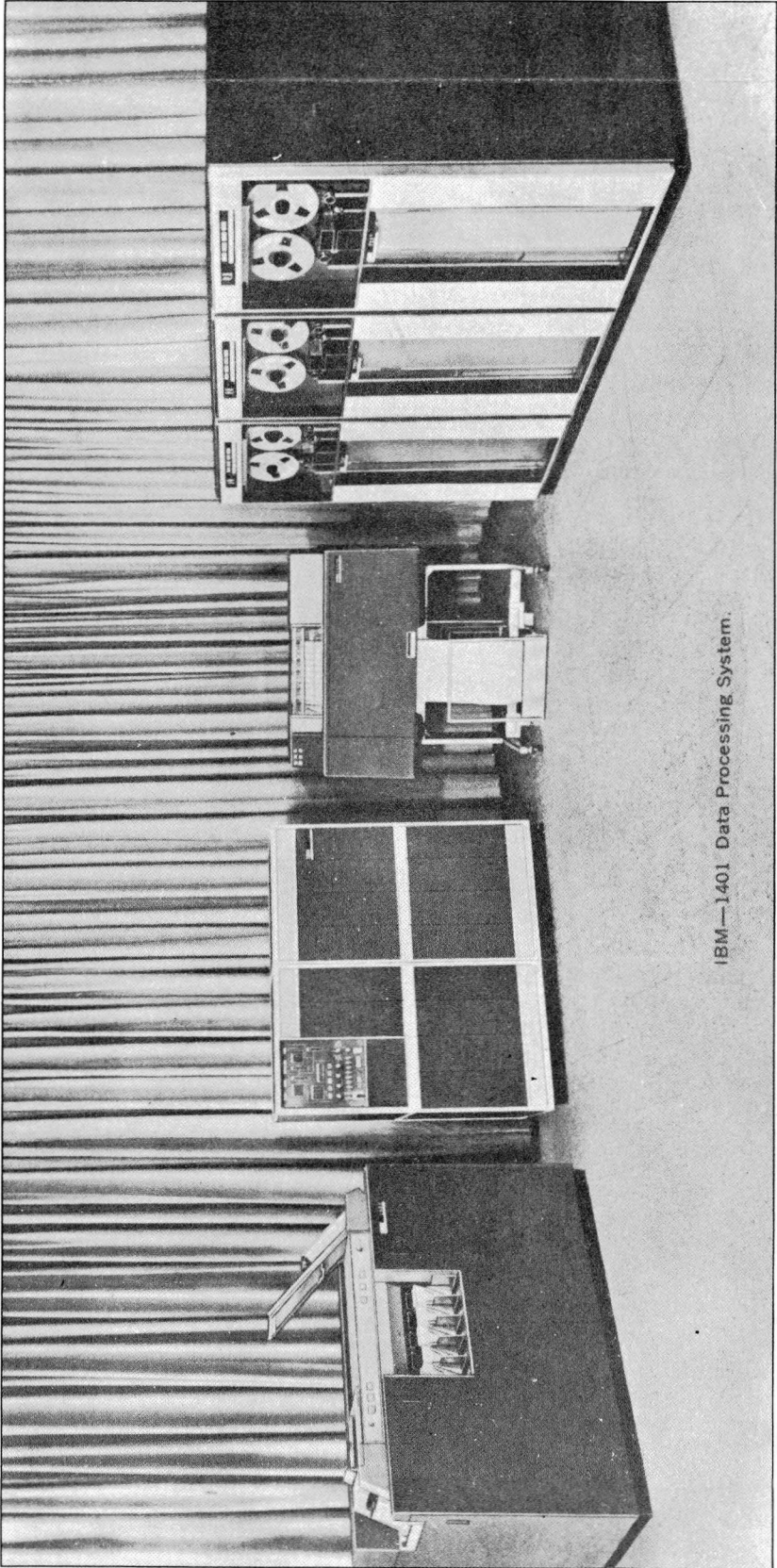
*IHB Note.* — The Bureau has received from the United States' National Oceanographic Data Center the following notice, which is inserted for the information of readers of the Review.

On 10 July 1961, Dr. Woodrow C. JACOBS was appointed Director of the new National Oceanographic Data Center in Washington, D.C. Dr. JACOBS is a well-known meteorologist and is particularly noted for his work on air-sea interchanges.

The new National Oceanographic Data Center, which opened officially on 16 January 1961, represents a new dimension in inter-agency cooperation within the United States government. The need for a central repository of the nation's oceanographic data had been expressed numerous times by the scientific community and representatives of government, but formal action was not taken to establish such a facility until mid-1960 when the Federal Council for Science and Technology, acting on the recommendations of the Interagency Committee on Oceanography, unanimously recommended that a national oceanographic data center be established. The Data Center was conceived in an atmosphere of cooperation — its sponsors include those agencies of government having primary interest in the marine environment; namely, the Department of the Navy, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, the Weather Bureau, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the National Science Foundation. In addition to providing the funds for operation of the Center, each agency is represented on the National Oceanographic Data Center Advisory Board which determines the policies of operation of the Center. Additional representation for the scientific community is provided by two members appointed by the National Academy of Sciences.

Since the inauguration of the National Oceanographic Data Center, this spirit of cooperation between agencies has influenced the Data Center's relations with the international scientific community. The NODC has fostered exchange programs with many nations and as from the beginning of August 1961 has inaugurated data exchanges with one or more institutions in 18 countries.

Part of the mission of the Data Center is to : receive, compile, process, and preserve oceanographic data for rapid retrieval; establish procedures for ensuring that the accuracy and general quality of the incorporated data meet the criteria established by the Advisory Board; and prepare data summaries, tabulations and atlases showing annual, seasonal, and monthly oceanographic conditions.



IBM—1401 Data Processing System.

The NODC data archives comprise perhaps the world's largest collection of marine environmental data. The various types and amounts of data from all the seas and oceans of the world available at the NODC are : about 650 000 bathythermograph (BT) observations; about 175 000 oceanographic stations (most of which are from the North Atlantic and Indian Ocean areas) including water temperature, salinity, sigma-t, and sound velocity at observed depths (with interpolations for these factors at International Standard Depths), specific volume anomaly, dynamic depth anomaly and heat index at all International Standard Depths, and other station information; about 20 000 000 surface observations including surface temperature, sea swell, current drift, and related meteorological data. Most of these data are available on IBM punch cards for rapid retrieval. In addition, miscellaneous data of a physical, geological and biological nature are held. The NODC utilizes an IBM 7070 to handle computation and analytical problem requirements. These data are available to the public for use free of charge at the NODC, or they may be reproduced, listed, summarized or treated statistically, as specified, at cost. Requests for data, services, or information should be addressed to : The Director, National Oceanographic Data Center, Washington 25, D.C.

Publications of the NODC are divided into three series. These are : the General Publications (G) Series, consisting of publications of a general or informative nature; the Catalogue (C) Series, consisting of inventories of data holdings compiled and published by oceans; and the Manual (M) Series, describing the techniques and procedures used in processing various types of oceanographic data. These publications may be obtained free of charge from the NODC by interested persons and organizations of the scientific community.