



Long-Haul Waves

A violent storm churning the Gulf of Alaska last October appears to have produced large waves that broke apart a huge iceberg off Antarctica six days later, according to researchers. Douglas MacAyeal of the University of Chicago and Emile Okal at Northwestern University wrote in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters* that the wave traveled 8,300 miles, eventually destroying iceberg B15A. Seismic records from instruments placed on the iceberg showed that even though it was a clear and calm day, B15A had been moving up and down and from side to side when it broke up. The researchers determined that a storm more than 8,000 miles away generated the waves responsible for the breakup. Weather records pointed to the storm off Alaska as the most likely source.

Anchovy Beaching

Millions of anchovies died along a stretch of coastline in northern Spain after an unexplained mass beaching. All of the dead fish were said to be young, and scientists believe they may have been driven into Colunga beach, about 40 miles east of the port of Gijon, by predator fish. Other possible reasons given were atypical sea currents or unusually high water temperatures.

German Twister

A tornado ripped through a small German farming town, ripping roofs off at least 20 buildings and injuring two people, one seriously. The twister cut a path through Quirla, about 40 miles southwest of Leipzig, just before 2 a.m. local time. Trees and power lines.

Earthquakes

The stronger of two moderate earthquakes that rocked the island of Trinidad killed one man and caused one home to collapse. The quake was also felt widely across neighboring parts of Venezuela.

- The third moderate tremor to strike northeastern Maine in the past few weeks produced no damage on the surface but caused underground water levels to drop more than 2.5 feet. The U.S. Geological Survey warned that users of well water could notice cloudy water and a drop in the amount of available water.

- Earth movements were also felt in southern Peru, the Kuril Islands and Vanuatu.

Volcanic Rebuilding

Washington state's Mount St. Helens appears to be calming down after two years in which the volcano spewed tons of rock into the crater left by its deadly blast of 1980. A rapid succession of seismic rumblings began on Sept. 23, 2004, followed a week later by a plume of ash and steam. Geologists say the mountain has been in a rebuilding phase since then, but the rate at which the mountain has been expelling magma appears to be slowing down.

Nigeria Flood Disaster

A dam collapse caused by torrential rainfall in northern Nigeria left 1,000 families homeless, but about 40 people feared swept to their death were later found alive downstream. "It was the heaviest downpour recorded here ... accompanied by strong wind that caused the dam to burst," said state official Ibrahim Birnin-Magaji. He said the flash flood near Gusu had the appearance of a tsunami when it struck.

Tropical Cyclones

The death toll from Typhoon Xangsane's rampage across the Philippines and central Vietnam surpassed 250. At least 207 people perished in the Philippines, where high winds blacked out much of Luzon Island. Approximately 63 others were killed when the storm barreled into Vietnam.

- Tropical Storm Bebinca formed to the east of the Philippines, then drifted slowly to the northeast without affecting any land areas. Tropical storm Rumbia formed over open waters to the east of Bebinca.

- Hurricane Isaac weakened to tropical storm force before clipping the southeast tip of Newfoundland.

Habitat Conflicts

The loss of habitat across Indonesia's Sumatra Island led to attacks on communities by an endangered Sumatran tiger as well as a group of elephants, according to conservationists. The *Kimpas* daily reports that the mutilated body of a 30-year-old man was found where he was last seen hunting for wood. An eyewitness said he later saw a tiger in the same area. Sumatran tigers have increasingly encroached on villages during the past few months as their habitat has shrunk due to illegal logging and land clearing for rubber plantations. The day following the tiger attack, a group of seven elephants raided the village of Padang Tambak, damaging a house and destroying water pipelines. The conservation group WWF-Indonesia said the conflict between homeless elephants and local people has reached crisis levels.