



# PACIFIC REGION TECHNICAL NOTES

81-002

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## CONFIRMED OBSERVATION OF WATERSPOUT OFF BONILLA ISLAND

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### INTRODUCTION

Just recently Mr. J. Beudet, the light keeper of the Bonilla Island light station forwarded to the Pacific Weather Centre some excellent photographs of a waterspout.

The waterspout was sighted at 11 a.m. PST, 15 March, 1980, approximately 30 miles west northwest of the Bonilla Island Lightstation and was then moving southwest. (see figure 1).

### DISCUSSION

This is the first photographed sighting of a waterspout during the past few years off the B.C. Coast that has been received at the Pacific Weather Centre. It is true that reports of waterspouts off the B.C. Coast are not uncommon; (see Pacific Region Technical Note 80-028). Investigations of such reports has revealed that for the B.C. Coastal areas the most severe convection occurs in association with moving, extremely cold upper troughs. This particular waterspout again was associated with such an upper air feature. Figure 2 illustrates the 500 mb flow pattern at 12Z on March 15, 1980. The 500 mb temperatures were extremely cold ( $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and the associated trough was moving into the interior. The air mass was cold and unstable and on that particular day snow was reported at Cape St. James.





FIGURE 1.

PHOTOGRAPH OF A WATERSPOUT APPROX. 30  
MILES WNW OF BONILLA ISLAND LIGHT-  
STATION. WATERSPOUT MOVING SW. PHOTO-  
GRAPH TAKEN BY J. BEADET LIGHTKEEPER  
BONILLA ISLAND LIGHTSTATION.





FIGURE 1.  
CMC 500 MB ANALYSIS  
FOR MARCH 15, 1980 - 1200Z