Robert W. Schoning Named National Marine Fisheries Service Director

On July 12, Secretary of Commerce Frederick B. Dent announced the appointment of Robert W. Schoning as Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Mr. Schoning has served as Deputy Director of NMFS, an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, since September 1971.

"I am delighted that Mr. Schoning has accepted this position," said Secretary Dent. "His extensive experience, particularly at the state level, has given him a thorough understanding of, and interest in, the many fishery problems and opportunities common to our states, and I know he will approach those problems vigorously.

"His fine work, at state and national levels, with the commercial fishing industry, the nation's sports fishery, the conservation and scientific communities, have provided a background of rare qualification for this important and difficult post. I know that under his leadership, the Fisheries Service will give outstanding service to the nation."

Mr. Schoning succeeds Philip M. Roedel, who was recently appointed NOAA's Coordinator of Marine Recreation Programs, with responsibilities across the entire agency.

The National Marine Fisheries Service seeks to discover, describe, develop, and conserve the living resources of the sea, especially as these affect the American economy and diet. The Fisheries Service conducts biological research on economically important species, analyzes economic aspects of fisheries operations and rates, develops methods for improving catches and, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State, is active in international fisheries affairs.

With the U.S. Coast Guard, the Service conducts enforcement and surveillance operations on the high seas and in territorial waters. It also studies game fish and other marine and estuarine organisms, and investigates the effects on game fish of thermal and chemical pollution.

New Director Has State, Federal Experience

A well-known fishery scientist and administrator, Robert W. Schoning served as State Fisheries Director, Oregon Fish Commission, 1960-1971, following two years as Assistant State Fisheries Director. Prior to that, he was Director of Research for the Oregon Fish Commission.

Schoning

Born in Seattle, Washington, in 1923, Mr. Schoning holds a bachelor of science degree in fisheries from the University of Washington and has done postgraduate work in fisheries and mathematics.

Mr. Schoning saw active service in the Marine Corps in both World War II and the Korean conflict and is currently a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

He is known for his writings on salmon and other fishery matters of the Pacific Northwest, and holds membership in a number of professional and conservation organizations including the American Institute Fisheries Research Biologists, American Fisheries Society, Pacific Fisheries Biologists, and Izaak Walton League of America.

Mr. Schoning and his wife, Barbara, live in Falls Church, Va. They have four children: Randall, James, Kerry, and Kip.

U.S.-Canada Fishing Agreement Extended

Delegations of Canada and the United States met at Ottawa from May 23 to May 26 to review the provisions of the Agreement of April 1970, on fishing within reciprocal fishing areas off the coasts of the two countries and to consider future arrangements.

The two delegations agreed to recommend to Governments that the 1970 Agreement be extended for one year with a number of modifications. A major amendment related to the provisions concerning fishing for Pacific salmon within the reciprocal fishing areas off Vancouver Island and off the State of Washington. It was agreed that such salmon fishing privileges for Canada, off Washington, would be reduced to the area between Carroll Island (approximately 48° N. latitude) and Cape Flattery, and the U.S. salmon fishing privileges off Vancouver Island for commercial troll vessels would be limited to a small area near the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This will not affect continued fishing by U.S. recreational vessels subject to Canadian licensing and other regulations.

Agreement was also reached on arrangements to coordinate salmon fishing regulations of the two countries in

the Strait of Juan de Fuca and northern Puget Sound. In addition, arrangements were made to coordinate weekly fishing periods on the Fraser River and at Point Roberts during the chinook season in the spring and the chum salmon season in the fall.

With respect to the Pacific coast it was also agreed to include in the Agreement provision for limited fisheries for black cod in the reciprocal areas of both countries.

On the Atlantic coast the modifications included provisions governing a limited Canadian fishery for tuna within the U.S. reciprocal area and regulation of the larger U.S. trawlers in areas off Canada where similar Canadian trawlers are prohibited from operating. Provisions regarding herring will continue relatively unchanged.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce News, 73-144.

Coho Introduced Into Barren Alaska Waters

By planting tiny coho salmon called "fry" in unused Alaskan lakes and streams, fisheries scientists of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration plan to increase Pacific salmon returns there. Similar programs have been used by Federal and State fisheries scientists in Oregon and Washington for several years.

On Baranof Island alone, high barrier falls prevent adult salmon from reaching thousands of acres of productive streams and lakes for spawning. Such waterfalls generally do not hinder downstream migration of young salmon, however. Other parts of Alaska have an abundance of similarly obstructed waters, many of which could be used for rearing newly hatched salmon to the migrant or "smolt" stage, thus increasing adult salmon returns. "Smolts" are juvenile salmon about six inches long that are physiologically ready to migrate from fresh water to the sea.

The plan is geared to making use of unused waters by annual plantings of fry, rather than attempting to establish self-perpetuating salmon runs, according to National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Regional Director Harry L. Rietze. With modern techniques, salmon fry are relatively inexpensive to produce in established hatcheries. The major cost—feeding and rearing the fish to the smolt stage—would be taken care of naturally in the lakes and ponds now barred to salmon production.

In a pilot study at the Little Port Walter Field Station on Baranof Island in Southeastern Alaska, 12,000 coho salmon fry were stocked in a four-acre lake. They grew rapidly, and 6,800 migrated to sea as one- and two-year-old smolts. After spending about 16-18 months in the rich ocean pastures, 724 adults (more than a 10 percent return) came back to the outlet stream. Possibly an equal number of adult migrating coho salmon were caught by sport and commercial fishermen. Studies are continuing, including the experimental planting of an additional 132,000 coho fry last summer.

Encouraged by the results, a large-scale interagency demonstration project of stocking salmon fry in unused waters in southeastern Alaska is now planned by the NMFS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Forest Service biologists. Once stocking levels for different types of lake, pond, and stream habitats are established, fishery scientists foresee stocking the fry from centralized hatcheries from airplanes or helicopters in the larger lakes and ponds.

Currently the fry come from brood stocks of coho salmon whose eggs are incubated and hatched in gravel "incubator" boxes at Little Port Walter. The fry are then carried by backpack to the isolated areas where they grow to migrating size. As adult spawning salmon attempt to return to inaccessible stream or lake areas, the entire run would be available for sport and commercial fishermen.

U.S., Mexico Examine New Fisheries Rules

The fourth of a series of U.S.-Mexican talks on the implications of a new Mexican fisheries law for certain groups of California fishermen was held in Mexico City in January. The other meetings on the matter took place in 1972 in Washington, July 12-13, in Mexico City, November 14-16, and in San Diego on December 20.

The fisheries law giving rise to these bilateral discussions became effective June 13, 1972. The law seriously concerned a number of southern California fishermen, who had for many years been fishing inside Mexican waters under a "via la pesca" licensing system. The principal reason for their concern was that the article of the Mexican law dealing with foreign fishing could have, in their opinion, made it very difficult for many U.S. vessels to continue to operate in Mexican waters. The provision creating the most difficulty was one requiring vessels operating under Mexican licenses to employ crews comprising at least 50 percent Mexican nationals, which could have caused certain small vessels severe economic hardship and created serious problems for other slightly larger ones which presently operate in Mexican waters.

Other provisions of the new fisheries law could also have created difficulties, such as those relating to cash deposits for licenses and penalties for violations.

Another Mexican law, a decree by the Government in December of 1971, also fundamentally altered the terms under which many U.S. Pacific Coast fishermen for years obtained licenses. In essence, these new regulations terminated the long established schedule outlining periods of license validity for various size classes of vessels and substituted a revised set of vessel size classes and corresponding periods of