

## Seven New Appointees Named to Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

The appointment of seven men to the Department of Commerce's top level Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee has been announced by Secretary of Commerce Frederick B. Dent. The Committee advises the Secretary on programs carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Topics of concern to the Committee include international fisheries, conservation, aquaculture, biological and environmental research, fisheries technology, certain sections of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, and advisory services for sport and commercial fisheries.

Members of the Committee are chosen for recognized competence and proven interest in the marine fishery resources of the United States, and are appointed by the Secretary for a term of one year, starting July 1, and are eligible for additional terms, for purposes of continuity. Committee members are also selected to achieve both balanced geographical representation as well as a broad view of the U.S. commercial fishing industry, marine sport fishing, the academic community, conservation interests, State governments, and the consumer.

The new members are:

**Lawrence W. Appelbaum**, Northfield, Ill., vice president of Penguin Frozen Foods and importer and exporter of fishery products, especially shrimp. He is also very active in the National Fisheries Institute, a private trade organization with nationwide membership.

**Frank L. (Larry) Cassidy, Jr.**, Vancouver, Wash. Mr. Cassidy is sole stockholder of Son Sales, Ltd., manufacturers representative and broker in plumbing supplies in Oregon, Washington, and Western Canada. He served as president of Northwest Steelheaders, which has since merged with Trout Unlimited. He serves as national

vice president and Executive Committee member of the latter organization which is concerned primarily with sport fishing.

**John W. McKean**, Portland, Oreg. Mr. McKean has been director of the Oregon Game Commission since 1969. Prior to that he was a game biologist with the Oregon Game Commission. He is active in the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission, and is highly regarded for his knowledge of the fisheries problems of the Northwest. Mr. McKean is also active in the Western Association of State Game and Fish Commissioners, and the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners.

**Dr. Theodore B. Ford**, Baton Rouge, La. Dr. Ford is assistant director, Office of Sea Grant Development,

Louisiana State University. Previously he was chief of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission's Oyster, Water Bottoms and Seafood Division. Highly knowledgeable on fisheries problems in the Gulf of Mexico, he is widely known as a State administrator and as an advisor to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

**Charles A. Black**, Burlingame, Calif. Mr. Black is president, Mardela Corporation of Burlingame and has conducted an extensive survey on aquaculture, followed by a workshop for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He is a recognized authority on aquaculture and will add expertise in an area of increasing emphasis by the Committee.

**Frank G. Goto**, Honolulu, Hawaii. Mr. Goto has been general manager,

### Shrimp Aquaculture Training

"On-the-job training" in shrimp aquaculture is attracting an increasing number of scientists from this country and abroad to the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's facility at Galveston, Texas. The program is another step in international cooperation on fisheries research, particularly with scientists from Latin American nations.

The Gulf Coastal Fisheries Center at Galveston, operated by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, deals with the culture of shrimp native to the Gulf of Mexico. Specific areas of research include maturation, diseases, nutrition, and hatchery technology. The studies are under the supervision of Dr. Richard A. Neal.

Progress in shrimp aquaculture is being followed closely in many parts of the world. Last year the

Galveston Center sponsored a series of lectures and laboratory sessions for a total of 18 scientists from nine Latin American countries. Three Brazilian scientists recently concluded a two-month training period at Galveston.

On August 1, three scientists from the Center for Scientific and Technological Research, Sonora, Mexico, began three- to six-month training sessions. The "on-the-job training" is not restricted to foreign scientists, as evidenced by the large number of U.S. scientists utilizing the expertise developed at the Galveston laboratory.

The number of requests for training has increased markedly during the past year. Foreign scientists interested in participating in this activity should direct their inquiries to Frederick Laney, Office of International Affairs, NOAA, Rockville, MD 20852.

United Fishing Agency, Ltd. since 1952. The concern acts as a wholesaler of fresh fish and an agent for several tuna vessels. He serves on the Governor's Advisory Committees on Science and Technology, on Sharks, and on Labor and Industrial Relations. He is also executive secretary of Hawaii's Fish Boat Owner's Association.

**Dr. James W. Burks, M.D.**, New Orleans, La. Dr. Burks is a Professor of Medicine at Tulane University and a senior staff physician at Charity Hospital and Touro Infirmary in New Orleans. He owns two fishing Corporations (Riptide, Inc., and Holliday Charters) and has extensive experience in charter boat sport fishing especially for big game fish species, as well as five years of commercial fishing business experience.

Members who have been reappointed for another one-year term are: **Theodore T. Bugas**, Astoria, Oreg., director of public and government relations for Bumble Bee Seafoods, Division of Castle Cooke, Inc.; **Charles R. Carry**, Redondo Beach, Calif., executive director of the Tuna Research Foundation, and a leading spokesman for the tuna canning industry and the California wetfish industry; **Dr. James A. Crutchfield, Jr.**, Seattle, Wash., associate professor of economics, University of Washington, Seattle and an internationally recognized authority on fisheries economics; **Jacob J. Dykstra**, Wakefield, R.I., president of Point Judith Fisherman's Cooperative Association; and **Ray H. Full**, Vermilion, Ohio, president of the Kishman Fish Company, and a member of the Ohio Commercial Fisherman's Association.

Also reappointed were **William B. Hannum, Jr.**, Key West, Fla., an active conservationist, former publishing executive, and president and director of Sea Farms, Inc., Key West, Fla.; **Allen W. Haynie**, Baltimore, Md., president of Zapata-Haynie, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Zapata Corporation of Texas; **John D. Isaacs, III**, Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., ocean-

ographer and professor at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, Calif., and Director of the Institute of Marine Resources of the University of California; **Harold E. Lokken**, Seattle, Wash., manager of the Fishing Vessel Owners Association since 1924; **Henry Lyman**, Canton, Mass., publisher of *Salt Water Sportsman* since 1949, and a member of various fisheries advisory committees in the New England area for more than 20 years; **John Mehos**, Galveston, Tex., vice president of Liberty Corporations, Liberty Fish and Oyster Co., former FBI agent, and founder and past president of the Shrimp Association of the Americas; **Howard Nickerson**, New Bedford, Mass., executive director of the Seafood Dealers Association of New Bedford, and president of Atlantic Marine Service, Inc., a consulting firm; **William F. Rockwell, Jr.**, Boston, Mass., chairman and chief executive officer of North American Rockwell Corporation, and an ardent conservationist, hunter, and angler.

Others reappointed for one-year terms include **John J. Royal**, San Pedro, Calif., secretary-treasurer, Fishermen's Union for 13 years, and a member of the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners since 1969; **Richard H. Stroud**, Springfield, Va., executive vice president of the Sport Fishing Institute, and vice president of the Sport Fishery Research Foundation; **Robert M. Thorstenson**, Petersburg, Alaska, president, Petersburg Fisheries and Seward Fisheries, Seward, Alaska; **Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr.**, of Charleston, S.C., Director of the South Carolina Marine Resources Division, and a former chairman of the department of biology at the Citadel; **Clifford V. Varin** of West Sayville, N.Y., president of the Fire Island Sea Clam Company, president-elect of the Shellfish Institute of America, and a member of the executive committee for the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute; and **William H. Witherspoon**, Corona del Mar, Calif., retired, a collaborator in scientific projects, who has personally carried

out much of the marlin tagging program off Baja, California. He has been vice president of the International Gamefish Association for the past 20 years.

## Ahlstrom Awarded Commerce Gold Medal

Elbert H. Ahlstrom, Senior Scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, has received the Department of Commerce Gold Medal for his leadership in developing an entire scientific technology, described as oceanic fish stock assessment by means of systematic surveys of eggs and larvae. Fishery scientists call the process a possible answer to the need for additional food resources worldwide.



Ahlstrom

Secretary of Commerce Frederick B. Dent presented the award—the highest honor conferred by the Department—to Dr. Ahlstrom in a ceremony at Washington, D.C.

Dr. Ahlstrom, stationed at the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center (La Jolla, Calif.) since 1954, was cited for developing into a precise science techniques used to survey the abundance and distribution patterns of young stages of marine fishes in the ocean. His work has led to a basic scientific understanding of the fishery resources off California, and of how they can be exploited and used with maximum efficiency. Because the methods he developed are adaptable to other areas throughout the world with a need to evaluate the potential of fishery resources, Dr. Ahlstrom's contribution has had an important international impact.

Born at Sharon, Pennsylvania, in 1910, Dr. Ahlstrom was graduated from Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio, with an A.B. degree in 1930,

an almost perfect scholastic record, and selection to Phi Beta Kappa. He earned his M.A. degree in 1933 and his Ph.D. in Zoology in 1934 from Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Ahlstrom spent five summers at Ohio State's laboratory at Put-in-Bay, Ohio, working on freshwater plankton, and he produced a number of papers on the subject of rotifers (microscopic aquatic invertebrates), which have become standard references.

Dr. Ahlstrom has spent most of his career in government service. In 1939 he joined the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, as a junior biological aid at \$1,440 per annum. He was subsequently given continuing progressive responsibilities in carrying out major programs, and in 1959 became director of the biological laboratory at La Jolla, Calif., where he is now a Senior Scientist, highest NMFS scientific recognition.

He was appointed Adjunct Professor of Oceanography of the University of California in 1968. An international expert on Pacific sardines, Dr. Ahlstrom began cooperative oceanic investigations with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1940 and 1941, using the Institution's old sailing research vessel the *E. W. Scripps*. The work led to the establishment of the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CALCOFI), an organization that began as an effort on the part of State agencies and the Federal Government to inquire into the causes of the catastrophic decline of the Pacific sardine which at one time supported the largest commercial fishery in the United States.

Dr. Ahlstrom has published more than 60 scientific papers. In 1972 he shared with another author an award by the Wildlife Society for the outstanding fishery publication of 1971. He is a member of many international committees and groups and has frequently served as an advisor and consultant to national and international groups.

## Use of Silicone Grease and Dust Shields Improves Radio Communications at Sea

The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has found the solution to a problem which has hampered radio communications at sea during stormy weather since ships first began using wireless.

During heavy weather of long duration, salt spray and water often short-circuit the insulators of radio antennas to such a degree that ships cannot communicate with other ships or with stations ashore, creating an especially hazardous condition for vessels requiring aid.

The radio antennas used for transmitting and receiving messages by radio telephone and telegraph are isolated from the ship's steel structure by porcelain insulators located near the deck at the base of the antennas. As long as these insulators are clean and dry and have a high polish, they prevent the electrical current in the antennas from short-circuiting to the ship's steel hull. But when these insulators become covered with salt crystals from ocean spray and rain water from squalls, the electrical current is diverted to the steel hull. The antennas' radiated power is then diminished and, during prolonged storms, often terminated entirely, making radio transmission impossible.

This problem has now been solved by coating the porcelain insulators with a silicone grease to which water will not adhere. To protect the silicone grease from other contaminants, such as dust and particles from burned fuel oil, the grease is sheltered with a fiber glass shield shaped like an inverted funnel.

Two years of testing by three vessels of the NOAA Fleet—the *Mt Mitchell*, *Researcher*, and *Rainier*—proved the success of the new method, enabling the ships to continue radiocommunications practically unhampered during stormy weather.

The method was conceived and developed by William F. Seibold, Sr., a naval architect technician with NOAA's Office of Fleet Operations, with an expenditure in hardware of only \$2,200. Seibold began experimenting with the silicone grease in 1970. A radio operator at sea for seven years, he subsequently served for nine years with the Maritime Administration's Engineering Division. For the past seven years he has been with the Coast and Geodetic Survey and its successor agency, NOAA's National Ocean Survey, which operates the NOAA Fleet.

The first tests of the new method began aboard the *Mt Mitchell* in 1970. For the test, insulators in one of the ship's antennas were coated with the silicone grease, while the other was left uncoated, to act as control. Subsequent testing aboard the *Mt Mitchell*, *Researcher*, and *Rainier* proved the method successful. The most recent test showed that during a voyage by the *Mt Mitchell* from the United States to France, the antenna continued to function well in severe weather, with rain squalls, high winds, and heavy spray. The *Researcher* has been using the new method also for over a year with perfect results. Seibold said the manufacturer of the silicone grease estimated one good coating should last a year, and it did.

Seibold anticipated that the new development will lead to further improvements in ship antennas and that, in the future, ships of all maritime nations will have antennas which will operate successfully with their radio equipment regardless of severe weather.

The new development may also provide a boon to radio and television broadcasting. Seibold said the same technique used on ships is also applicable to the antennas of radio and television broadcasting stations to prevent accumulations of ice and snow on their insulators.