

NMFS Recipients of Commerce Department Gold and Silver Medals Told

Four National Marine Fisheries Service employees were among 29 individual NOAA recipients of Gold and Silver Medals presented by Secretary of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C. late last year.

Receiving Gold Medals were Robert L. Edwards, Director of the Northeast Fisheries Center, Woods Hole, Mass.; Richard C. Hennemuth, Director of the NEFC's Woods Hole Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass.; and Richard L. McNeely, supervisory research electronic engineer at the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, Seattle, Wash.

Receiving the Silver Medal was Howard S. Sears of the NWAFC's Auke Bay Fisheries Laboratory. Roland A. Finch, of NOAA's Office of Living Resources, Rockville, Md., also received the Silver Medal for his work in the creation of a national plan to rehabilitate the domestic fishing industry, meeting with leaders, developing goals, and preparing an "outline draft" which ultimately appeared as the National Plan for Fisheries in the United States.

Edwards was cited for his part in a successful management/scientific team that contributed to the shaping of national and international policies and programs in fisheries research and management. Together with Hennemuth, he was responsible for promoting an understanding of the marine ecosystems, including joint, cooperative research with foreign countries. A native of Philadelphia, Pa., Edwards earned his A.B. degree at Colgate University in 1947 and his master's and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard University by 1951. He entered Federal service in 1954.



Edwards

Hennemuth



McNeely

Hennemuth was honored along with Edwards for work in marine ecosystems. The citation calls the research "... the finest examples of joint and useful studies in the world." Born in Grand Forks, N.D., Hennemuth earned his B.S. degree in 1952 at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn., and his M.S. degree in 1954 at State University of Iowa, Ames, Iowa. He has done graduate work at Harvard University, at the University of California at La Jolla, and at San Diego State College. He entered the Federal service in 1960.

McNeely was cited for his leadership and major contributions to the field of fishing gear technology, sampling system development, and conservation engineering. Until his return to the NWAFC in August 1977, he had been serving as leader of the Mortality Reduction Technology Task of the Porpoise/Tuna Interaction Program at the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Center, La Jolla, Calif. There, in 1972, he had

been assigned the responsibility for developing and supervising the fishing gear phase of that program and he produced solutions to problems that had perplexed experienced fishermen for years, thus furthering porpoise conservation. A native of Huntington, W. Va., McNeely attended the University of Miami, Fla., and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He entered Federal service in 1955.

Sears was honored for aerial surveys of the biological and geological features of the Alaskan coast between the Bering Strait and Yakutat, a vital phase of the NOAA Outer Continental Shelf Energy Research Program in Alaska.

The highest honor that the Department of Commerce can bestow, the Gold Medal is awarded for rare and outstanding contributions of major significance to the Department, the Nation, or the world in science, technology, or administration; highly distinguished authorship; heroic action involving jeopardy of life; and outstanding leadership in the administration of a major program.

Silver Medals are awarded for contributions of unusual value to the Department in science, technology, or administration; outstanding skill or ability in the performance of duties which have resulted in program advancement; meritorious authorship; or unusual courage and competency in an emergency.

Jay C. Quast Is Named NMFS Scientific Editor

Jay C. Quast, a research scientist with the National Marine Fisheries Service's Auke Bay Laboratory in Alaska, has been named Scientific Editor of the NMFS Publications *Fishery Bulletin*, *Special Scientific Report-Fisheries*, and *Circular*. The Auke Bay Laboratory is a branch of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, Seattle, Wash.

Quast replaces Bruce B. Collette,



Assistant Director, Systematics Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service, at the U.S. National Museum in Washington, D.C. Collette had served as Scientific Editor for 3 years.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Quast received his Ph.D. degree in ichthyology from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1960. With the NMFS in Alaska since 1961, Quast has conducted and supervised research on the taxonomy, life history, population dynamics, and fisheries of demersal fishes. He also served for 2 years as Project Scientist for NOAA's Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program. His scientific papers have won awards from the Auke Bay Laboratory and the American Fisheries Society.

Manuscripts to be considered for the *Fishery Bulletin*, SSR-F or Circular series should be addressed to: Dr. Jay C. Quast, Scientific Editor, Auke Bay Laboratory, Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, NMFS, NOAA, P.O. Box 155, Auke Bay, Alaska 99821.

France, U.S. Agree on Ocean Programs

Joint scientific and technical cooperation in four areas of oceanography will be carried on by French and U.S. scientists over the next two years as a result of planning meetings held late last year in Bandol, France. Major projects approved at the meeting include a 2-year study of seafloor spreading in the Pacific, exchange of information in means of controlling oil pollution, marine environmental research, and research in diving medicine.

Head of the U.S. delegation was David H. Wallace, Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The French delegation was led by Yves La Prairie, General Director of CNEOX (Centre National pour l'Exploitation des Oceans).

The East Pacific Rise at 21 degrees north latitude off the coast of Mexico will be the site of a major seafloor

spreading study, to be carried out with the participation of Mexican scientists. The French submersible *Cyana* will be used in the area in 1978, and the U.S. Navy submersible *Alvin* from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution will be used in 1979. The East Pacific Rise in that area is a rapidly spreading undersea ridge connected with the extensive geologic fault system along the U.S. west coast. Scientists from France, Mexico, and the U.S. hope to learn more about the mechanism of seafloor spreading, formation of the earth's crust, and possible formation of metals.

The French and U.S. delegations agreed to hold demonstrations of oil pollution equipment each nation has developed, and made plans for a French expert to obtain training at the U.S. National Strike Force and, possibly, the Marine Environmental Protection School. France will sponsor a workshop in September 1978, looking toward multilateral exchange of information on oil spill cleanup information and techniques.

Marine environmental research—a new area of agreement within the cooperative program—will include an ongoing assessment of the environmental impacts of nuclear power plants, consideration of the use of bacteria for oil spill cleanup, and cooperative research on certain fish diseases.

Research in diving medicine will concentrate on determining ways that intravascular bubble detectors can be used to learn more about decompression and bubble formation. A transcutaneous bubble detector developed in France will be used to make a comparison of French and U.S. decompression tables. In addition, medical scientists of both nations will carry out cooperative studies of aseptic bone necrosis, a disease of bone tissue that sometimes may occur following exposure to compressed or rarified air.

Tuna Regulations Issued for 1978

The number of porpoises that may be killed by U.S. tuna fishermen incidental to their fishing operations has been

set at 51,945 in 1978, 41,610 in 1979, and 31,150 in 1980 under regulations published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, a Commerce Department agency.

Other major changes to present regulations issued under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, require the yellowfin purse seine fishermen to install a porpoise apron system—a chute-like area in the back of the nets designed to permit porpoises to escape—in 1978.

Additionally, certificates of inclusion, under permits to engage in yellowfin purse seine fishing operations on porpoise, will be issued to both the vessels, through the vessel owners, and vessel operators rather than the vessel operators only, as is the current practice.

Rules have been established to allow amendments to the regulations and permits through informal rule-making during the 3-year period, rather than using a formal hearing by an Administrative Law Judge each year, unless major changes are proposed. In this event, a formal hearing may be required. The new regulations, which were effective 1 January 1978, are expected to achieve a 50 percent reduction in porpoise mortality by 1980 from the 1977 quota of 62,429. As of mid-November, approximately 24,500 porpoises had been killed in the fishery in 1977.

Marine Education Agreement Signed

A cooperative agreement has been signed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Office of Education to help develop a coordinated marine environmental education program at Federal, State, regional, and local levels. The pact, signed by NOAA Administrator Richard A. Frank and Commissioner of Education Ernest L. Boyer, establishes a formal relationship between the two agencies, sharing information to stimulate expansion of marine education.

NOAA, through its National Sea Grant Program, has supported marine education at all grade levels, from kindergarten through college. Because the Sea Grant Program is designed to support primarily local and regional programs, and most Sea Grant-supported institutions are in coastal areas,

NOAA's marine education efforts have largely been limited to these areas.

Under the agreement, the Office of Education will encourage State departments of education, educational organizations, and colleges and universities across the Nation to work closely with existing marine-oriented institu-

tions and programs. Special emphasis will be placed on Sea Grant projects dealing with the marine education of inner-city and minority children. This year about 10 percent of Sea Grant's \$31 million budget was spent on marine education, representing an approximate 50 percent increase over last year.

NACOA Issues Annual Report, Asks for New Council to Develop and Coordinate Marine Strategy and Programs

Establishment of a Cabinet-level Marine Affairs Council in the White House to develop a national marine strategy and to coordinate Federal ocean programs has been recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere (NACOA).

The Advisory Committee, whose members are appointed by the President from outside the Federal Government, was created by the Congress in 1971 to report to the President and the Congress annually on the state of the Nation's marine and atmospheric programs. Its sixth annual report, prepared under the chairmanship of William J. Hargis, Jr., Director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, was transmitted to the President and the Congress on 28 September by Secretary of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps, together with comments reflecting the views of the various Federal departments and agencies.

In her comments, Secretary Kreps recognized the necessity for dealing effectively with the questions of a Marine Affairs Council being established and coordination of Federal ocean programs. She would, she said, ensure they are included in a major oceans policy review being undertaken by the Department of Commerce.

NACOA repeated its previous appeals for greater consolidation of Federal agency marine and atmospheric programs, but emphasized that the serious threat to the many uses of the sea posed by recent international developments calls for concerted action at the

highest levels of government.

The report, citing the continued failure of the United Nations Conference on Law of the Sea to reach agreement on matters vital to the United States, increasing U.S. dependence on Middle East oil and on reliable shipping to transport it, and sharpening competition for ocean use and resource development, expressed concern "that we are ill-prepared to meet this challenge . . . because effective mechanisms do not exist either to develop an overall national strategy or to assure satisfactory agency performance and coordination in its execution."

The Committee urged accelerated exploration and development of offshore oil and gas, expediting marine solar energy systems development, and new legislation to provide a reasonable investment climate for U.S. industry to move ahead with development and production of deep seabed minerals.

It also recommended amendment of the Merchant Marine Act to update and clarify both commercial and national security goals for the U.S. merchant marine and amendment of the Marine Mammals Protection Act to remove inconsistencies and ambiguities hampering efforts to regulate the killing of marine mammals.

It cited the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 extending U.S. jurisdiction over fisheries out to 200 miles off the coasts as a model for responsible U.S. action in the face of lack of progress in the U.N. Law of the Sea negotiations, and commended the

executive branch for its rapid and skillful implementation of the Act.

In the atmospheric area, NACOA called for the establishment of an Office of Measurement Science reporting directly to the Administrator of EPA to upgrade both the quality and usefulness of air pollution monitoring data collected by a heterogeneous set of networks throughout the Nation.

Additionally it urged accelerated action by the National Weather Service and the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency to complete current programs to improve emergency weather warning operations, increased emphasis on long-range weather forecasting technique development, and OMB action to release the new billets required to carry out National Weather Service obligations to provide reimbursable services to other Federal agencies.

It also reported progress towards goals previously recommended by NACOA in the areas of aquaculture, weather modification research, climate program development, coastal zone management and the preservation of the technologically advanced ship, the *Glomar Explorer*, pending the further evolution of projects now in early stages that would benefit from access to its capabilities.

"A Report to the President and the Congress" by the National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere, Sixth Annual Report, 30 June 1977, is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.