

Fox Heads National Marine Fisheries Service

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere John A. Knauss announced on 7 February 1990 the appointment of William W. Fox, Jr., a marine biologist with broad experience in fisheries management and research, to lead the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Fox will serve as Assistant Administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) division responsible for managing, conserving, and protecting living marine resources, including

TASK TEAM ON ILLEGAL SALMON

The National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, has taken several initiatives to improve the monitoring of illegal Pacific salmon harvesting and trade. As part of this effort, an International Enforcement Information Task Team was created to investigate and document the world trade in illegal salmon. Data is being gathered by U.S. Embassies abroad, the U.S. State Department, and other agencies. The task team also needs industry's cooperation and assistance to obtain data on Pacific salmon imports and exports by foreign firms. Any leads provided would be welcome.

Ideally, the information should include the following for each transaction both from exporting countries (primarily Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, South Korea, and Taiwan) and importers (France, Belgium, West Germany, Holland, U.K., Australia, Japan, and others): Specific species (chum, chinook, coho, sockeye, or pink salmon), name of exporter and/or importer, quantity, date of sale, and price per unit. Please transmit data to Milton M. Rose, Task Team Coordinator, telephone (301) 427-2300, fax (301) 427-2001, and mailing address DOC/NOAA/NMFS, Office of Enforcement, 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

shellfish and mammals, within waters 200 miles from the U.S. coastline.

"Bill Fox brings to NMFS the unique qualities of fisheries expertise combined with a family background in the practicalities and problems of the seafood industry," Knauss said. "With experience that includes 10 years' previous NOAA service, he is well-versed in the serious challenges posed by overfishing and environmental degradation."

Before taking the NOAA post, Fox was a professor for 7 years at the University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, where he directed a joint NOAA/University research institute. He administered programs emphasizing research on the ocean-related aspects of climate change and the fisheries aspects of ocean ecosystems dynamics, and coordinated the NOAA Sea Grant program.

"The increasing demand on our fish stocks for recreational use and seafood is a concern for everyone," Fox said. "Since replacing the foreign fleets, our fishermen have been competing among themselves for an ever-shrinking supply of finfish and shellfish in a marine environment acutely susceptible to man-made abuse and pollution. Commercial and recreational fishermen must share in the task of conserving fish stocks so they can be replenished and maintained at healthy levels, and in preserving their estuarine and ocean habitat.

"Government and industry must be prepared to make tough choices in the new decade if we are to bequeath a legacy of wise and prudent use of our marine resources to future generations," Fox added.

Fox said his interest in fisheries management was sparked by an uncle, Arthur B. Jarrell, founder of Jarrell and Read, a seafood wholesaler who urged him to work to conserve fisheries resources in order to ensure a

stable supply for the future. Enrolling in the University of Miami, Fox earned his B.S. degree and in 1970 his M.S. in marine science. Two years later he received his doctorate in fisheries science from the University of Washington.



Fox

During his NOAA service starting in 1972, Fox served as chief of the Oceanic Fisheries Resources Division, La Jolla, Calif., from 1975 to 1978. For the next 4 years, he was director of NOAA's Southeast Fisheries Center, Miami, where he administered seven Federal fishery research laboratories before joining the University of Miami faculty. Fox is the author of more than 50 professional publications, reports, and book reviews, and serves on a number of major scientific and public service committees. He was appointed to the Florida Marine Fisheries Commission in 1983, serving as chairman for the last 3 years, and the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission in 1987. He also has served as chairman of the U.S. Commission for the past 2 years. Fox is a member of the American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists, the American Fisheries Society, the American Geophysical Union, and Sigma Xi, the research society. He is married to the former Soledad Milord Loaiya of Panama City, Panama, and is the father of a son and a daughter.

Kemmerer Named Director of NMFS Southeast Region

Andrew J. Kemmerer was appointed Director of National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Region on 17 December 1989. Kemmerer is located in St. Petersburg, Fla., and he has B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. in aquatic ecology from the Utah State University. His career has many facets beginning with the Air Force as a Squadron Commander, through the Arizona Game and Fish Department where he started their first fishery research division, to a period with an engineering firm in Hawaii and Washington,

D.C., and then to the National Marine Fisheries Service in 1971 where he began as an acoustician in Pascagoula, Miss.

After an assignment in Washington, D.C., Kemmerer became the Director of the National Fisheries Engineering Laboratory in Mississippi, and, following a reorganization, became the Director of the combined Mississippi Laboratories with facilities in Pascagoula and the Stennis Space Center. Much of Kemmerer's technical career with the National Marine Fisheries Service has been spent in remote sensing and conservation engineering, although more recent activities have included red drum, butterfish, coastal herrings, and sea turtles. His expertise in remote sensing, in particular, has provided him experience internationally. He is a strong advocate of cooperative research with states and universities, being the primary architect of grant programs such as SEAMAP and MARFIN. He received numerous awards for his management and technical skills and was given NOAA's highest award for excellence in engineering.

According to Kemmerer, "Good science is a prerequisite for good fisheries management." He is looking forward to the challenges his new position will bring and believes that by capitalizing on the excellent scientific capabilities available in the Southeast Region, difficult management problems can be resolved without serious conflicts.

Federal Agents Seize Shrimp Boat for Failure to Pay Overdue Fines

Federal agents seized a 62-foot shrimp vessel in Port Isabel, Tex., in November 1989, charging the owner with failure to pay civil fines dating back to 1984. The seizure, which took place on 11 November, was carried out by the U.S. Marshal Service personnel and enforcement agents from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service. The vessel, *Don Enrique*, and its owner, Guadalupe Resendez of Harlingen, Tex., had been involved in several violations of Federal fisheries law in the mid-1980's, according to the Fisheries Service. Current penalties and interest against the vessel

then totalled almost \$12,000.00.

"I expect we'll see more of these seizures in the near future," said Joseph W. Angelovic, then head of the NMFS Southeast Region in St. Petersburg, Fla. "It's simply unfair to the honest fishermen in the Gulf for us to let people ignore civil fisheries penalties and think they can get away with it," he added. According to Angelovic, the vessel, which was worth about \$150,000.00, would be held in Brownsville, Tex., under guard until the fines were paid.

Nations Fail to Reach Accord on Swordfish

Carmen J. Blondin, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce who led the U.S. delegation in late November 1989 to a meeting of the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT), a 22-nation organization that manages highly migratory species such as tunas and swordfish, said that he was "deeply disappointed" at the failure of Atlantic fishing nations to reach agreement on limiting swordfish catches. The size of the North Atlantic swordfish stock, Blondin said, has declined steadily in recent years, and is now at about 30 percent of the 1978 level.

The meeting, in Madeira, Portugal, ended without agreement among Commission members on restricting swordfish catches. "All our statistics point to real problems," Blondin warned. "The average swordfish caught in the North Atlantic in 1988 was only half the size of those taken in 1978. And the size of the spawning stock—the life blood of the fishery—was down 40 percent during the same period."

"In spite of these gloomy numbers," Blondin said, "ICCAT members were unwilling to take the management steps needed to protect this important species." Blondin was particularly critical of Spain, which, he said, "rejected out of hand any possibility of at least limiting increases in current catch levels."

"Efforts taken by the United States or any other nation will be useless if action isn't ultimately taken by Spain," Blondin said. The Spanish fleet, he added, has been harvesting almost half the total North Atlantic swordfish catch in recent

years and has more than tripled its catch in the North Atlantic since 1979. In addition to the United States and Spain, ICCAT members include members of the European Community and African, South American, and Asian countries.

Uniform Code Council Approves Seafood UPC

The Random Weight Seafood Universal Product Code (UPC) System developed by the National Fisheries Education and Research Foundation (NFERF) in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Ad Hoc Committee on Random Measure Product Numbering received official approval from the Dayton, OH-based Uniform Code Council in August 1989. The UPC symbol is a type of bar code used by food retailers to identify grocery items and is the standard for the grocery industry. Until now a standardized system was not available to assign UPC bar codes to fish products sold on a variable weight price-per-pound basis. However, the new seafood UPC codes offer retailers the opportunity to scan random weight seafoods and track items more efficiently at the retail level. It also means that seafood packers can place a bar code, universal to all retailers, on random weight products which will fit into their customers coding systems.

A manual entitled, "Random Weight UPC Numbering System," is available to retail and seafood representatives. It contains 1,575 UPC's for seafood products sold by random weight and uses FDA accepted finfish market names for over 200 species of fish and shellfish. Arranged by three basic sections (finfish, shellfish and other seafoods), the manual is alphabetical by species. UPC's now appear on over 95 percent of the products in retail grocery stores. They streamline product identification and offer the simplest and most accurate, cost-effective approach for identifying products by use of optical scanners. For a copy of "Seafood Random Weight UPC Numbering System," send a \$10 check or money order to: NFERF, 2000 M Street, N.W., Suite 580, Washington, D.C. 20036. (Quantity discounts are available.) (SOURCE: NFI Communications.)