

NOAA REORGANIZES

Secretary of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps has announced approval of a plan to reorganize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The plan, recommended by NOAA Administrator Richard A. Frank, is designed to equip the agency to meet new and growing responsibilities for ocean use and resource management and climate and weather modification. A major realignment of administrative duties is being undertaken, and several new offices are being added. The plan was submitted to the President's Reorganization Project and to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for review. It was to go into effect 1 October 1977.

NOAA was created in 1970 to perform a wide variety of oceanic and atmospheric functions. Since, Congress has specifically given NOAA responsibility for management, regulation, and protection of fisheries in the 200-mile off-shore zone; protection of whales, porpoises, and other marine mammals and endangered species; assistance to states to manage their coastal land and water; various aspects of ocean dumping, environmental assessment, deep-

water port, and marine sanctuary programs. In the atmospheric field, Congress has mandated NOAA to report on weather modification and is designing a major new climate program.

"The new organizational structure recognizes these new duties and addresses a growing concern for this country to have a national ocean policy which reflects the emerging importance of the oceans," Secretary Kreps said. "President Carter has informed Congress of his intention that a coherent national ocean policy be developed and implemented, and this will permit the Commerce Department to carry out his wishes."

The new structure reduces the number of key line officers from nine career managers to four policy-level Assistant Administrators for Fisheries, Coastal Zone Management, Research and Development, and Oceanic and Atmospheric Services.

The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries is responsible for fisheries policy and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The NOAA fisheries program develops fisheries management plans in the 200-mile coastal

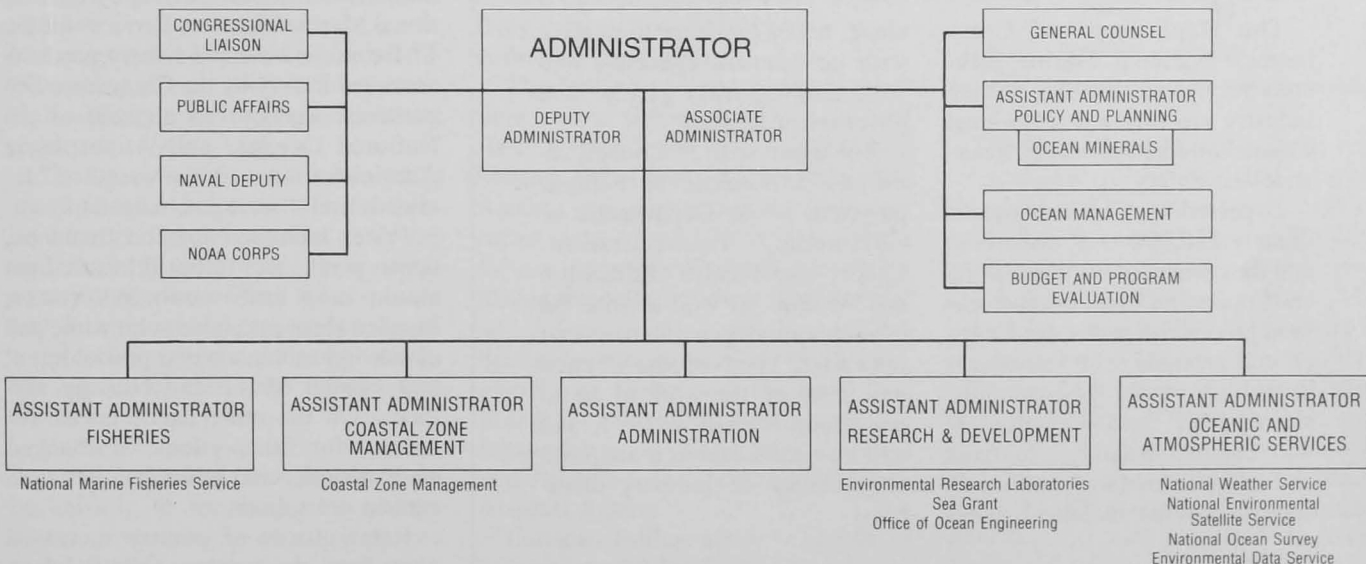
fisheries zone, assists the fishing industry and protects marine mammals.

The Assistant Administrator for Coastal Zone Management is responsible for the coastal zone and Coastal Energy Impact Fund Programs. The coastal zone management program works with state and local governments to assure a balanced approach to the development and conservation of critical coastal areas.

The Assistant Administrator for Research and Development is responsible for the NOAA Environmental Research Laboratories, the National Sea Grant Program, the Office of Ocean Engineering, and coordination of NOAA research activities with the rest of the Federal Government and the scientific community.

The Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Services is responsible for the National Weather Service, the National Environmental Satellite Service, the National Ocean Survey, and the Environmental Data Service.

The existing staff offices of Associate Administrator for Marine Resources and Associate Administrator



for Environmental Monitoring and Prediction are abolished. Their responsibilities go in part to the Assistant Administrators mentioned above. Their policy development functions are transferred to a new Assistant Administrator for Policy and Planning.

Special attention will be given to four areas of growing concern: Ocean Management, National Climate Policy, Marine Mammals, and Ocean Minerals.

An Office of Ocean Management, reporting to the Administrator, will be created to develop plans for the wise and productive use of ocean areas and to evaluate proposals by others for ocean projects. The office will engage in the marine analogue to land use planning.

A new Office of National Climate Policy will be created, reporting to the Assistant Administrator for Research and Development. It will provide leadership and focus for the developing national concern over such issues as drought, weather modification, and the ocean-atmosphere weather interface.

The Office of Marine Mammals will be upgraded to report directly to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, in light of the increasingly significant impact of marine mammal and en-

dangered species protection regulations.

An Office of Ocean Minerals, reporting to the Assistant Administrator for Policy and Planning, will be established to work with Congress, the Executive Branch, industry, and environmental and other concerned organizations in moving forward with and managing a national program for deep ocean mineral resources development.

The plan was formulated after extensive consultation with members of Congress, other parts of the Executive Branch, NOAA personnel, and constituency groups, including the scientific community.

NOAA Ship Gets Cuban Diplomatic Clearance

An oceanographic research vessel operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) became the first U.S. ship to receive diplomatic clearance to operate in Cuban waters in the past 16 years, the Commerce Department agency has announced. In July the 278-foot, 2,800-ton *Researcher*, sailing as part of a study of the Gulf of Mexico Loop Current, was inside Cuban territorial wa-

ters for about a day and a half, measuring water salinity, water temperature, and depth.

NOAA officials, working through the State Department, obtained permission for the *Researcher* to make the measurements at a site 2.9 miles from the Cuban mainland, off Havana. Cuba claims jurisdiction over waters 200 miles from its coastline, but the United States only recognizes the traditional 3-mile jurisdiction.

The *Researcher* sailed into Cuban waters the evening of 13 July, after picking up two Cuban scientific observers at a rendezvous point. The measurements were made during the next 24 hours, and the observers were disembarked the morning of 15 July. There were no incidents, NOAA officials said, and the scientists from both countries worked in "professional harmony." Results of the tests were provided the Cuban observers.

The *Researcher* carries a complement of 76 officers, scientists, and crew. Its 4,000-square foot laboratory is equipped with the latest oceanographic research equipment.

Fish Retail Price Index Increases 1.7% in July

The retail price index (seasonally unadjusted) for fish rose again in July by 1.7 percent over June and by 14.8 percent above July 1976, according to a monthly statistical analysis by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Of the 17 frozen and canned fishery products surveyed in July by the Commerce Department Agency, an element of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 13 increased, 1 declined, and 3 were unchanged.

Prices increased for cod, haddock, ocean perch, and turbot fillets; halibut steak; king crab meat; fish sticks; breaded shrimp; canned solid white and chunk light tuna; canned pink salmon; and canned Maine and Norway sardines. On the other hand, prices decreased for fish portions. Unchanged were flounder and whiting fillets, and canned red salmon.

Retail prices of poultry increased more from the previous month during

COUNCIL TO PROMOTE FISH VESSEL SAFETY

The Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. fishing industry are forming a National Council on Fishing Vessel Insurance and Safety.

Expected to affect the approximately 150,000 U.S. fishermen and the owners of 90,000 fishing craft operating in all coastal seafood production states, the Council will promote safety standards in fishing vessel construction, maintenance, and operation. It will conduct training programs and an information system on safety, provide technical assis-

tance, act as emissary in dealing with government agencies, and seek funding from private and government sources.

The broad span of Council activities will relate to Federal programs of the Departments of Commerce, Transportation, Labor, and Health, Education and Welfare, as well as with the insurance and general maritime industries. The National Council will carry on the work of an ad hoc group formed in 1973, and will be established as a nonprofit organization of industry members.

July than for meat and fish. Retail poultry prices in July rose 3.9 percent from June. Meat prices rose 1.2 percent in July from June on the strength of higher prices for round and chuck steaks, loin pork chops, and roasts. When compared with a year earlier levels, prices for meat were 3.5 percent higher, but prices had declined 1.3 percent.

Ten cities are surveyed every month by officials of NMFS, who report prices of selected items of fish, meat, and poultry items for "Operation Fish Watch." They visit three different chain stores in each city and check the prices for the same representative brand names and types of products to determine any changes from the previous month.

The cities surveyed are: Atlanta, Ga.; Boston, Mass.; Little Rock, Ark.; Galveston, Tex.; San Francisco and Los Angeles, Calif.; Pascagoula, Miss.; St. Petersburg, Fla.; Seattle, Wash.; and Washington, D.C.

Shellfish Prices Seen Stabilizing

Prices for most shellfish products have increased to record levels over the past 2 years, but further significant increases are unlikely, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, a Commerce Department agency. Strong demand for shellfish products experienced in the first quarter of 1977 should continue in the coming months and will keep prices high, although seasonal declines can be expected, officials said.

Shrimp, scallops, and lobster tails are expected to be plentiful in the coming months. Greater supplies of shrimp and scallops will come from high domestic production and from seasonally heavy imports. Imports of warm-water lobster tails should be increasing, but imports of cold-water lobster tails will be seasonally low.

Until next year, snow crab production will be limited because effort will be shifting to the king crab fishery where production is expected to rise from 10 to 15 percent over last year.

Supplies of clams are still down appreciably from previous years because of the depletion of the surf clam resource. This has caused effort to shift to the quahog fishery, but the gains achieved in that fishery have not as yet reversed the overall decline in clam production.

Blue crab and oyster production for the rest of the year will likely reflect the high mortalities that resulted from the cold winter. Production from the Chesapeake Bay will be more heavily influenced than production from other areas.

Copies of "Shellfish—Market Review and Outlook—June 1977" are available by writing to the Industry and Consumer Services Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Washington, DC 20235.

Foreign Fishery Vessels Off U.S. Coasts Increase

The number of foreign fishing and fishing support vessels sighted off U.S. coasts in July increased slightly over the number sighted in June, according to preliminary figures released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, a Commerce Department agency. In July, 786 vessels were sighted as compared with 767 sighted in June, reflecting the normal fishing patterns for this time of year. During July 1976, 842 vessels were reported off our coasts.

The foreign vessels, from eight nations, were sighted off the coasts of New England and the mid-Atlantic States, Gulf of Mexico, west coast, and Alaska. The largest number was from Japan, which had 634 vessels fishing for salmon and pollock off Alaska, 11 fishing for squid off New England and mid-Atlantic, and 2 longline vessels fishing for tuna in the Gulf of Mexico. The Soviet Union had 73 vessels: 39 fishing for hake off the Pacific coast, 27 fishing for squid off New England and mid-Atlantic, and 7 catching pollock in Alaskan waters.

Canada, fishing under a reciprocal agreement with the United States, had

19 vessels: 8 fishing for salmon and 5 fishing for halibut off Alaska, and 6 fishing for salmon off the west coast. Spain had 27 vessels fishing for squid off New England and mid-Atlantic. South Korea had 11 vessels fishing for sablefish off Alaska. Poland had 6 vessels fishing for hake off the west coast. Italy had 2 vessels fishing for squid off New England and mid-Atlantic. France had one vessel supporting the Polish hake fishery off the Pacific coast.

A summary of Foreign fishing vessels operating off U.S. coasts during July 1977 and July 1976 follows:

Area	Nations	No. of vessels	
		July 1977	July 1976
New England and mid-Atlantic	Soviet Union	27	0
	Poland	0	3
	W. Germany	0	3
	Spain	27	2
	Japan	11	5
	Italy	2	6
	S. Korea	0	2
	Total	67	21
Gulf of Mexico	Japan	2	7
	Cuba	0	31
	Total	2	38
West coast	Japan	0	2
	Soviet Union	39	77
	S. Korea	0	18
	Bulgaria	0	3
	Poland	6	6
	E. Germany	0	4
	Canada	6	0 ¹
	France	1	0
Total	52	110	
Alaska	Canada	13	0 ¹
	Japan	634	517
	S. Korea	11	57
	Taiwan	0	3
	Soviet Union	7	96
Total	665	673	
Grand total		786	842

¹Number of Canadian vessels off U.S. shores not recorded.

The July sightings were made by representatives of the National Marine Fisheries Service and by personnel of the U.S. Coast Guard, conducting joint fisheries enforcement patrols from Coast Guard aircraft and cutters.

Foreign vessels sighted off the coasts in 1976 were as follows: January 420; February, 510; March, 435; April, 560; May, 924; June, 970; July, 842; August, 543; September, 514; October, 452; November, 258; and December, 240. In 1977: January, 319; February, 314; March, 180; April, 235; May, 374; June, 767; and July, 786.

Fishery Management Council Members Named

Richard A. Frank, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, acting in behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, has appointed 7 new members and 13 incumbents to vacancies on the nation's eight Regional Fishery Management Councils. Nineteen of the appointments are for 3 years, filling expired 1-year terms, and the remaining appointment is to complete the unexpired term of a member who resigned. All appointments were effective 11 August 1977.

The Councils, established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, are responsible for preparing fishery management plans for stocks of fish found in waters within their geographical areas. The Act requires that members to the Councils be selected from lists of qualified individuals submitted by the Governors of

the States involved. Forty-eight Council members were appointed in August 1976 for 2- or 3-year terms.

New members appointed were: Herbert R. Drake, General Manager, H. R. Drake & Sons, Rye Harbor, N.H.; Omar G. Allvard, Electric Boat Division, General Dynamics Corp., Groton, Conn.; and Robert Lowry, retired State conservation officer, Carolina, R.I., all to the New England Council; Barbara B. Porter, President, South Shore Marina, Inc., Bethany Beach, Del., and Harry M. Keene, Easton, Md., charter boat owner-operator, both to the Mid-Atlantic Council; and Margaret (Peggy) Stamey, Raleigh, N.C., to the South Atlantic Council; and Gordon Jensen, commercial fisherman, Petersburg, Alaska, to the North Pacific Council.

Incumbents reappointed were: Thomas A. Norris, Milton, Mass., Vice-President, McCormack and Old Colony Trawling Corporations (New England Council); David H. Hart, marine fisheries consultant, Cape May, N.J., and William J. Hargis, Jr., Director, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, Va. (Mid-Atlantic Council); and Edgar C. Glenn, Jr., retired, Beaufort, S.C. (South Atlantic Council).

Reappointed to the Gulf of Mexico Council were John M. Green, President, Miller-Vidor Land and E. H. Green Lumber Companies, Beaumont, Tex.; George A. Brumfield, Manager, Mississippi Operations, Zapata-Haynie Corp., Moss Point, Miss.; and Billy J. Putnam, charter boat captain, Panama City Beach, Fla.

Other reappointments include John A. Harms, Jr., President, Lagoon Marina, Inc., Red Hook, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands (Caribbean Council); Peter S. Fithian, Director, Greeters of Hawaii, Ltd., Honolulu, and Louis K. Agard, Jr., commercial fish spotter, Honolulu (Western Pacific Council); Herman J. McDevitt, attorney, Pocatello, Idaho, and Vernon J. Smith, supervising electrician, Santa Clara County, San Jose, Calif. (Pacific

Council); and Clem Tillion, fishing boat charters, Halibut Cove, Alaska (North Pacific Council).

In addition to the appointed members, the Act establishes as voting members the principal State official with marine fishery management responsibility and expertise in each constituent State, as designated by the respective Governors, and the Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, for the area.

Additional fisheries expertise is provided to the Councils through nonvoting members consisting of the Regional or Area Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or his designee; the Commander of the Coast Guard District or his designee; the Executive Director of the Marine Fisheries Commission, if any, or his designee, for the geographical areas of the Councils; and a representative from the State Department.

Fishery Research Vessels Modified

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has announced that a \$230,000 contract has been awarded to M. Rosenblatt and Son, 350 Broadway, New York, N.Y., for naval architectural and engineering services. The Commerce Department agency said the firm, under the 12-month contract, will consult with NOAA's National Ocean Survey on the upgrading of four fisheries research ships which require extensive shipyard modifications. Other technical support will be provided for the design of a new shallow-draft hydrographic survey launch and the installation of pollution control systems on all of these vessels.

The NOAA fleet is made up of 28 vessels, ranging in size from 65 to 303 feet, whose homeports are in Norfolk, Va., Seattle, Wash., and Miami, Fla.

Porpoise Quota Raised

The number of whitebelly spinner porpoise that may be killed during U.S. yellowfin tuna purse seine fishing operations in 1977 has been increased from 7,840 to 11,219, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a Department of Commerce agency.

The original quota established by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service was based on a population estimated at 549,000 whitebelly spinners; however, recent scientific information sets the stock population at 690,000 animals. The increase in the whitebelly quota raised the total 1977 quota for all species that may be killed to 62,429. Through 24 July, 9,864 porpoises of all stocks had been killed in the fishery; of these 2,079 were whitebelly spinners. A total of 30,400 whitebelly spinners was killed in 1976.