

## DOC Gold, Silver Medal Award Winners Announced

Department of Commerce (DOC) Gold and Silver Medal Award winners named late last fall included three National Marine Fisheries Service officials: Roland Finch of the NMFS headquarters staff and Donald C. Malins of the NMFS Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center were presented with Gold Medals, while Carmen J. Blondin, also of the NMFS headquarters staff, received the Silver Medal.

Gold Medals, the Department's highest honor, and Silver Medals are bestowed for meritorious contributions to the Department and are based on the employees' outstanding contributions to a wide variety of programs. In all, 94 DOC employees received the awards—22 Gold and 73 Silver Medals—at the Department's Annual Honor Awards Program.

Finch, director of the NMFS Office of Fisheries Management, was cited for his outstanding contributions in drafting, policy determination, and implementation of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act). He displayed originality and resourcefulness in developing criteria and procedures for the preparation of fishery management plans (FMP's) and for the Secretarial review and approval or disapproval of FMP's. His approach was accepted by the U.S. Congress and the Regional Fishery Management Councils, thus obviating the need for amendments to the Magnuson Act which would have seriously crippled that Act's effectiveness. His innovative interpretation of the concept of "optimum yield," now the keystone of all FMP's, has been accepted by all Councils, many State agencies, and some foreign countries. Finch's forte also is in the develop-

ment of effective and efficient processes to implement the Act concurrently with "other applicable law." His ability to assemble and train a highly competent and dedicated staff to carry out the complex and sophisticated plan review tasks was also cited as a further reflection of his superior organizational management skills.

Malins, a Supervisory Research Chemist and the other NMFS Gold Medalist, is Director of the Environmental Conservation Division (ECD) at the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, Seattle, Wash. He was cited for making major breakthroughs in important areas of science. His chromatographic methods for lipid analysis are used by scientists worldwide and he has contributed fundamental advances in understanding sound processing in porpoises. He has established himself as the world's leading authority on the nature and effects of pollutants in the marine environment. His two-volume book, "Effects of Petroleum on Arctic and Subarctic Marine Environments and Organisms," serves as a standard source of information worldwide on the subject, and one of his over 100 scientific articles was recently proclaimed a "citation classic" by the highly regarded Institute for Scientific Information.

With Malins' outstanding leadership and dedication, the ECD has become an extremely effective research team, highly respected worldwide for contributions to marine pollution research. Because of his excellent reputation, he is increasingly sought by marine resource decisionmakers to present testimony, participate in advisory groups, and contribute to local and national scientific and policy decisions on the marine environment.

Receiving the Department's Silver Medal was Carmen J. Blondin, then Director of the NMFS Office of International Fisheries Affairs. Now Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Resource Management, Blondin serves as U.S. Commissioner on both the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the North Pacific Fur Seal Commission (NPFSC). He has conceived, directed, and conducted numerous bilateral and multilateral negotiations on behalf of the Secretary of Commerce.

At the November 1981 meeting of ICCAT, Blondin secured international support for the U.S. position that the Atlantic bluefin tuna stock was in recruitment difficulties and that fishing mortality should be drastically limited. In a subsequent meeting of affected nations in Miami, Fla., in February 1982, he secured agreement on the distribution among countries of a limited take of Atlantic bluefin tuna for scientific monitoring.

Other DOC Gold Medals were awarded to: Carol S. Carson and Frank de Leeuw, Bureau of Economic Analysis; Calvin C. Berlin, Stanley P. Harris, Richard L. McElheny, and Gayle C. Shelton, Jr., International Trade Administration; John W. Cahn, Judah Levine, Richard D. Marshall, Edward O. Pfrang, Sheldon M. Wiederhorn, and Richard N. Wright, III, National Bureau of Standards; Eldon E. Ferguson and Dieter Kley, NOAA's Environmental Research Laboratories; John D. Bossler, NOAA's National Ocean Survey; and Louis J. Beozi, NOAA's National Weather Service; and Bradford R. Huther, Margaret M. Laurence, James O. Thomas, and Werner H. Shroeder, Patent and Trademark Office.

Other NOAA personnel receiving DOC Silver Medals included Ronald M. Bolton and Thaddeus Vincenty, National Ocean Survey; Gary K. Davis and Melvin E. Welch, National Environmental Satellite Service; James P. Lawless, Office of Ocean Minerals and Energy; and the following National Weather Service employ-

ees: Stephen F. Corfidi, Harold M. Gibson, Thomas J. Grant, John E. Hales, Jr., Horace R. Hudson, Jr., Robert H. Johns, Thomas S. Kasko, Stanley J. Krowka, James M. Leis, Melvin R. McLaughlin, Wilford E. Rench, Albert P. Shipe, Jr., Charles H. Sprinkle, Richard A. Wagoner, Joel R. Wertman, Larry F. Wilson, William H. Wolfe, and Edward Yandrich. Another 47 employees in other DOC agencies also received the Department's Silver Medal.

## ***U.S. Cracks Down on Fisheries Violators***

In a major crackdown against scoff-laws, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced that it will begin legal proceedings to collect more than \$330,000 in outstanding fines owed the Government by commercial fishermen in New England, New Jersey, Virginia, North Carolina, and Delaware. The unpaid penalties, some from violations as far back as 1977, have been assessed against almost 60 individuals, many repeat offenders, who have violated the Fishery Conservation and Management Act that regulates U.S. fisheries out to 200 miles.

According to NOAA, collection actions have already begun in U.S. District court in Boston. Recent settlement of a large number of fines involving foreign violations of the New England fishery will enable NOAA to concentrate its resources on collecting these unpaid domestic penalties.

Allen Peterson, Northeast Regional Director of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, voiced concern for what he said were fishermen abiding by the rules who are placed at a disadvantage in competing with chronic violators. "We can no longer tolerate a situation in which the actions of relatively few violators call into question our determination to make the law work the way Congress intended," Peterson said. He added that the agency would revoke fishing permits and take legal action to seize assets, including vessels, if necessary. For further information contact Allen E.

Peterson, Jr., NMFS Northeast Regional Director, Gloucester, Mass., at (617) 281-3600.

## **Fish Bleeding, Sorbate Preservation of Fillets Studied at Gloucester Lab**

Bled (heads removed) and unbled (processed conventionally) day-boat Atlantic cod were stored on ice and taste tested every other day by the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Center's Gloucester (Mass.) Laboratory to determine their quality. After 6 days, a portion of the bled and unbled cod was filleted and the fillets were stored in ice. The fillets were also taste tested along with gutted fish to determine their storage stability.

The bled, gutted fish were found acceptable up to 15 days (above 5 on the sensory rating scale), whereas the ice-stored fillets cut from unbled fish were unacceptable after 10 days in ice. The unbled whole fish fillets and the fillets from bled fish were acceptable up to 12 days in ice. The raw cod examination, as judged by color and odor, showed very little difference in any of the samples. All were unacceptable at the thirteenth iced-storage day taste test.

The second of three experiments on the shelf life of fillets cut from 3-day-old iced cod dipped in 2.5 and 5.0 percent potassium sorbate (KS) was also completed. For this work, skinless fillets cut from 3-day-old iced cod were dipped in 2.5 and 5.0 percent KS for 10-15 seconds, drained for 5 seconds, then individually packaged and sealed in air permeable 0.75 mil polyethylene or air impermeable 2 mil Mylar<sup>1</sup> and stored in ice. Raw and cooked evaluations were run on these samples against similarly packaged but nondipped controls. Shelf life was determined when any average organoleptic score, both for the raw and cooked evaluations, fell below 5.0

<sup>1</sup>Mention of trade names or commercial firms does not imply endorsement by the National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA.

(borderline) on a 9-point hedonic scale.

The results of the first experiment showed a shelf life of 7-8 days for the nondipped controls and 15 days for the sorbate treated fillets. Shelf-life determinations on the second experiment show a shelf life of 11-12 days for the control and 18-19 days for the polyethylene- and Mylar-packaged, KS-treated fillets. This experiment was scheduled to be repeated.

Three other separate experiments on the effects of a potassium sorbate (KS) dip on fish fillets were completed later. For this work, fillets cut from 3- and 5-day-old iced cod were dipped in 2.5 and 5.0 percent KS, individually packed in air-permeable polyethylene and air-impermeable Mylar pouches, and stored in ice. Organoleptic testing was conducted on the raw and cooked fillets until an attribute of appearance, odor, flavor, and texture scored below 5.0 (borderline) on a 9-point objective scale. This point was considered as being the end of marketable shelf life. These experiments continue to confirm the efficacy of the KS dip on shelf life, with a shelf life extension of the dipped fillets of 5-7 days over the nondipped controls.

## **Atlantic Herring FMP Approval is Withdrawn**

Approval of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic herring was withdrawn late last December, reports Allen E. Peterson, Jr., Director of the Northeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Gloucester, Mass. Concurrently, the regulations implementing the FMP were repealed. The effect of these actions is the elimination of Federal management of the Atlantic herring fishery until a new management plan is prepared and implemented.

The Atlantic herring FMP, developed by the New England Fishery Management Council, was approved in December 1978. Amendment 3, the most recent amendment to the FMP, was implemented in August 1980. The FMP, as amended, established area/period allocations of age three and

older herring for the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank, and provided for area closures if the allocations were exceeded. The FMP required maintenance of fixed quotas and depended on state cooperation for its effectiveness.

Shortly after the approval of Amendment 3, problems with the herring management system became apparent. The National Marine Fisheries

Service was unable to maintain prescribed quotas and implement the FMP in accordance with the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson Act) during the 1980-81 fishing year. Subsequent review of the FMP revealed that erroneous assumptions were made in approving the plan, and that changed fishery circumstances rendered the FMP invalid and inoperative.

The plan's management measures could not be successfully implemented by the NMFS and the plan no longer met the national standards established by the Magnuson Act. For this reason, FMP approval was withdrawn and the implementing regulations repealed. For further information, contact the Office of the Regional Director, NMFS Northeast Region, telephone (617) 281-3600.

## A Symposium on Western Atlantic Sea Turtles

Sea turtles, once an important natural resource in the western Atlantic Ocean, have been severely reduced and now contribute little to the region's economy. If turtle stocks there are to be replenished to the levels of their full potential, attention must be focused on research, conservation, and management.

Thus, the Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium (WATS), has been organized and will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, 17-22 July 1983 at the Gran Hotel Costa Rica. Guided by a Steering Committee of regional sea turtle experts, the Symposium will be conducted in English and Spanish, and 36 countries are expected to participate.

Participating governments are conducting systematic research programs with the results to be presented in special "National Reports" by government-nominated National Representatives.

Objectives of the WATS are to 1) form a regional sea turtle data base from the National Reports; 2) conduct discussions to validate the data base and identify critical problems and directions for future action; and 3) consider setting up an institution to guide future regional sea turtle conservation and management.

The Symposium will begin with an official presentation of the National Reports. Later sessions will present species synopses for loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, leatherback, olive ridley, and green sea turtles. Other sessions will cover sea

turtle conservation, utilization, culture, and research techniques. Symposium conclusions and recommendations will be made by the National Representatives in Plenary Session.

The Symposium's Technical Team, coordinated by Larry Ogren of the NMFS SEFC's Panama City, Fla., Laboratory, has prepared English and Spanish versions of a Manual of Sea Turtle Research and Conservation Techniques (see Publications section) for use by participating countries. Team members have also assisted with symposium research activities and National Report preparations upon request.

Hotel accommodations and local transportation have been reserved for up to 400 participants and observers.

For further information, contact Robert R. Lankford, IOC Assistant Secretary for IOCARIBE, c/o UNDP, Apartado 4540, San Jose, Costa Rica (telephone 506-24-92-94); or Frederick H. Berry, Secretary to the WATS, Southeast Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149 (telephone 305-361-4276).

The Symposium activities are being sponsored by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Association for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE). The decision to develop the meeting and to limit the scope to the sea turtles of the western Atlantic Ocean was made in December 1978 at the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Center.

