NOAA Reorganizes

Last November, NOAA Administrator John V. Byrne approved a restructuring of the agency (Fig. 1) which replaced former major line components and major program elements with five line components: National Ocean Service, National Weather Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Environmental Satellite Data, and Information Service, and the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. Each is headed by an Assistant Administrator. In addition, an Office of Budget and Finance and an Office of Administrative and Technical Services were established as NOAA staff offices, replacing components of the former Office of Management and Budget.

"I believe that the way an organization is structured does make an important difference in how well the people in the organization function," Byrne said.

"I think the reorganization will improve the management efficiency of our agency. It strengthens the leadership of NOAA. It brings together areas of common interest and common focus; most obviously, the combining of many related functions into the new National Ocean Service and into the new National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service. Communications within and among line components will be enhanced, and we will be better able to achieve more with the limited resources that are available to us."

Here is how the restructuring will affect the functions and responsibilities of the various NOAA elements: Five staff offices, including the NOAA Corps, General Counsel, Congressional Affairs, Public Affairs, and Civil Rights remain unchanged. The remaining staff offices —Policy and Planning, Budget and Finance, and Administrative and Technical Services—will assume some changed responsibilities.

The Office of Policy and Planning provides specialized staff support to the Office of the Administrator, and to the line components. Its functions include responsibilities for policy

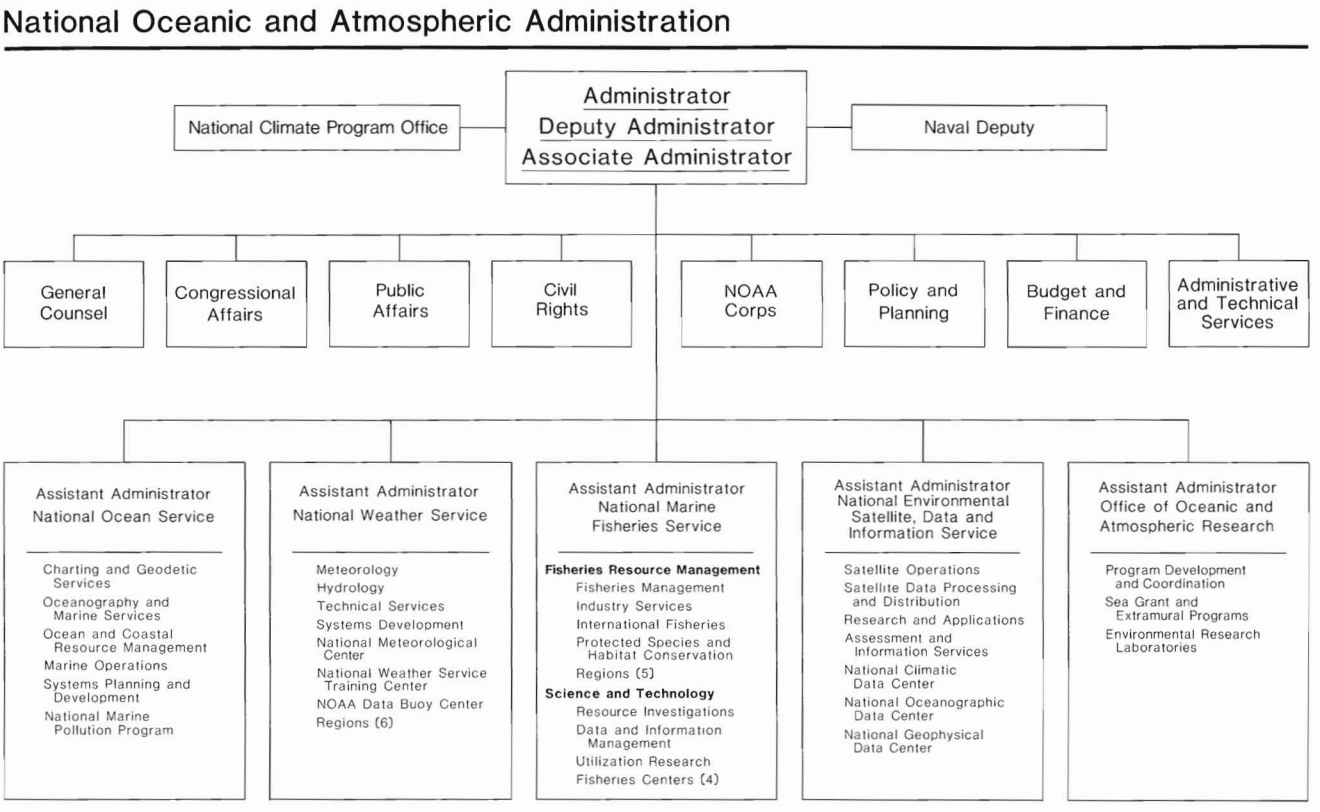


Figure 1.—NOAA organizational chart.

analysis, long-term planning, international and interagency liaison, and ecology and conservation coordination.

Budget and finance are important tools in the overall management of NOAA's activities. The Office of Budget and Finance provides staff support for NOAA's budget formulation and execution activities and serves as the focus for management of NOAA's financial resources. The office encompasses the functions assigned to the Office of Budget Resources and Management as well as the Office of Finance.

The Office of Administrative and Technical Services provides staff support in the areas of personnel, facilities, computing, management systems, and administrative operations and provides day-to-day support to the line components in these areas. The responsibilities of the five line components are listed below.

The National Ocean Services provides a focus for the development of a comprehensive strategy within NOAA to address the increasing uses and opportunities of the oceans. The component groups most of NOAA's ocean-related activities, except those dealing with living marine resources carried out by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Its functions include NOAA's mapping, charting, geodesy, marine pollution, ocean mining and energy, and coastal management responsibilities. Supporting activities include those areas related to marine operations, ocean engineering, and technology development.

In recognition of the importance and size of the National Weather Service, this unit now reports directly to the Administrator. Its basic functions remain the same. Supporting services include NOAA data buoy activities.

Much of the work NOAA performs involves providing data and information services to users both inside and outside the agency. In recognition of the close relationship between the satellite data gathering capabilities of the agency (NESS) and NOAA's data and information processing and dissemination functions (EDIS), these two activities were brought together in the new National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service. This new organization will eventually include climate activities.

The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research will conduct long-term and fundamental research through ERL and extramural programs to support NOAA missions. In addition, this office will ensure closer and more direct coordination with the applied research and development work located within the four service-oriented line organizations.

Meanwhile, the basic functions of the National Marine Fisheries Service remain unchanged, and its own reorganization is discussed in a separate article.

NMFS Reorganizes

The headquarters staff of the National Marine Fisheries Service has also been reorganized in recent months, reports William G. Gordon, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. The new arrangement (Fig. 1) is designed to: 1) Reduce NMFS overhead; 2) improve internal communications; 3) balance accountability and authority; 4) effectively track program progress; and 5) allocate a greater portion of NMFS resources directly to products and services.

"I expect this restructuring will allow us to decentralize operations further and to delegate additional decision-making authority to field staff —a process we refer to as 'regionalization,'" said Gordon, adding, "By making more decisions at the scene of the action, we can respond more rapidly to public needs. With these reforms, we are confident that we can meet our responsibilities for conserving the nation's living marine resources, managing them for long-term optimum yield and helping domestic industry to achieve maximum benefit from these renewable resources."

Briefly, the new reorganization has three headquarters units reporting di-

National Marine Fisheries Service

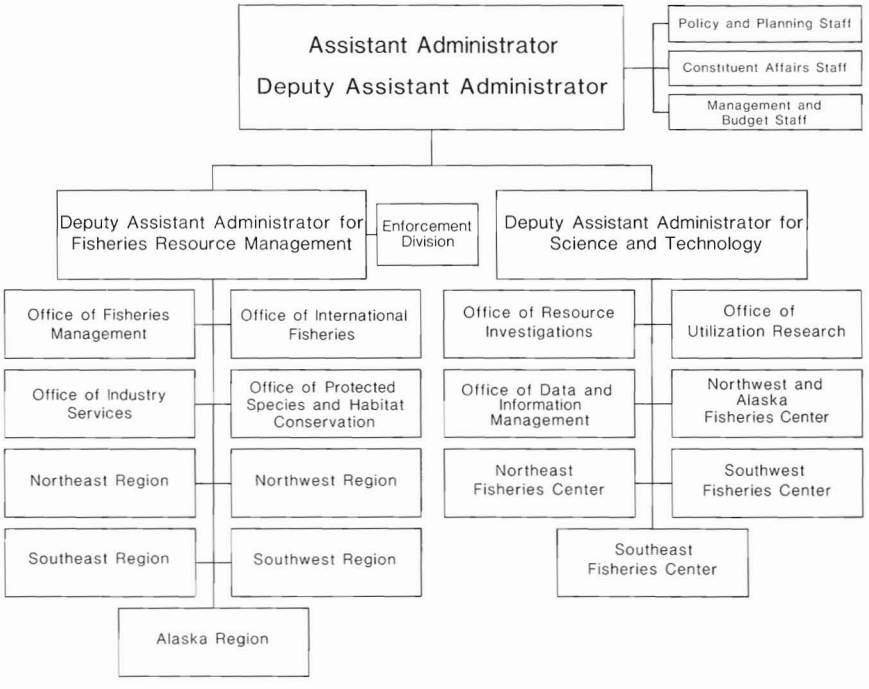


Figure 1.—NMFS organizational chart.

rectly to the Assistant Administrator's Office: Policy and Planning Staff, headed by John Everett; Constituent Affairs Staff, headed by Robert Hutton; and the Management and Budget Staff, under Samuel McKeen.

Two new Deputy Assistant Administrators—Science and Technology and Fisheries Resource Management—also report directly to the Assistant Administrator's office. The four NMFS fisheries research centers (Northeast, Northwest and Alaska, Southeast, and Southwest) report directly to the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science and Technology, Joseph Angelovic (Acting Deputy), as do the NMFS headquarters Offices of Resource Investigations, Data and Information Management, and Utilization Research.

Meanwhile, the five Regional Offices (Alaska, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest) all report directly to the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Resource Management, Carmen Blondin, as do the headquarters Offices of Fisheries Management, Industry Services, International Fisheries, and Protected Species and Habitat Conservation.

Outstanding NMFS Authors are Honored

The outstanding papers authored by National Marine Fisheries Service scientists and published in the *Fishery Bulletin* and the *Marine Fisheries Review* in 1981 have been announced by the NMFS Publications Advisory Committee.

For the *Fishery Bulletin*, vol. 79, J. Roe Hunter and Roderick Leong shared the award for their top-rated paper "The Spawning Energetics of Female Northern Anchovy, *Engraulis mordax*," 79(2):215-230. Both authors are fishery biologists with the La Jolla Laboratory of the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center, La Jolla, Calif.

Selected as the best paper published in 1981 in the *Marine Fisheries Review* was "Low Temperature Preservation of Seafoods: A Review" by Louis J. Ronsivalli and Daniel W. Baker III. Ronsivalli, now retired, was Director, Gloucester Laboratory, NMFS Northeast Fisheries Center, Gloucester, Mass. Baker is a mechanical engineering technician at that laboratory. The paper was published in the April issue, 43(4):1-15.

Developed in 1975, the annual outstanding publication awards program recognizes NMFS employees who have made exceptional contributions to the knowledge and understanding of the resources, processes, and organisms studied as a part of the NMFS mission.

Any NMFS employee may recommend published papers of the appropriate calendar year for award consideration. Authors must have been employed by the NMFS at the time the paper was published. Nominations must include the author's name, paper title and number of pages, series name and volume number, justification to support the nomination, and the name and office affiliation of the nominator.

Honolulu Lab Studies Seamount Fish Resources

In a 45-day cruise late last year to waters of the central North Pacific seamounts and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, fisheries scientists from the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center's Honolulu Laboratory collected biological, bathymetric, and oceanographic data from waters around several seamounts as well as conducting specially designed experiments involving spiny lobsters and bottom fishes. Secondary missions, according to Laboratory Director Richard S. Shomura, involved experimental squid fishing with jigging machines, deployment of fish-aggregating devices off Maui and Hawaii in cooperation with the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources, and subsurface observations with an underwater television camera.

Chief Scientist Richard N. Uchida reported that during the seamount phase of the cruise, the vessel visited Hancock, Colahan, Kanmu, and Kinmei Seamounts as part of a major investigation of seamounts currently underway at the Honolulu Laboratory. Seamounts are former islands that have subsided below the sea surface.

"There are numerous seamounts to the north and northwest of the Hawaiian Archipelago," said Uchida. "The Musicians Seamounts, which have summits well over 1,650 m deep, are located north of the chain. The seamounts of particular interest to the Honolulu Laboratory lie on the northern extreme of the Hawaiian chain."

Until 1967, fishery scientists were generally unaware of the fishery resources on the seamounts. The discovery by a Soviet trawler of concentrations of a fish species called the pelagic armorhead on the Emperor Seamounts led to almost immediate commercial exploitation. In 1969, Japanese trawlers entered the fishery.

Uchida said that the trawl catch by the NOAA ship *Townsend Cromwell* at Hancock was relatively good, compared to those made at the other seamounts, and that the stock of pelagic armorhead at Hancock, which is located inside the U.S. 200-mile Fishery Conservation Zone (FCZ) around the Hawaiian Archipelago, appears to be recovering from the intense fishing pressure applied by Soviet and Japanese trawlers before the Magnuson

Notice

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) ruled recently that the *Marine Fisheries Review* must be published quarterly instead of monthly. No reasons for the ruling were given, and it has been implemented with this issue (April-May-June 1983), 45(4-5-6). The last issue each year (October-November-December) will carry the annual index.

While the OMB directive reduces the number of issues printed, it will not affect the number of manuscripts published. We do, however, regret the inconvenience of quarterly publication to subscribers and contributors.

W. L. Hobart, *Editor*

Fishery Conservation and Management Act went into effect in early 1977. At the other seamounts, which are outside the FCZ, catches were very meager or nil.

It is not clear whether the poor results at Colahan, Kanmu, and Kinmei reflect actual depletion of the stock or inadequate sampling effort. "These seamounts, unlike Hancock Seamounts, have extensive summits," said Uchida. "For example, the southern trawlable ground on Kinmei is about 100 n.mi.^{2}. We saw many fish signs on the echogram but these turned out to be other less desirable species rather than pelagic armorhead."

During the remainder of the cruise, the *Cromwell* conducted experiments to determine whether spiny lobster catch rates are affected by lobster offal. "Our experiments were conducted to simulate a commercial operation where lobsters are 'tailed' and the heads dumped overboard," said Uchida. "The results of our experiments from this cruise, together with data from previous cruises, show conclusively that the presence of offal has a detrimental effect on lobster catches."

Scientists on the *Cromwell* also successfully collected juvenile lobsters by scuba diving at Necker Island. In addition, they were able to keep a number of bottomfish alive in the *Cromwell's* baitwell after injecting them with oxytetracycline, a chemical used to put a time mark on the bony parts of a fish, for ongoing studies on age and growth.

Assisting Uchida on the cruise were Fishery Biologist James H. Uchiyama, and Research Assistants Alan R. Everson, Steven H. Kramer, James H. Prescott, and Michael P. Seki.

Sensory Profile of Alaska Salmon Eyed

In cooperation with the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, the Utilization Research Division of the NMFS Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center is evaluating salmon from the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, Alaska. Fish from the two rivers are being judged by the trained sensory profile team for flavor and texture.

The project was initiated to attempt to determine whether the quality of the king salmon from these rivers are measurably different. Traditionally the Yukon River king salmon bring a substantially higher price on the market than king salmon from the Kuskokwim River system. The reason usually given is that the Kuskokwim River fish are inferior in quality, and in particular have soft texture.

University of Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisor Don Kramer obtained samples from both river systems, coded the samples, and arranged for shipment to the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center. The laboratory will evaluate the samples and develop a sensory profile for each sample code. If there are detectable inherent quality differences, the panel results should reflect them. In addition to the sensory evaluation, samples will be analyzed for texture using the Instron texture instrument.

U.S. Seafood Exhibit in Paris Wins Record Orders; Trade Leads Available

U.S. seafood processors and exporters reported $15-$20 million in sales orders at the 10th Salon International de l'Alimentation (SIAL '82), world food show in Paris, last year. These figures include both actual commercial sales concluded during the exhibition (over $5 million) as well as projected orders for 1983. A total of 1,442 sales leads were reported by the 23 firms exhibiting at the U.S. Seafood Exhibition. The orders at SIAL '82 amounted to slightly over 5 percent of the total $258 million in United States fishery products exported to the European Economic Community (EEC) during 1981.

The success of the U.S. Seafood Sales Exhibit has drawn considerable comment from U.S. and European businessmen who were surprised at the volume of orders. The declining value of European currencies, the canned salmon botulism incident in Belgium, the efforts of some European governments to control imports, as well as a generally sluggish world economy were expected to dampen sales.

The participation of the United States in key international food shows has provided the U.S. seafood industry with the opportunity to expand markets. The increasing sophistication of U.S. seafood exporters and the growing recognition of the United States as a supplier of quality seafood products have paid off in terms of orders.

NMFS participated in a number of overseas food shows in 1982, including the ROKA '82, International Food Exhibition, in Utrecht, Holland; the IKOFA '82, 14th International Trade Fair of the Food Industry in Munich, West Germany; and the SIAL '82 show in Paris.

From the SIAL show contacts, the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation has compiled a list of foreign companies who are interested in importing fishery products from the United States. The list contains the names and addresses of approximately 55 foreign firms and the fishery products they are interested in. U.S. firms interested in receiving a copy of this list should write to: SIAL Sales Leads, DOC, NOAA, NMFS, P.O. Box 1109, Gloucester, MA 01930-5309.

NOAA, FCS Okay Pact to Promote Fishery Products

NOAA and the Foreign Commercial Service (FCS) of the Department of Commerce have signed a Memorandum of Understanding designed to promote the export of United States fishery products. NOAA officials have since briefed senior FCS officials at a series of special regional meetings in Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

The purpose of these briefings was to outline the world potential for U.S.

seafood exports and to identify areas where FCS assistance is required. NOAA officials also attended a final meeting of FCS officers from the Middle East and Africa region in Kenya in January.

Positive results of these meetings soon began to appear. The FCS in London scheduled a U.S. Seafood Sales Exhibit for May 1983, and the FCS in Tokyo was planning a similar seafood show. FCS officers around the world are beginning to report on export opportunities for U.S. seafood products in their host countries, and several initiatives are being planned jointly between NOAA and the FCS to take advantage of these developments.

New NMFS Enforcement Policy for Southeast

The National Marine Fisheries Service has announced a new enforcement policy for fishing violations occurring in the fishery conservation zone in the Southeast Region. The revised penalty schedule provides: 1) First violation—$12,000-15,000 plus seizure of entire catch on board, 2) second violation—$15,000-25,000 plus seizure of entire catch on board, and 3) third violation—$25,000 plus seizure of entire catch on board and seizure of vessel. Should aggravating conditions exist (i.e., vessel fleeing enforcement officers or disobeying officers), a vessel may be seized for a first or second violation.

The revised penalty schedule will apply to trawling in the Tortugas Shrimp Sanctuary, trawling during the Texas Closure, violations of the stone crab/shrimp line of separation, and the taking of undersized spiny lobster and stone crab claws. The new policy was effective immediately, earlier this year.

The NMFS hopes the new enforcement profile will improve compliance with the Federal fishing regulations. This, in turn, will help to achieve the goals of the fishery management plans for shrimp, stone crab, and spiny lobster.

Any fishermen with questions concerning this enforcement policy should contact either the NMFS Law Enforcement Division (813-893-3145) or the Office of General Counsel (813-893-3617).

Rules Set for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Species in Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic FCZ

Final regulations for the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Plan (FMP) became effective 4 February 1983, according to Jack T. Brawner, NMFS Southeast Regional Director. The FMP was prepared jointly by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and was approved by the Secretary of Commerce under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The purpose of the FMP and implementing regulations is to prevent overfishing of the king and Spanish mackerel and cobia stocks and reduce user-group conflicts. The regulations govern the king and Spanish mackerel and cobia fisheries in the U.S. fishery conservation zone (FCZ) in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

The management measures for the fisheries are summarized here. For king mackerel, the recreational quota is 28 million pounds and the commercial quota is 9 million pounds (3,877,200 pounds by hook and line and 5,122,800 pounds by net fishing —of which purse seiners are limited to 800,000 pounds, half in the Atlantic and half in the Gulf). For Spanish mackerel the quota is 27 million pounds (of which purse seiners are limited to 600,000 pounds, half in the Atlantic and half in the Gulf).

Any segment of the fishery that attains its annual allocation prior to 30 June of each year will be closed to fishing. The quotas are based on a 12-month fishing season beginning 1 July. The size limit for Spanish mackerel is 12 inches (FL) minimum—undersized catch allowed up to 5 percent of total catch by weight. Cobia has a 33-inch minimum size limit.

There is a 4¾-inch minimum stretch mesh size for king mackerel gillnets; however, if a smaller mesh size is used, fishermen are limited to one king mackerel for every 10 Spanish mackerel on board a vessel. The regulations also authorize the Secretary to resolve gear conflicts between hook-and-line and gillnet fishermen in the king mackerel fishery in the Ft. Pierce, Fla., area.

The regulations prohibit purse seining for king and Spanish mackerel unless the vessel has complied with applicable Federal requirements, including the following. Purse seine vessel owners or operators intending to fish for king or Spanish mackerel must notify the NMFS Regional Director in writing 3 months before the date they intend to begin fishing, unless the Regional Director determines that a shorter period of advance notice is reasonable. This year, fishermen wanting to begin fishing after 30 June had to submit letters of intent to the Regional Director 3 months before fishing (for the fishing season through 30 June 1983, the Regional Director determined that a 30-day advance notice was sufficient). Once the advance notice requirement had been satisfied, purse seine fishermen had to advise the Director of NMFS Southeast Fisheries Center by telephone, 48 hours in advance of each fishing trip, regarding certain departure and expected landing information. Additional requirements applicable to purse seining for king and Spanish mackerel and fishing for cobia are specified in the final rules in the *Federal Register* dated 4 February 1983 (page 5270). Further information is also available from Donald W. Geagan, National Marine Fisheries Service, 9450 Koger Boulevard, St. Petersburg, FL 33702, (telephone 813-893-3721).

Seafood Processing Industry Profiles

The National Fisheries Institute, a national trade association of seafood processors, brokers, importers, and buyers, in cooperation with and under contract to the National Marine Fisheries Service, has prepared a series of economic profiles of the U.S. seafood processing industry. These profiles will serve as a primer for regulatory and policy analysts who may not be familiar with the intricacies of seafood processing and of economic constraints facing seafood processors, who are predominately small businessmen.

The profiles present the business world of the seafood processor from an integrated perspective, and address the resource, harvesting, processing, and marketing practices and constraints. The text is designed for the general reader, and details are given only to illustrate the complexity of the industry. A thorough treatment of many topics is intentionally avoided and technical references are kept to a minimum. However, sufficient statistical data and references are provided to support economic analyses and further study.

The following reports may be purchased by mail directly, by personal check or money order, from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. Orders may be telephoned in by dialing (703) 487-4650: For rush-order service dial (703) 487-4700. The price for paper copies is listed with each report; however, microfiche copies are also available at $4.50 each.

"The U.S. Blue Crab Industry: An Economic Profile for Policy and Regulatory Analysts." NTIS No. PB 83 165704, price $8.50.

"The Maine Sardine Industry: An Economic Profile for Policy and Regulatory Analysts." NTIS No. PB 83 165712, price $8.50.

"The U.S. Menhaden Industry: An Economic Profile for Policy and Regulatory Analysts." NTIS No. PB 83 165720, price $10.00.

"The U.S. Oyster Industry: An Economic Profile for Policy and Regulatory Analysts." NTIS No. PB 83 166215, price $10.00.

"The U.S. Shrimp Industry: An Economic Profile for Policy and Regulatory Analysts." NTIS No. PB 83 166223, price $14.50 (3 studies—canned shrimp, breaded shrimp, and headless/peeled shrimp—are combined into one report).

"The New England Groundfish Industry: An Economic Profile for Policy and Regulatory Analysts." NTIS No. PB 83 166231, price $11.50.

A History of Fisheries Research in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska

NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS F/NWC-34 is entitled **"Fifty Years of Cooperation and Commitment: 1931-81 The Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center."** Edited by Rae R. Mitsuoka, Roger E. Pearson, Laura J. Rutledge, and Samuel Waterman, the volume traces the history of Pacific Northwest fisheries research and the creation, operations, and accomplishments of the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center and its employees.

From its first article, "Fishery Studies on the Pacific Coast, 1887-1931" by Clinton E. Atkinson, to its last, "Future of Fisheries Management or the Diverging Paths of Theory and Practice" by Peter A. Larkin, the volume presents a well-planned and well written look at the past, present, and future of fisheries research in this important region. The historical section was authored by current and former employees of the center.

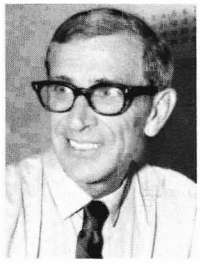
The book has two primary sections —the Center's history and the fisheries presentations at the "50th Anniversary Symposium" held in late 1981. Historical papers discussed the beginnings of the center and its research to 1981, the Montlake Laboratory and its biological research, biological research at the Auke Bay Laboratory, and the center's studies on effects of chemical contaminants, marine mammals, fisheries technology, exploratory fishing and gear development, and research support.

The symposium itself was structured to present both a historical look at environmental stresses on marine resources, utilization research, exploratory fishing, fisheries development, and fisheries management in the Northwest and Alaska region; as well as an outlook for the future. Thus, the volume will be of considerable interest to many from both the historical angle and for the views it presents on the future of the fisheries by many respected fisheries authorities. In addition, the report includes the luncheon addresses of NOAA Administrator John V. Byrne and NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries William G. Gordon. Paper copies or microfiche of the volume, NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS F/NWC-34 are available from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161 (price not listed).

Former *MFR* Editor Thomas A. Manar Dies

Thomas Alonzo (Lon) Manar, former Chief of the NMFS Scientific Publications Staff (now the Scientific Publications Office), died at his home in Encinitas, Calif., on 26 August 1982 after a heart seizure. Mr. Manar was a journalist, newspaperman, science writer, and editor in the best traditions of his craft.

As the Chief of the Scientific Publications Staff in Seattle, Wash., from 1970 to 1974, he set the style and format for a revamped *Fishery Bulletin* and established sound, professional, and uniform editing standards for the agency. The early years of the *Marine Fisheries Review*, which he edited



Thomas A. Manar

from 1973 to 1975, also reflected his flair for technical editing and for innovative and creative journalism. In 1974 his superior service and unique talents were recognized with the award of a Bronze Medal by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

A graduate in journalism from the University of Oklahoma, Mr. Manar joined the Scripps Institution of Oceanography as scientific editor in 1951 after a stint as a meteorologist in the U.S. Army during World War II and as a newspaperman in Oklahoma. In the early 1960's he set up the public information office at the University of California, San Diego, when the campus was developing.

In 1965, following the death of his wife Ruth, Mr. Manar left the university for a position with the Federal Government as Chief of Publication Services for the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratory in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he lived and worked until 1970. His last position before retirement was as an editor and consultant with the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center in La Jolla, Calif.

Mr. Manar was a man of wide interests and enthusiasm—art, music, reading, nature photography. After his retirement he traveled extensively in this country and abroad. He is survived by a sister, Maurine Manar, also of Encinitas.

New Mesh Sizes, Area Closures Help Protect New England Groundfish

Two haddock spawning areas off the New England coast were closed to all fishing activities capable of taking groundfish species from 1 March through 31 May, the National Marine Fisheries Service reports. The areas had been closed to fishing annually for many years as a conservation measure to minimize disturbance of the spawning fish and to prevent excessive exploitation of the haddock when concentrated on the spawning grounds. In addition, the closed areas now represent a major conservation measure of the Interim Groundfish Plan implemented last year.

This year's regulations, as in past years, prohibit the use of any type of gear in the two spawning areas other than 1) pot gear designed and used to take lobsters, 2) hooks with a gape of not less than 30 mm (1.18 inches), and 3) dredges designed and used to take scallops. The taking of any cod, haddock, or yellowtail flounder by the gear types permitted during the closure could also be considered a violation of the area closure.

Severe penalties were set for violations. An owner, master, or vessel involved in a closed area violation could have been subject to a fine of $25,000, seizure of the catch, and seizure of the fishing vessel. Cooperative enforcement by Special Agents of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Coast Guard included aerial surveillance and sea patrols.

Meanwhile, Allen E. Peterson, NMFS Northeast Regional Director, announced that the cod-end mesh size for taking cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder would be 5½ inches as of 31 March 1983. The new mesh size was an automatic change from the former 5-1/8-inch mesh required since March 1982 by the regulations of the Interim Groundfish Management Plan.

Peterson said that this new mesh size, along with the minimum fish size, large mesh area, haddock spawning area closures, the optional settlement program, and voluntary reporting system which continue under the Interim Plan, would add to the basic resource protection the plan has given since the change from fishing quotas over a year ago. Strict enforcement of these measures will continue.

When asked how the new mesh size will be enforced, Peterson said, "Enforcement will be done at sea and dockside with the use of a wedge-shape mesh gauge which takes a mesh size measurement between knots." Peterson added, "The fishermen are well aware of this procedure and understand that it is their responsibility to fish the proper mesh size. Tolerances for shrinkage or any other factors are not permitted."

The Interim Plan has been operating quite smoothly since its implementation a year ago, and it has enjoyed wide acceptance by the fishing industry. The new mesh size will enhance this smooth operation. Full sets of regulations that explain all the conservation measures of the Interim Plan can be obtained by contacting the National Marine Fisheries Service in Gloucester, Mass.

Rules Set for Pacific *Sebastes* Complex, Widow Rockfish, and Sablefish

Several new regulations on groundfish species took effect on 28 February, reports H. A. Larkins, NMFS Northwest Regional Director. Larkins said the action was taken at the recommendation of the Pacific Fishery Management Council under the Federal regulations for the groundfish fishery which went into effect last September.

The new regulations were set to allow the fishery to continue as long as possible throughout the year, Larkins said, since more restrictive catch levels have been imposed for 1983 than in 1982. The new regulations are summarized below.

For sablefish in the area north of Point Conception (excluding Monterey Bay), the minimum size limit is 22 inches (incidental catch allowance for small fish (less than 22 inches) is 333 fish, 1,000 pounds, or 10 percent by weight of the total sablefish landings, whichever is greater).

For widow rockfish the coastwide trip limit is 30,000 pounds, and for the *Sebastes* complex (all rockfish except Pacific ocean perch, widow and shortbelly rockfishes, and thornyheads, *Sebastolobus* sp.) the coastwide trip limit is 40,000 pounds.

It was anticipated that the Washington Department of Fisheries, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Department of Fish and Game would impose similar restrictions in their territorial waters. Further information is available from the NMFS Northwest Regional Office (206-527-6150) or the NMFS Southwest Regional Office (213-548-2575).