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2004



NOAA  
*Fisheries*  
*Service*

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service







### **Vision**

The American People enjoy the riches and benefits of healthy and diverse marine ecosystems.

### **Mission**

Stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of healthy ecosystems.

### **History**

The United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries, became the Nation's first federal conservation agency when it was initiated in 1871. The newly formed Agency was soon referred to as simply the Fish Commission. Its mandate included the protection, study, management, and restoration of fish. Over the last 134 years, the Agency's official name has changed several times—from the Bureau of Fisheries to the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Today, to reflect our contribution to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration we are referred to as NOAA Fisheries Service. However, regardless of name, certain principles have remained constant through the years—our basic vision, mission, and commitment to service and stewardship. We value your interest, questions, and comments. Please feel free to contact us.

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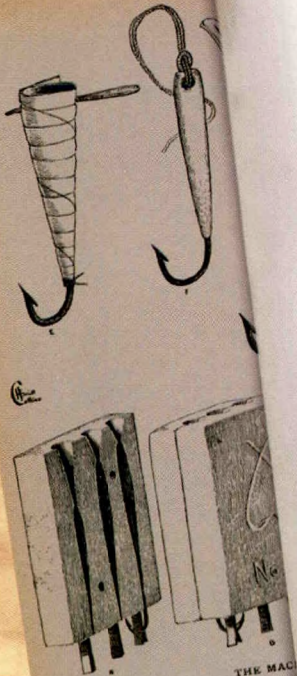
THE MACKEREL  
Angling with poles for mackerel from  
Dorset by



FISHERY.  
v. vol. 1, p. 2-7.  
J. W. Collins



THE FRESH HALIBUT  
weighing and selling halibut on deck of George's Har-  
bour

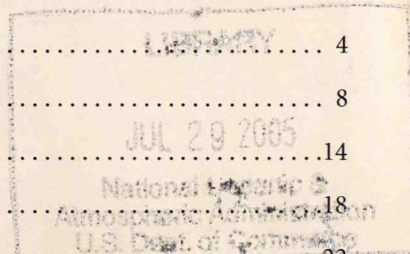


THE MAG

Diagram showing the construction of a mag, a small boat used for fishing. The diagram shows the hull, the mast, and the rigging. The text describes the construction of the mag, including the use of wood and rope.

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## *Message from the Assistant Administrator*

Thomas Edison once said, "If there's a better way to do something, find it."

The 2004 NOAA Fisheries Service Business Report is a review of the past year's work—it is also a glimpse at the work that lies ahead. What this report really highlights is what has been accomplished by the people at NOAA Fisheries Service—dedicated and talented women and men who make daily contributions to our country through the science, services, and stewardship we provide. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the same level of support and contributions provided by the Office of General Council and the NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations. We've worked hard to reach out to our constituents and be more transparent—and you have responded in ways that will help make a positive difference here at NOAA Fisheries Service. Thus, this report also acknowledges the hard work of our partners. Together we made great strides in addressing the many challenges we face everyday in managing our Nation's living marine resources.



The nation depends on living marine resources for food, jobs, recreation, tourism, medicine, and many industrial and commercial products. People everywhere now recognize the importance and value of healthy marine ecosystems to our environment and quality of life. For example, the most recent suggestion from the Federal Dietary Guideline Advisory Committee for improving cardio-protective benefit is the consumption of two servings per week of fish species that are high in certain fatty acids. In 2004, Americans consumed 16.3 pounds of seafood per person.

In terms of the nation's economy, optimal management of the fishery resources under NOAA's stewardship could increase the annual recreational, commercial, and non-consumptive values by almost \$1.4 billion at the point of first sale or other contribution to the gross national product. The challenge for NOAA is to continually work to find better ways to manage these resources for all stakeholders.

In 2005, we will tackle new opportunities as NOAA implements recommendations from the Administration's Ocean Action plan, including the protection of marine mammals, sharks, and sea turtles, and taking an ecosystem approach to management.

In addition, NOAA will be working on the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act. In the coming months, we will continue creating a NOAA Fisheries that takes a truly business-like approach and allows fishermen to make more decisions on how to harvest quotas, enjoy recreational fishing opportunities, and ensure the sustainable use of the Nation's ocean resources. And of course, NOAA welcomes the wisdom and input of the committees, councils, stakeholders, and all of our partners.

As you read through this report of accomplishments, recognize that NOAA Fisheries is committed to ongoing improvements—





NOAA is building a stronger relationship with the recreational fishing community through the NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan. Actually, I view the plan as more of a contract between the Agency and America's anglers. It identifies common goals, a game plan for making it happen, and a pledge to work together in the effort. What makes this plan different is that NOAA Fisheries sought the collaboration of the recreational fishing community in drafting the plan. In the process, the Agency and anglers developed a positive momentum and trust that will help carry through the goals of the plan.

Beginning in 2005, look for new science-based programs and approaches in our continued efforts to reduce overcapacity and rebuild over fished fisheries. NOAA will also improve its stewardship activities for protected species and habitat conservation.

Offshore marine aquaculture in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is an emerging opportunity for finfish and shellfish culture. NOAA is developing an aquaculture program to facilitate private investment in increased seafood production and replenished depleted species, while safeguarding the environment and balancing multiple uses. A variety of stakeholders provided input into the design of the program. We look forward to sharing with you the specifics of the legislation and what we are proposing as soon as it is approved by the Administration. If we are to provide a sustainable supply of healthy, fresh seafood to meet America's dietary needs, we must balance an environmentally responsible aquaculture program with wild harvest.

One more thing...

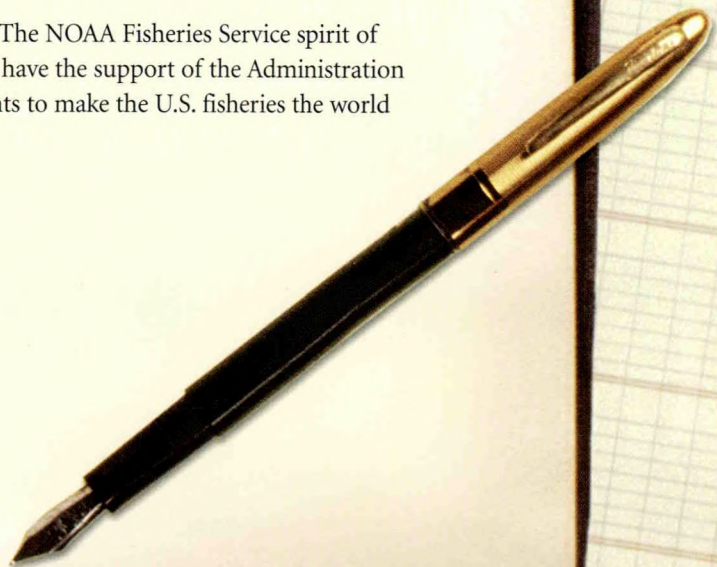
Communication. I intend to personally oversee a change in the way we communicate both internally and externally. We cannot begin to make changes in the way we do business if we don't understand what is being said. NOAA Fisheries Service will work as hard as ever to listen to what our constituents and partners have to say. I will look for opportunities to better communicate NOAA information and messages—beginning by encouraging a more “plain language” approach to our writing.

NOAA is poised and energized to respond to any and all challenges. The NOAA Fisheries Service spirit of collaboration and innovation will help us meet those challenges. We have the support of the Administration and Congress, along with the dedicated staff and involved constituents to make the U.S. fisheries the world leader in the sustainable use of ocean resources.

And as always—we'll find a better way.

*William T. Hogarth*

William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce







# ~ Strategic Plan



## Strategic Plan

At NOAA Fisheries Service, continually evaluating performance against outcomes and objectives to better serve constituents is simply just the way we do business. With NOAA's and NOAA Fisheries Service's Strategic Plans designed to support the Department of Commerce Strategic Plan Goal—to “observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental stewardship”—an important link is formed between budget and performance. There are four main mission goals and one critical support goal within NOAA's Strategic Plan. The diagram (right) outlines NOAA's Strategic Plan goals and the programs that support them. NOAA Fisheries Service activities primarily support the Ecosystem Goal and the Climate Goal. However, there also are strong linkages to the Weather, Water, and Commerce/Transportation Goals. The NOAA Fisheries Service 2004 Business Report is a look back at the highlights of our work in support of the NOAA Strategic Plan.

### Ecosystems

Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management.

- Habitat
- Corals
- Coastal and Marine Resources
- Protected Species
- Fisheries Management
- Aquaculture
- Enforcement
- Ecosystem Observation
- Ecosystem Research





Canning is introduced into the United States by Ezra Daggett and Thomas Kensett who pack oysters and other seafood in New York.

The first successful U.S. salmon cannery begins operation at Sacramento, CA.

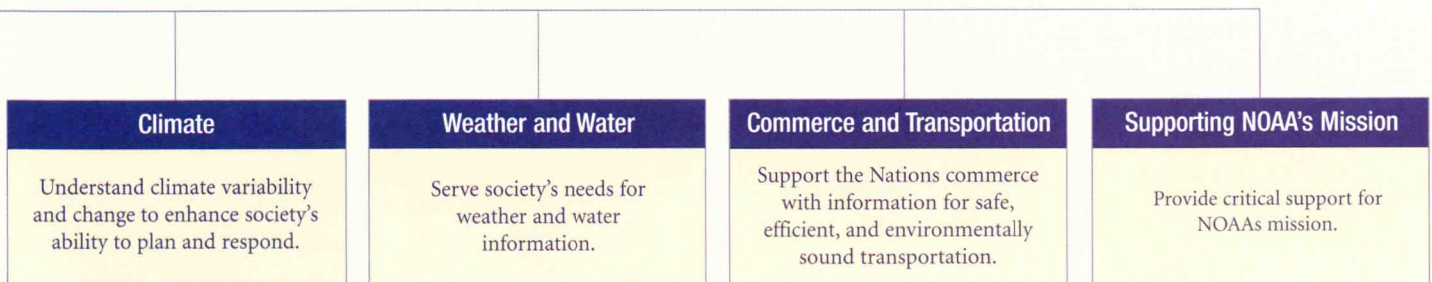
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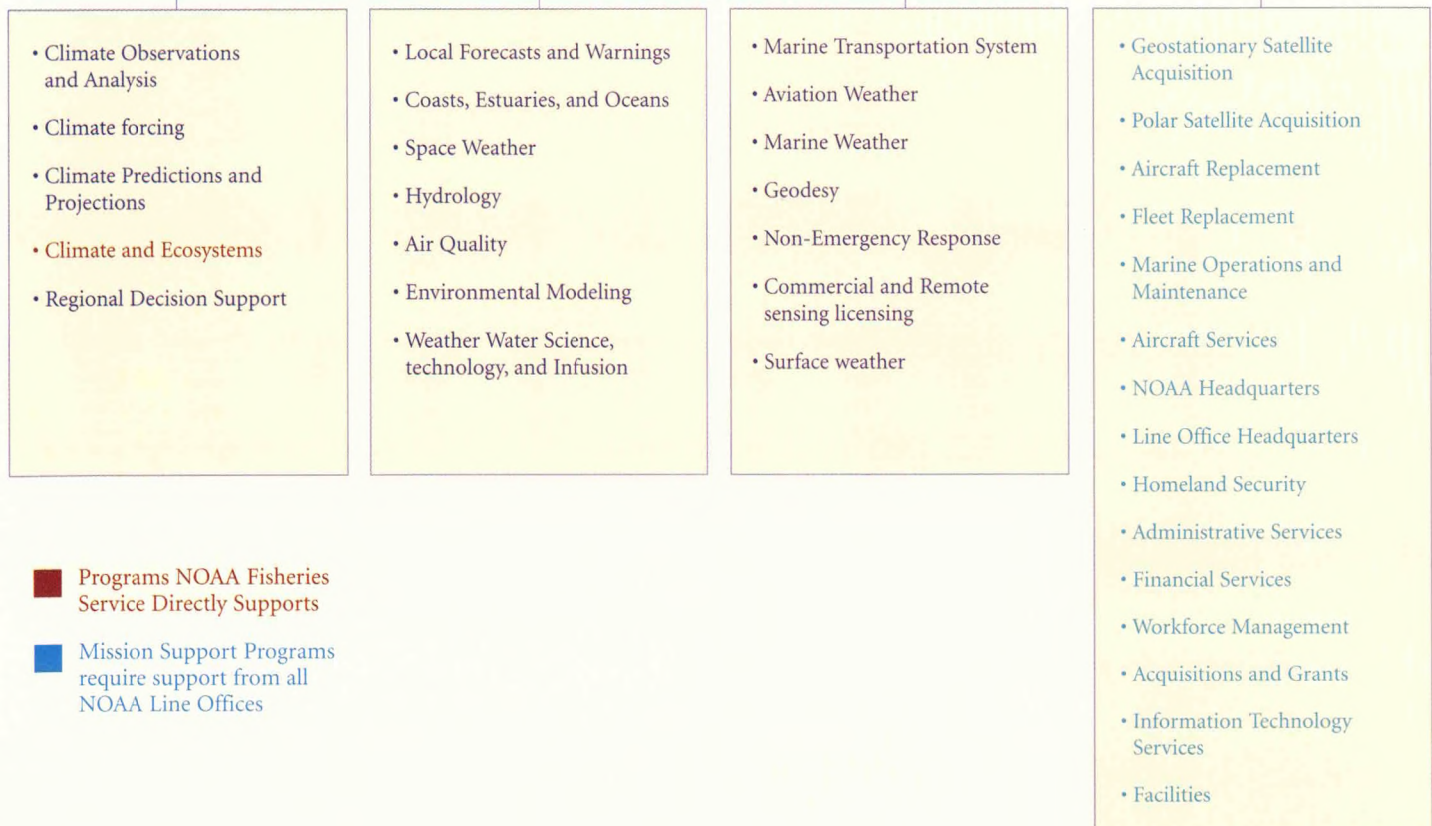


## NOAA Strategic Plan


### NOAA Goals



### NOAA Programs



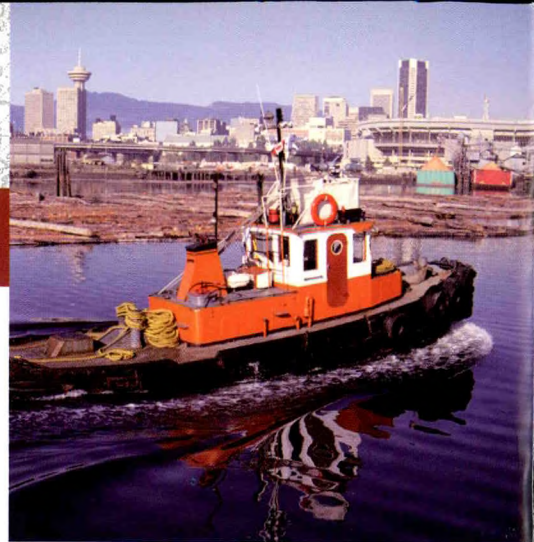
 Programs NOAA Fisheries Service Directly Supports

 Mission Support Programs require support from all NOAA Line Offices





## Strategic Plan



We work to conserve, protect, and manage these resources to ensure their continuation as functioning components of ecosystems, while also affording economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for the American public.

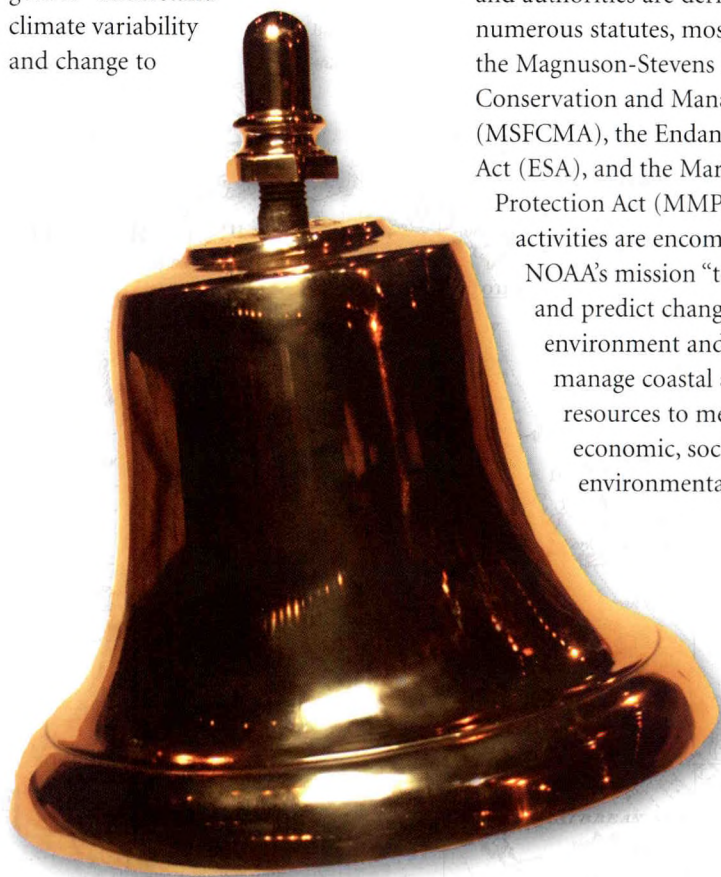
### Always Moving Forward

NOAA Fisheries Service is responsible for stewardship of the Nation's living marine resources and their habitats within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone. Most of NOAA Fisheries Service programmatic activities support achieving NOAA's strategic goal to "protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management." NMFS activities also support NOAA's goal to "understand climate variability and change to

enhance society's ability to plan and respond." Finally, NOAA Fisheries Service provides agency-wide services to "provide critical support mission for NOAA's mission."

We work to conserve, protect, and manage these resources to ensure their continuation as functioning components of ecosystems, while also affording economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for the American public. Our mandates and authorities are derived from numerous statutes, most significantly the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). All these activities are encompassed by NOAA's mission "to understand and predict changes in Earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our Nation's economic, social, and environmental needs." NOAA

Fisheries Service employs more than 2,500 people across the country in our six regional offices and science centers as well as in our headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. In implementing our stewardship activities, we work closely with our partners in state and other Federal agencies, local and tribal governments, industry, academia, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). We also work closely with the other NOAA line offices. Of the nine NOAA programs in which we participate, seven involve at least one other line office. We work with the National Ocean Service (NOS) on habitat protection and restoration and coral reef conservation, as well as other activities. We work with Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) on ecosystem research, coral reef conservation, and understanding climate effects on ecosystems, among other efforts. We also work with the National Environmental Satellite Data Information Service (NESDIS) to provide Geographic Information System (GIS) maps of habitat for trust species and with the National Weather Service (NWS) on using NOAA Weather Radio to publicize fishery closures.





Shrimp is first canned commercially near Louisiana's Grand Terre Island.

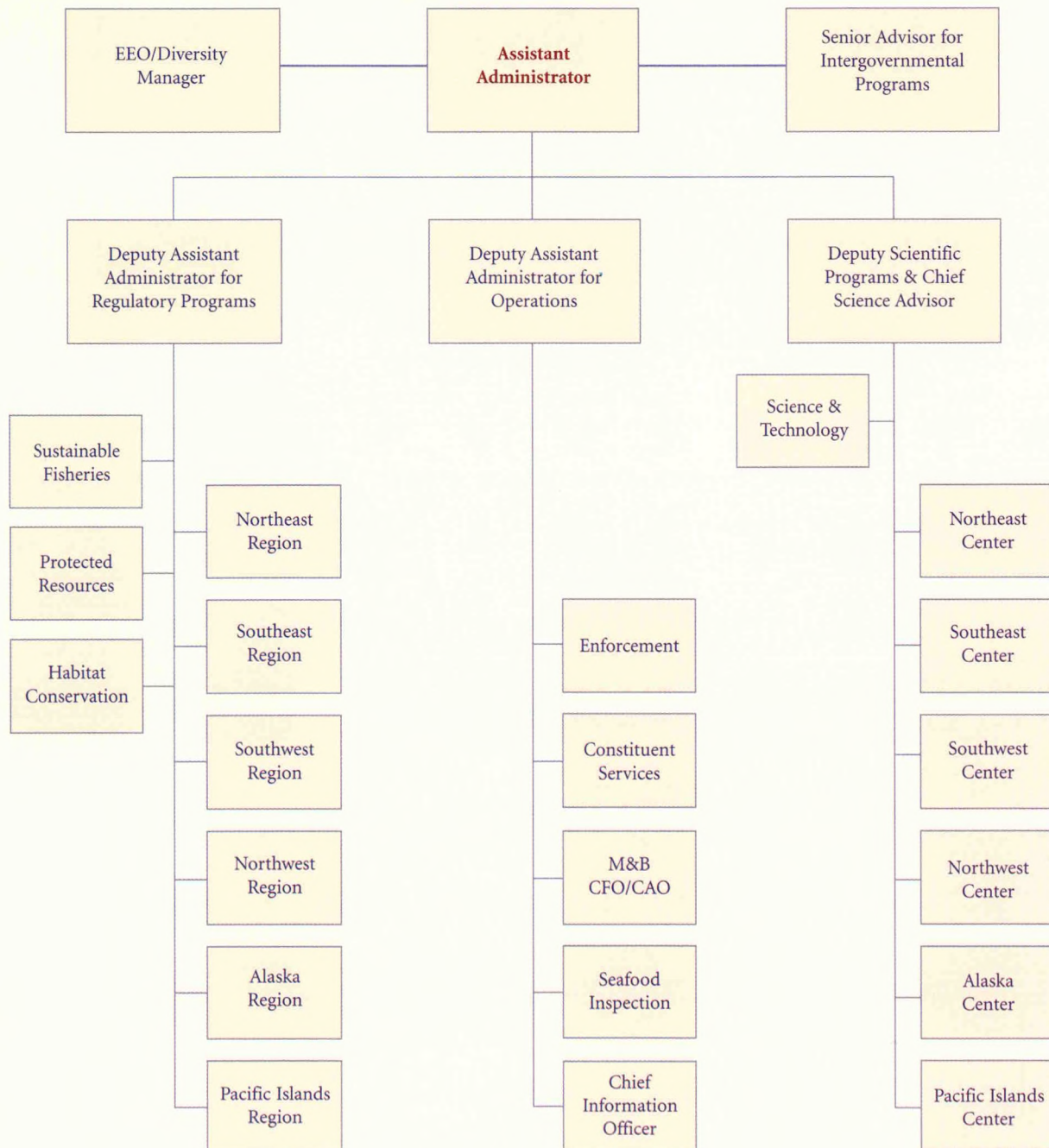
Alaska with its vast but untapped marine and anadromous fishery resources is purchased from Russia for \$7.2 million. Furs, rather than fishes were the most prominent resource, and later the U.S. Fish Commission would move to protect the northern fur seal from high-seas killing.

1867

1867



## NMFS Organization Chart







# *Fisheries Management Program*

The Sustainable Fisheries Program works to maintain healthy stocks important to commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries; eliminate overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks; and increase long-term economic and social benefits to the nation from living marine resources. The following activities are within the Sustainable Fisheries Program: Highly Migratory Species, Domestic Fisheries, Regulatory Services, and State-Federal Fisheries. The principle authority for managing our Nation's fisheries comes from the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

## **Managing the Nation's Fisheries**

NOAA Fisheries Service is responsible for over 900 fish stocks that support a \$60 billion contribution to the U.S. economy through recreational and commercial fisheries and provide employment for more than 520,000 individuals. In partnership with eight regional fishery management councils and the states, NOAA Fisheries Service has implemented new management measures to stop further resource declines and rebuild overfished stocks. Since 1997, 30 stocks have increased in population size to a level above their overfished thresholds, while

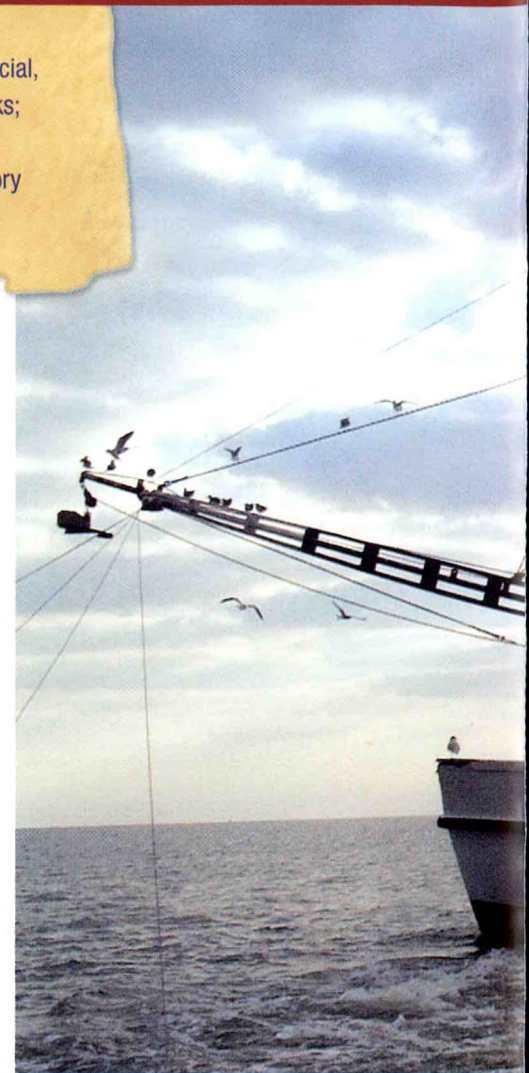
17 stocks were newly declared as overfished. Of the 76 overfished stocks remaining in 2003, all but 3 have formal rebuilding plans.

## **Rebuilding the Nation's Fisheries**

In 2004, four previously overfished fish stocks were declared fully rebuilt: Georges Bank winter flounder, Atlantic blacktip shark, and South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico stocks of yellowtail snapper. This is the first time that so many stocks have been declared rebuilt in a single year. At the same time, the number of stocks that are overfished or subject to overfishing is declining. Healthy stocks are contributing to the economic vitality of commercial and recreational fisheries and promoting the stability of regional fishing communities.

## **Marine Recreational Anglers are Catching - and Releasing - More Fish**

Marine recreational anglers have been catching more fish in recent years, but they are also releasing their catch more often. Marine recreational fishing supports nearly 350,000 jobs and generates an annual \$30.5 billion in economic impact to the nation. The number of fish caught recreationally has increased 11 percent since 1994. However, the number of fish anglers actually keep has shown no significant growth over the past decade. Among the top recreational species caught,



including spotted sea trout, Atlantic croaker, summer flounder and striped bass, most are released alive.

## **Regulatory Streamlining**

NOAA Fisheries Service continued to make the regulatory process more efficient for both the agency and its constituents in 2004. The regulatory operational guidelines, which describe the process and procedures for fisheries management by Regional Fishery Management Councils and NOAA Fisheries Service, were overhauled to simplify processes and document requirements. NOAA Fisheries Services NOAA Fisheries Service now accepts





The Federal government assumes management of the Pribilof Islands fur seal resource.

The U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries was created by Congress on February 9, and charged with studying and recommending solutions to an apparent decline in New England's fisheries. Its first Commissioner was Spencer Fullerton Baird, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and internationally acclaimed scientist.



e-mail comments on all its regulatory actions. The regulatory review and analysis cycle was shortened further, and the decision process simplified, by delegating authority to regional managers. Training and quality control in regulatory analysis and process helped NOAA Fisheries Service win 27 cases (87 percent) in 2004 compared to the winning percentage average of 45 percent from 1997-2001.

#### Buybacks Balance Harvesting Capacity in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska

Paying vessel owners and permit holders to relinquish their harvesting privileges helped reduce excess



harvesting capacity. Early "buybacks" were taxpayer funded. Now NOAA Fisheries Service uses loans to finance the buybacks—shifting the costs to those who benefit most from the buybacks, notably those who remain in

#### Aquaculture

Recognizing the growing importance nationally and internationally toward development of marine aquaculture, NOAA has included this as an ecosystem program to manage aquaculture activities throughout NOAA. Early successes include coordination of NOAA's effort to draft legislation for offshore aquaculture, spurred on by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy's recommendations and the President's U.S. Ocean Action Plan. In 2004, members of the NOAA aquaculture team provided leadership on the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture task force that developed the first-ever national effluent limitations guidelines and standards for U.S. aquaculture facilities. Team members continued projects to research and quantify the impacts of hatchery-produced marine fish and assisted in the development of a national plan to ensure aquatic animal health and a safe seafood supply. During the next year, the Program will gather and broadcast the best available information on the environmental effects and economic implications of aquaculture, and continue to advance regulatory and management initiatives for offshore aquaculture. The goal is to have a legislative proposal for consideration by Congress.

the fleet. The loans included \$100 million and \$90 million, respectively for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island Pollock and crab buybacks, and \$46 million

for Pacific Coast groundfish buybacks. NOAA Fisheries Service estimates that by the end of 2005, these loans will have reduced \$235 million worth of excess fishing capacity in major fisheries, removing vessels from worldwide fishing at a cost to taxpayers of only \$25 million.





# ~ Fisheries Management Program

The Northeast groundfish resources support both commercial and recreational fisheries, and are economically important to local coastal communities.



## Outlook

The living marine resources of the largest exclusive economic zone in the world is under the stewardship of NOAA Fisheries Service. New legislation, evolving management techniques, and scientific advances continue to create opportunities for managing the nation's living marine resources. NOAA Fisheries Service will continue to adopt the necessary tools and apply the money and programs to ensure the nation's marine ecosystems remain thriving, viable resources that benefit the American people.

A major regulatory streamlining project began in 2004 and constituents are reporting great benefits because of it. The project is focused on integrating, as much as possible and under their current structure, statutes such as the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. This integration will help better address fishery actions. The project is also looking at unique opportunities for NOAA Fisheries Service to collaborate with partners.

Other projects are taking advantage of recent developments in e-commerce, including a review of the Sustainable Fisheries Act, electronic rulemaking, and permit systems. In two to three years, NOAA Fisheries Service expects to significantly improve the way it communicates with constituents, face fewer legal challenges, and generally provide better service.

## NOAA Fisheries Service: Recreational Value



Billions of Dollars

## Rebuilding Plan for Red Grouper in the Gulf of Mexico

Working with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, NOAA Fisheries Service published a final rule to implement a 10-year stock rebuilding program for red grouper, a deep-water reef fish. The new measures include a red grouper commercial quota, reduced quotas for shallow-water and deep-water grouper, and a reduced recreational bag limit to two fish-per-person per-day. Together, these measures will help end over-fishing and rebuild the red grouper resource, resulting in long-term improvements to the region's economy. The stock rebuilding plan not only establishes the biological reference points and stock status determination

criteria for the red grouper stock, it provides measures to minimize adverse impacts from the red grouper rebuilding plan on other reef fish stocks. These actions will provide stability to the recreational, for-hire, and commercial sectors of the reef fish fishery; reduce short-term increases in fishing mortality rates; avoid long-term economic losses to all sectors of the fishery including dependent coastal fishing communities; and allow the targeted stock to rebuild. Therefore, the rebuilding plan is beneficial to the reef fish resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

## Rebuilding New England Groundfish

New management measures for the New England groundfish fleet became



Baird and a party of eminent zoologists establish the Commission's first summer station at Woods Hole, MA. Baird personally investigates the alleged decrease of southern New England fisheries, taking testimony from many witnesses.

To cope with the lack of Atlantic salmon eggs, Baird sent prominent fish culturist Livingston Stone to California to search for a source of eggs of the Chinook salmon which was renowned for its great size and abundance.



### A Vision for Marine Recreational Fisheries

Today, more than 13 million saltwater anglers participate in recreational fishing—making it one of the more popular pastimes along our oceans and coasts. With fish stocks continuing to recover and the Nation's coastal population expected to increase by more than 12 million by 2015, recreational anglers will become an even more important constituent of NOAA. To meet the needs of recreational anglers today as well as ensure there will be fish to catch in the future, NOAA initiated a five-year plan to revitalize its recreational fishing program. What made this strategic planning process unique was the level of NOAA cooperation and angler participation. In a series of nine regional constituent meetings, an agency-wide NOAA team worked with anglers from all parts of the country to develop a common vision for the future of recreational fishing. In early 2005, NOAA intends to release the results of that collaboration and planning in the form of a 2005-2010 NOAA recreational fisheries strategic plan.

effective on May 1, 2004. The measures included a plan to end overfishing of stocks such as cod, haddock, and flounders and to rebuild all of the groundfish stocks, and still provide long-term economic benefits to one of New England's most historic and important fisheries. The Northeast groundfish resources support both commercial and recreational fisheries, and are economically important to local coastal communities. The New England Fishery Management Council, with the support of NOAA Fisheries Service, developed the new measures, called Amendment 13. Developing Amendment 13 required a lengthy public process that involved many, including commercial and recreational fishing interests and the environmental community. Amendment 13 also included measures to lessen impacts of the fishery on Essential Fish Habitat and to minimize bycatch. A related action, Framework 40A, which was implemented in November 2004, provided additional opportunities for vessels to target healthy stocks of groundfish, while protecting the stocks that require rebuilding.

### New Fishery Management Plan for West Coast Highly Migratory Species

A new Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for West Coast highly migratory species has established conservation and management measures, including permit requirements, logbooks, gear





## *Fisheries Management Program*

Collaborative research with longline fishing vessels has yielded new gear and techniques that reduce death and injury to endangered sea turtles. Most sea turtle deaths in longline fisheries are caused by the ingestion of "J" hooks.

### Seafood Inspection Program

NOAA Fisheries Service carries out the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDC) Seafood Inspection Program consisting of voluntary seafood inspections on a fee-for-service basis. USDC also provides a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point-based service (HACCP), product inspection, certification and grading, laboratory analyses, consultative services, training and education. Participants include vessel operators, processors, distributors, retailers, foodservice operators, exporters and importers. Participants must meet federal requirements to use the "U.S. Grade A, Processed Under Federal Inspection", and lot inspection marks on their products. The USDC inspects and certifies fish and fishery products, domestically and for export. Products destined for export must be in compliance with requirements of the importing country and buyer specifications to receive a USDC Export Health Certificate.

restrictions, and observer coverage. The species managed under this new FMP include tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack, albacore, and northern bluefin), billfish (striped marlin and swordfish), sharks (common thresher, bigeye thresher, pelagic thresher, shortfin mako, and blue), and mahi mahi. The conservation and management measures will prevent overfishing of the fish stocks to the extent practicable and achieve optimum yield for these U.S. fisheries while minimizing bycatch and protected species interactions consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable laws. In addition, it will provide consistent management of these fisheries with respect to the states, other regional fishery management councils, and international agreements, thus promoting the long-term economic

health of the coastal and high-seas fisheries involved.

### Circle Hooks and New Techniques Allow Re-opening of the Grand Banks and Hawaii Fishing Grounds to the U.S. Open Sea Longline Fleet

Collaborative research with longline fishing vessels has yielded new gear and techniques that reduce death and injury to endangered sea turtles. Most sea turtle deaths in longline fisheries are caused by the ingestion of "J" hooks. In Hawaii, new regulations require the use of dehooking devices, mackerel bait, and circle hooks instead of "J" hooks in shallow-set fisheries north of the equator. The Hawaii longline fishery was reopened in March 2004 after a three-year closure, avoiding harvest losses of \$33 million per year. The area off New England known as

### Top Commercial Ports and Species

Top U.S. Ports (\$)		Top U.S. Ports (Volume/Pounds)		Top Commercial Species (\$)		Top Commercial Species (Volume)	
New Bedford, MA	\$176 Million	Dutch Harbor-Unalaska, AK	909 Million Lbs.	Crabs	\$484 Million	Pollock	3.4 Billion Lbs.
Dutch Harbor-Unalaska, AK	\$157 Million	Empire-Venice, LA	400 Million Lbs.	Shrimp	\$424 Million	Menhaden	1.6 Billion Lbs.
Kodiak, AK	\$82 Million	Reedville, VA	375 Million Lbs.	Lobsters	\$308 Million	Salmon	674 Thousand Lbs.
Hampton Roads, VA	\$80 Million	Intercoastal City, LA	325 Million Lbs.	Flatfish	\$267 Million	Cod	591 Thousand Lbs.
Empire-Venice, LA	\$51 Million	Kodiak, AK	263 Million Lbs.	Scallops	\$229 Million	Flatfish	444 Thousand Lbs.



Baird publishes the first of the annual U.S. Fish Commission reports on the Commission's operations and research. The series provides a much-needed outlet for scientific reports on the Nation's fisheries and oceanographic studies.

Commissioner Baird initiates a landmark study on the composition of fish to determine their food and nutritive values. The research, conducted by W.O. Atwater and Charles Woods, provides important benchmark data, many of which are still useful today.



the Grand Banks has also been re-opened to U.S. pelagic longliners, with a similar requirement for the use of circle hooks and specific bait. The use of circle hooks and the new techniques are expected to reduce sea turtle deaths.

#### **Seafood Consumption Continues to Rise**

Americans ate a record 16.3 pounds of fish and shellfish per person in 2003, up from 15.6 pounds in 2002, representing a four percent increase. This figure extends an upward trend in U.S. seafood consumption. Seafood consumption was only 14.9 pounds per capita five years ago. Of the total 16.3 pounds consumed, a record 11.4 pounds were fresh and frozen finfish and shellfish. Among the 4.7 billion pounds of seafood consumed last year in the United States was 4.6 pounds per person in canned fish, up 0.3 pounds from 2002, and a record four pounds of shrimp consumed per person, also up 0.3 pounds from 2002. These figures were published in NOAA's 2004 report, "Fisheries of the United States".





## ~ Protected Species Program

**N**OA Fisheries Service is responsible for protecting and recovering marine and anadromous species under the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The Protected Species Program directly supports the achievement of NOAA's strategic goal to "protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management." The primary desired outcome of the Protected Species Program is to increase the number of protected species designated as threatened, endangered, or depleted that have stable or increasing population levels. The Protected Species Program protects and recovers species through planning, regulation, partnerships, direct action, outreach, and education both domestically and internationally.

### Seabird Avoidance Measures Adopted in Alaska Fisheries

In 2004, more than 10,000 seabirds were taken as bycatch in the hook and line groundfish fisheries of the Bering Sea Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska. NOAA Fisheries Service has adopted

new requirements to minimize bycatch of seabirds. Seabird avoidance methods include weights added to the groundline, a buoy bag or streamer line, and strategic offal discharge to distract the birds away from baited hooks. These new requirements are designed

to protect seabirds, including the short-tailed albatross, which is listed under the Endangered Species Act.

### New Design Proposed by Fishermen Approved for Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs); Supports Recovery of Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle

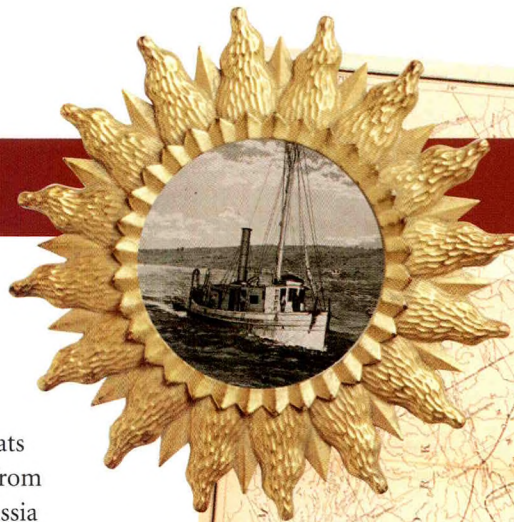
Working with fishermen, NOAA Fisheries Service scientists developed a double-flap hard TED that reduces the incidental capture of sea turtles while minimizing loss of shrimp. Current regulations require shrimp trawlers and summer flounder trawlers operating in the southeastern United States to have an approved TED in each net that provides for the escape of sea turtles. This new design allows 97 percent of the turtles caught in a net to escape, while retaining larger numbers of shrimp. The





The 234-foot U.S.S. Albatross, the first U.S. research vessel built exclusively for fisheries and oceanographic research, is launched. The iron hull, twin-screw vessel was designed to conduct its marine investigation in any part of the world.

1882



use of TEDs, along with protection of nesting turtles in Mexico, can be credited with assisting the recovery of the Kemp's ridley sea turtle. In 2003, 8,000 Kemp's ridley sea turtle nests were documented—a significant increase from only 700 nests documented in 1985.

#### NOAA's Humpback Whale Research Makes a SPLASH!

NOAA began a \$3.3 million, three-year project to study the endangered North Pacific humpback whale. The project is known as "SPLASH" the Structure of Populations, Level of Abundance and Status of Humpbacks and is conducted in partnership with NOAA's Marine Sanctuary Program and other national and international collaborators.

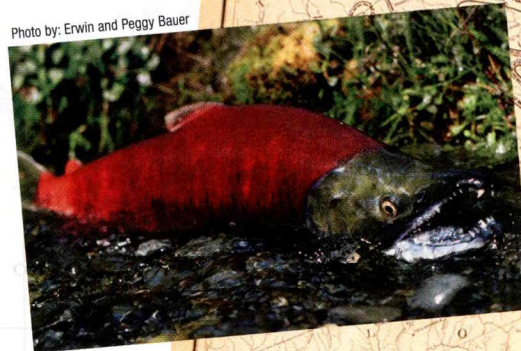


SPLASH is unprecedented in its geographic scope because research will take place in all known humpback whale habitats throughout the North Pacific from the Bering Sea and Far East Russia south to Mexico and Costa Rica, and west to Hawaii and Asian tropical waters.

#### NOAA Scientists Provide Lecture Series on Marine Mammals and Acoustics

The NOAA Fisheries Service's Acoustics Program, the Marine Mammal Commission, and a number of partners from scientific research communities produced a series of free public lectures at aquariums and marine laboratories around the country. This unique educational series presented current scientific information about human sources and the uses of sound in marine environments, the physics of sound and hearing, and the biological and behavioral factors that relate to noise impacts on marine mammals. Lectures were presented in California, Illinois, Maryland, Washington, Delaware, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Hawaii, and Washington, D.C. This series caught the attention of the news media and generated many articles that highlighted NOAA's research.

Photo by: Erwin and Peggy Bauer



#### Conservation of Endangered North Atlantic Right Whales

NOAA and Rescue team partners spent New Year's Eve off the South Carolina coast and successfully freed a young Atlantic right whale that was severely entangled in







## Protected Species Program

NOAA Fisheries Service worked closely with industry, the local community, and other conservation partners to develop an innovative approach to improve access to upstream spawning areas for adult coho salmon.



### Austin Creek Restoration in California Benefits Threatened Coho Salmon

The NOAA Fisheries Service Southwest region designed a salmon recovery project in Austin Creek, a tributary to the Russian River in California. The recovery project allows gravel mining to continue and still maintain habitat conditions for coho salmon and steelhead. NOAA Fisheries Service worked closely with industry, the local community, and other conservation partners to develop an innovative approach to improve access to upstream spawning areas for adult coho salmon.

ropes and buoys. With an estimated population of only 300 animals, this species is among the world's most endangered large whales. During 2004, NOAA completed a record 87 flights (397 hrs) for North Atlantic right whale monitoring in the Gulf of Maine. The flights supported 113 alerts to mariners, 7 full-scale monthly surveys of the entire Gulf of Maine, 14 surveys used to determine closures for right whale protection, and 8 surveys to verify the absence of right whales in U.S. Navy training areas. NOAA Fisheries Service also proposed a suite of domestic and international changes in shipping operations along the East Coast as part of a strategic plan to reduce ship strikes. In 2004, there were four confirmed deaths of Atlantic right whales.

### Updated Status Review for Southern Resident Killer Whales

NOAA reconvened a team of scientists to evaluate the latest scientific and commercial information about the declining number of Southern Resident killer whales. The team, led by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, considered critical questions such as whether killer whales comprise a single species with several subspecies and whether factors that currently pose a risk might continue into the future. The team also identified concerns about the viability of this subspecies due to small-scale impacts over time, a major catastrophe, or small population size.

### New Research on Endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals

The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center continued its work in 2004 on new discoveries that would promote the recovery of the Hawaiian monk seal. Despite decades of protection, overall numbers have declined and the species is highly endangered. The population is estimated at approximately 1,300 - 1,400 animals. In 2004, NOAA scientists initiated the first health, disease, and foraging studies of endangered Hawaiian monk seals in the main Hawaiian Islands. NOAA scientists are conducting a juvenile monk seal rehabilitation study at French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, in collaboration with the California Marine Mammal Center and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Woods Hole, MA property is deeded to the U.S. Government for the construction of the Commission's first full-time research laboratory. Construction of the laboratory buildings begins in 1884, is completed in 1885, and remains in use until 1958.

The Nation's second Federal fisheries laboratory, in Beaufort, NC is occupied. Though not yet complete, it provides a laboratory, aquarium, office, 12 bedrooms, storeroom, and other buildings.

1883

1902



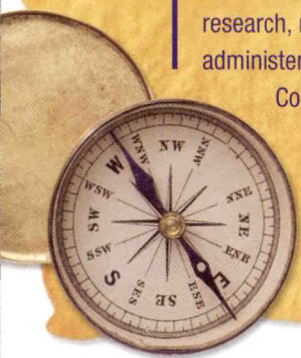




## Science and Technology

The Science and Technology Program covers the full spectrum of NOAA Fisheries Service's scientific research, monitoring, and forecasting contributions for all of NOAA's mission goals. The Program administers NOAA Fisheries Service's 'end-to-end' coastal and oceanic ecological observing system.

Components of this system include: fisheries and protected resources surveys, ecosystem surveys, economic and socio-cultural surveys, recreational and commercial statistics, fisheries observer coverage, and cooperative research. The Program is responsible for science quality assurance and collaborating with other federal and state agencies, stakeholders, and the public.



### Up-to-the-Minute Environmental and Biological Data Support Census of Marine Life

The Census of Marine Life (COML) is an international search for life in the oceans, involving over 300 scientists from 53 countries. This global research and observation program seeks to assess the diversity, distribution, and abundance of ocean life and to understand how it changes over time. NOAA provides leadership and support to the COML from across the agency. In the Atlantic, several NOAA Fisheries Service scientists are exploring the Mid-Atlantic Ridge ecosystem to discover

new species of squids and fish, and to study whale ecology and behavior. In the Pacific, scientists from the Southwest Fisheries Science Center are placing electronic tags on large pelagic sharks to identify the migratory patterns and open-ocean habitats of these fascinating animals.

### Increased Fishery Observer Coverage

NOAA Fisheries Service increased observer coverage to 42 fisheries in 2004, monitoring nearly 60,000 fishing days, up from 45,000 in 2000. NOAA Fisheries Service also made significant improvements in data quality through enhanced data checking and quality assurance procedures, an emphasis on statistically valid and unbiased sampling methodologies, and better training of observers. New technologies were tested to digitally record all critical observer data, to improve access to real-time data, and to supplement observer coverage through electronic monitoring with video cameras.

### Advancing Our Understanding of a Lethal Bacterial Pathogen

*Vibrio vulnificus* is the leading cause of seafood-related human deaths in the United States and is contracted through the ingestion of raw shellfish, such as oysters. Northwest Fisheries Science Center scientists have isolated and

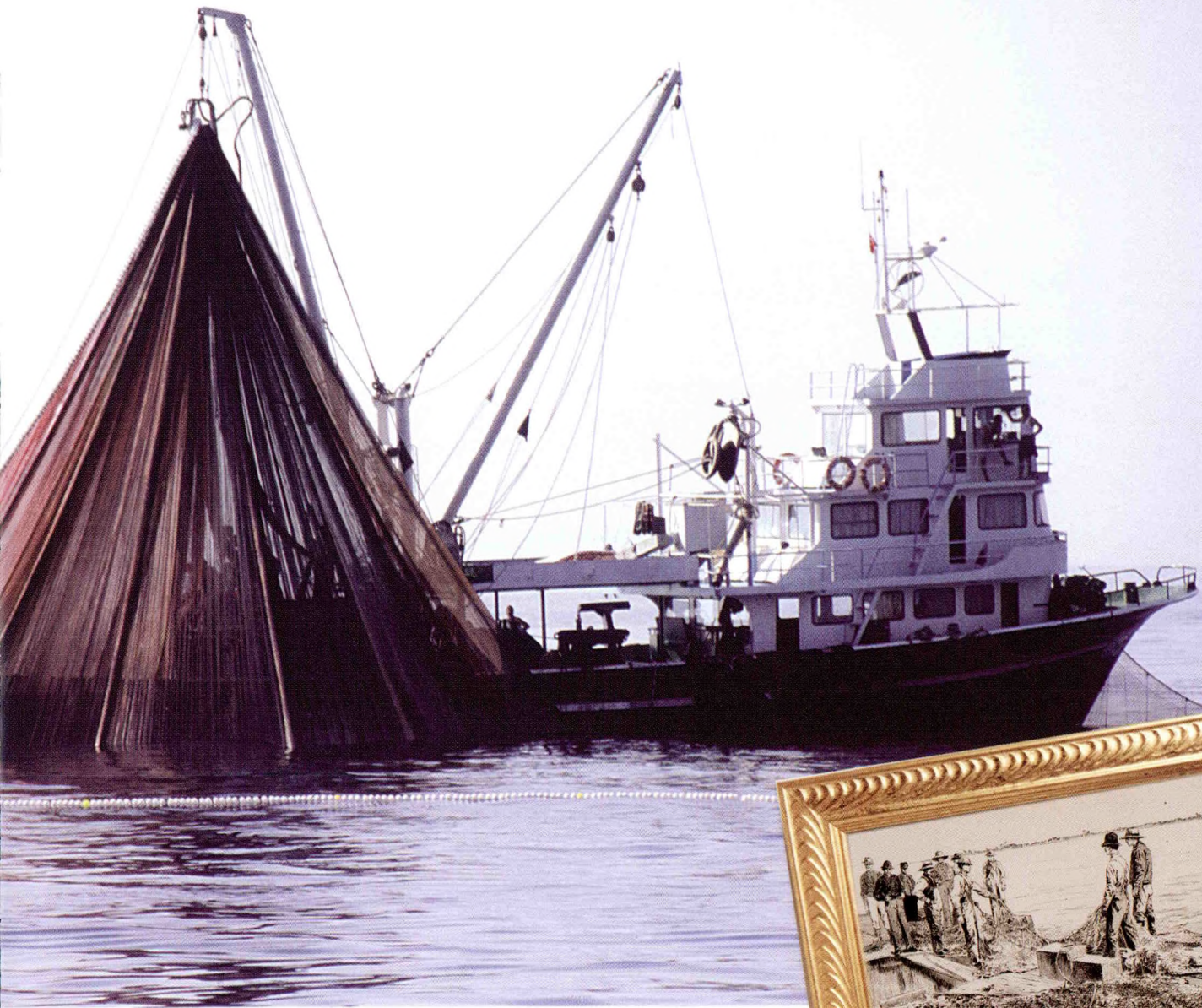


characterized a key surface protein that contributes to the pathogen's ability to attach to, and colonize surfaces. With this information and continued research, scientists hope to eventually develop methods to remove *Vibrio vulnificus* from shellfish before they are eaten.





1903



#### **Coral Reef Ecosystem Research in the Southeast Region**

From mapping and monitoring, to managing reef resources and removing harmful debris, the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program provides management and sound science to preserve, sustain, and restore valuable coral reef ecosystems. In 2004, projects in NOAA Fisheries Service's Southeast Region included multibeam/acoustic mapping, habitat characterization, reef

fish and benthic community assessments, surveys and sampling of coral diseases, assessment of fishing impacts on benthic communities and ecosystem structure and function, and socio-economic studies focusing on fisher dependence on reef resources. Many of these ecosystem-based efforts relied on key partners. For example, an expedition to Navassa (an uninhabited

Caribbean Island that is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System) was completed in 2004 with participation by several federal, academic, and non-governmental organization partners.





## *Science and Technology*

NOAA's newest fisheries survey vessel OSCAR DYSON was launched. It uses acoustic technology developed for Navy submarines, thus it will be able to approach fish so quietly that the fish won't be startled away.

### **New Partnerships in Science and Management**

Partnerships are critical to NOAA Fisheries Service achieving its goals.

In 2004—

National and regional cooperative research programs created partnerships among the fishing industry, fishermen, other stakeholders, and federal and university scientists to tap new expertise and build scientific credibility with regulated sectors. Over the last 6 years these programs have awarded more than \$70 million for projects, including 30 cooperative research grants per year, and funded seven additional resource surveys providing more than 2,000 chartered days-at-sea per year.

### **Ecosystem Observations Program (EOP)**

NOAA's EOP program has five program components, Fisheries Monitoring and Assessment, Protected Species monitoring and assessment, Ecosystem monitoring and assessment, economic and social science monitoring and assessment, data management technology transfer, education and outreach. These disciplines across NOAA provide important research and data information in support of the ecosystem goal.

### **Dedication of Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute**

On October 5, 2004, in Juneau, Alaska, NOAA's newest fisheries research facility—the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute was dedicated by Senator Lisa Murkowski and Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher. The 69,000 square-foot facility will include offices, labs, a library, and meeting space for up to 107 NOAA Fisheries Service personnel and visiting scientists. Initial site work has been completed and building construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2005. The University of Alaska Fairbanks is moving ahead with its plans to construct a companion facility to house components of its School of Fisheries and Ocean Science.

### **World Class Fisheries Survey Vessels**

NOAA's newest fisheries survey vessel OSCAR DYSON was delivered. Because it uses acoustic technology developed for Navy submarines, the ship will be able to approach fish so quietly they will not be startled away. The OSCAR DYSON is the first of four new fisheries ships that will either augment or replace aging ships in the NOAA fleet. Its primary mission will be to monitor the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska ecosystems, particularly Alaskan pollock, the nation's largest, and multi-billion dollar fishery. The ship has been

named in honor of the late Alaska fishing industry leader, Oscar Dyson, and will be home ported in Kodiak. The new-generation NOAA ships not only will outclass fishing vessels worldwide, but will come the closest to meeting tough standards set by the International Council for Exploration of the Seas (ICES), a European-based organization that has developed standards for optimal fisheries research

### **Aquaculture Advances Black Sea Bass Production**

Biologists at NOAA Fisheries Service's Milford, Connecticut Laboratory developed an aquaculture system for quickly raising black sea bass—one of the Northeast's most popular seafood species. The lab is the first to efficiently grow black sea bass from embryos to a 4-inch length, in the past a barrier to the aquaculture production of the species. The system developed at Milford not only produced healthy 4-inch fish, but did so in four months, about one-third of the time it takes in the wild.



The U.S. Navy takes over the Bureau's Beaufort, NC fisheries laboratory in World War I to study the fouling of ship bottoms, and returns it to the Bureau in 1920.

The Albatross is decommissioned and retired from service.

1918

1921







# Habitat Conservation Program

The Habitat Conservation Program works to protect and conserve marine and estuarine habitat located within NOAA trust resources. The Program—along with its state, federal, industry, environmental, and academia partners—studies, monitors, manages, and restores habitat, such as wetlands and anadromous fish habitat, so that living marine resources have sufficient and healthy habitat in which to thrive. Also, the Office works to preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems and the species that depend on them. The following activities are within the Habitat Conservation Program: Habitat Protection, Habitat Restoration Center, Ecosystem Assessment, Permit Review and Chesapeake Bay Office.

## Community-based Restoration

In 2004, the Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) chose 13 regional and national groups for partnership funding and provided \$7.5 million to support restoration

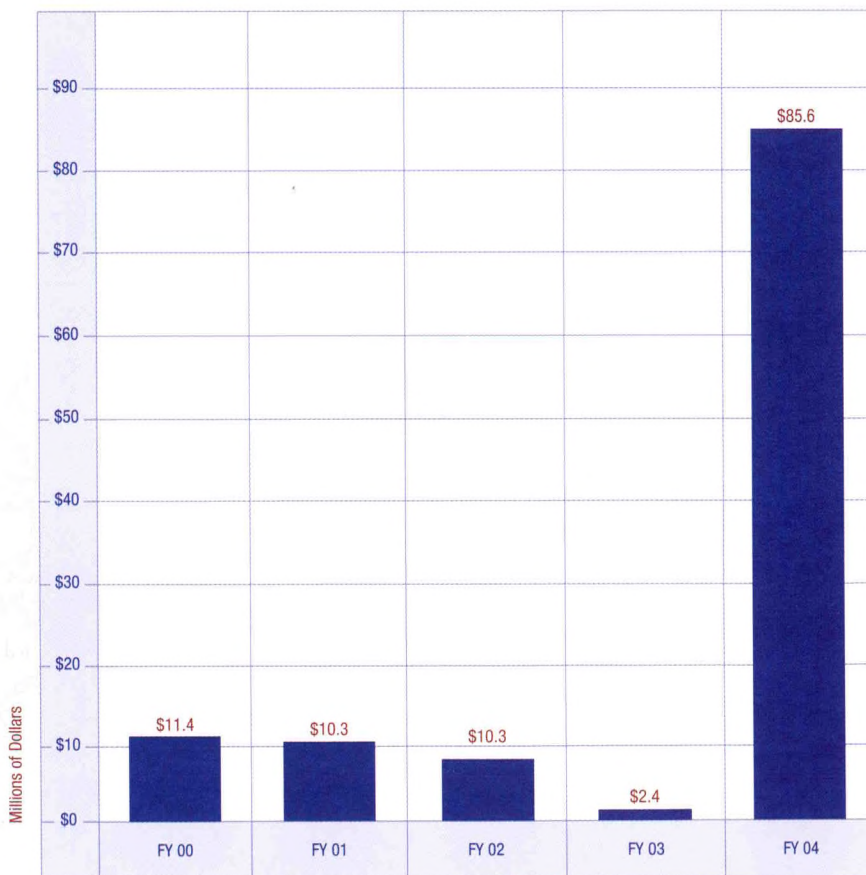
activities. During 2004, CRP helped restore 5,000 acres of critical ocean, estuarine, and riparian habitat, and opened 164 miles of formerly blocked stream to anadromous fish for spawning, rearing, and fish passage.

Volunteers contributed nearly 100,000 hours to the restoration efforts. Since 1996, CRP has funded over 800 restoration projects nation-wide.

## Sixty-One Tons of Marine Debris Removed from Coral Reefs in Northwest Hawaiian Islands Under NOAA's Coral Reef Program

Trawl nets, gill nets, and other fishing gear lost or discarded by Pacific fishing fleets are damaging the coral reefs of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The debris is transported by currents and sometimes becomes ensnared on the reefs of this pristine chain of atolls and islets. NOAA Fisheries Service and its many partners conduct surveys and remove marine debris from the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. In 2004, the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program removed 61 tons of marine debris from the Northwest Hawaiian Island Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve. Since 1996, the program has removed a total of 424 tons of marine debris.

## Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Reimbursable Income FY 2000-FY 2004



NOAA Fisheries Service significantly increased its presence in the CWPPRA Program during 2004. Since 1992, NOAA Fisheries Service has built 16 Wetland Restoration projects in the CWPPRA program.

## Coastal Wetland Projects in Louisiana

More than 80 percent of U.S. wetlands losses—approximately 30 square miles per year—occur in Louisiana. The Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) provide funding to combat these losses and improve fisheries habitat. In 2004, the CWPPRA Technical Committee approved nearly \$100 million for NOAA Fisheries Service to conduct



1872-1940

habitat restoration projects in Louisiana that are expected to benefit over 2,500 acres of threatened coastal wetlands. As a result of CWPPRA, NOAA Fisheries Service has gained considerable expertise in planning and constructing wetland projects that directly benefit marine fisheries. NOAA restoration projects in 2004 showcased three innovative strategies: planting over 80,000 salt marsh plugs to reduce erosion on a fragile island chain; revamping a water control structure to restore fresh water flow to a 3,800 acre marsh; and deliberately breaching a river bank to allow small flows of water and sediment to reach adjacent wetland and sub-tidal habitat.

#### Reducing Fishery Impacts from Liquid Natural Gas Projects

A number of energy industry proposals were developed in 2004 to establish liquefied natural gas (LNG) processing facilities. Many of these facilities initially proposed to use open-rack vaporizer systems to change the liquefied natural gas (LNG) to a gas form. These systems require the use of hundreds of millions of gallons of seawater per day. Potential impacts included deaths of juvenile and larval organisms and damage to essential fish habitat such as wetlands, estuaries, and near-shore waters. NOAA Fisheries Service worked with industry and other federal agencies to analyze potential environmental impacts.

#### Bolsa Chica Wetlands Restoration

Coastal wetlands have been a disappearing habitat in California. Those remaining wetlands serve as nurseries for several economically important species of coastal marine fish. In 2004, ground was broken for

#### Grass-roots Projects

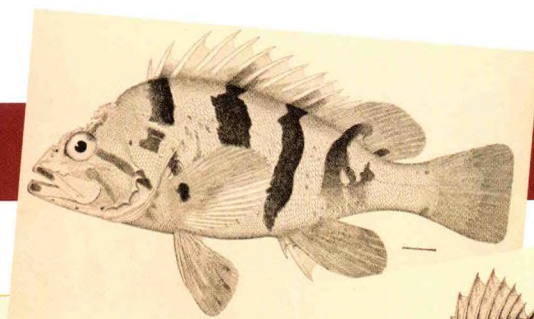
NOAA Fisheries Service provided \$24.6 million since 2001 to nearly 650 community grass-roots habitat restoration projects. Through collaboration with national and regional agencies, community groups were able to restore 11,000 habitat acres and re-opening of 555 stream miles. These community-based projects increase the quantity of essential habitat, raise the nation's environmental literacy, and advance a public stewardship ethic.

the largest coastal wetlands restoration project in Southern California. This groundbreaking culminated more than 30 years of effort by NOAA, other federal agencies, the State of California, an oil company, and local communities to benefit birds and fish by restoring tidal influence to hundreds of acres of former oil company property.

#### Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

Near the close of 2004, NOAA biologists, toxicologists, and economists responded to oil spills in both Alaska and Delaware. Once NOAA identifies the full range of injuries, the Restoration Center will work to restore resources and services injured by these spills using funds collected from those responsible for the spills. Other 2004 accomplishments include the creation of roughly 5 acres of oyster reef sanctuary in the Patuxent River, Maryland. This oyster reserve was established to address, in part, injuries to fish, shellfish, birds, and benthic communities during an oil spill in April 2000. Also in 2004, NOAA and co-trustees announced a settlement agreement with Alcoa Inc., and Alcoa World Alumina L.L.C., to address

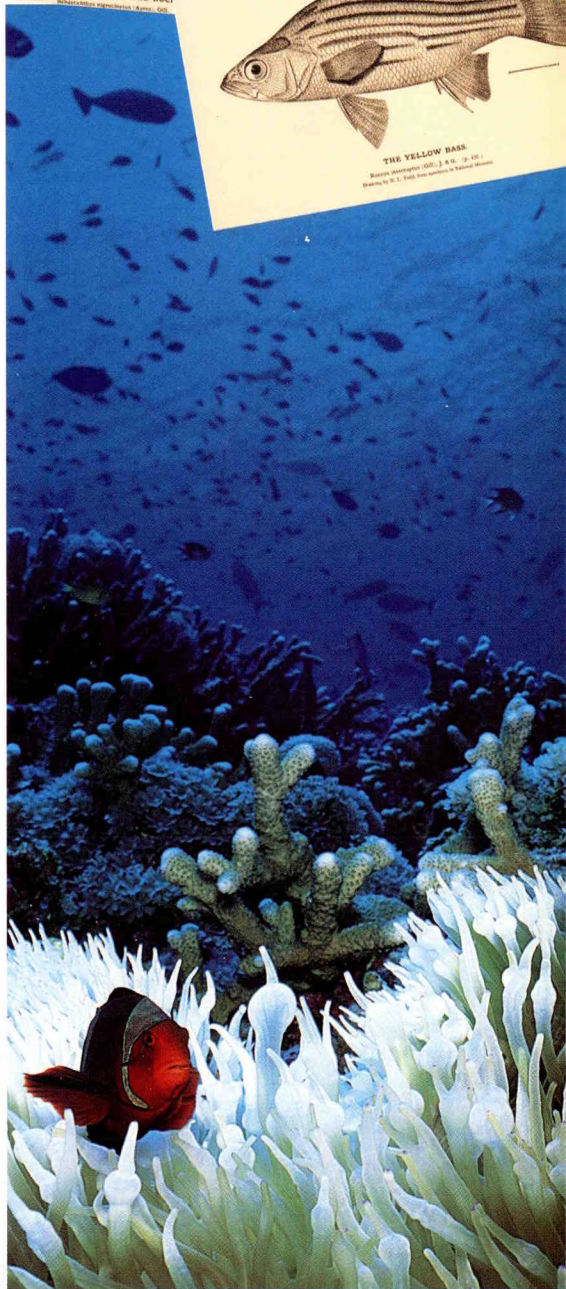
mercury pollution in Lavaca Bay, Texas. The natural resource damages consent decree directs Alcoa to implement restoration actions to offset both ecological injuries and impacts to recreational fishing in the bay.



THE BLACK-BANDED ROCK



THE YELLOW BASS







# Enforcement Program

The NOAA Enforcement Program enforces the laws that protect and conserve our nation's living marine resources and their natural habitat. NOAA Fisheries Service special agents and enforcement officers enforce more than 37 statutes specific to the work NOAA does, as well as numerous treaties related to marine resources. Through its six divisional offices and 59 field offices across the United States and overseas, the NOAA Enforcement Program serves all NOAA programs by conducting investigations; patrols; monitor fishing activities; cooperates with state, local, tribal, federal and international partners to protect marine resources; and enforces other federal statutes as required. A part of this activity is education and community involvement to ensure an understanding of the value of compliance.

## Cooperative Enforcement Program Supports Third Year of Cooperative Agreements

NOAA Fisheries Service's Enforcement Program established agreements with 21 coastal states and two U.S. territories (American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands) to increase enforcement of NOAA Fisheries Service regulations. Agreements are expected to be finalized with two additional U.S. territories, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam. The value of the 2004 agreements exceeds \$14 million and will result in thousands of patrol hours dedicated to the protection of federal fisheries and protected species. Cooperative Enforcement Program partners create a critical presence far beyond the capacity of NOAA Enforcement—extending the reach of NOAA's conservation enforcement efforts.

## First Federal Arrests and Convictions for Shark Finning

In September 2004, two suspects pleaded guilty to violations of the Shark Finning Prohibition Act. This is the first U. S. arrest, charge, and conviction for federal criminal violations since the U.S. shark finning ban was implemented in 2002. The crew of a Japanese-flagged fishing vessel had illegally offloaded approximately 520 pieces of shark fins in Apra Harbor, Guam in an attempt to transport the fins to the Philippines for sale.

## NOAA Fisheries Service Turns Away Improper Shipments of Chilean Sea Bass to Enforce Conservation Provisions

NOAA Fisheries Service cracked down on imports of Patagonian toothfish that do not have required documentation. The International Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources manages Toothfish, also known as Chilean sea bass. An international system tracks legally caught toothfish with a document that must be certified by the vessel's flag nation. Recently, some vessels applying for toothfish import pre-approval have been unable to produce the required documentation and these imports have been denied entry. NOAA Fisheries Service is committed to keeping toothfish caught by poachers out of American seafood markets.

## NOAA Fisheries Service and U. S. Coast Guard Sign Memorandum of Agreement on Observer Safety

NOAA Fisheries Service and the U. S. Coast Guard reinforced the importance of safety for federal fishery observers. Dr. William Hogarth, director of NOAA Fisheries Service, and RADM Thomas H. Gilmour, U.S. Coast Guard assistant commandant for maritime safety, security, and

environmental protection, signed a Memorandum of Agreement establishing a protocol between the agencies to help ensure the safety and support of fisheries observers nationwide. The Memorandum reinforces federal regulations, and establishes additional safety standards that will substantially increase safety awareness while reducing observer fatality rates.

## Vessel Monitoring Systems Provide Real-Time Communications and Safety at Sea

In 2004, NOAA Fisheries Service provided near real-time





The War Food Administration frees sperm whale oil from restricted civilian use, allowing it to be used for grinding oils, carbon paper, mimeograph inks, typewriter ribbon, etc.

1944



fishing vessel tracking of more than 2,250 vessels in 14 different fisheries via a satellite-based vessel monitoring program. This is



a 36 percent increase over 2003, and the coverage is expected to increase five-fold to 8,308 vessels by 2009. Fishermen operating under the program have near perfect compliance with open and closed seasons, closed areas, and international boundaries and management areas. It also provides critical information to the U.S. Coast Guard in support of its search and rescue mission (assisting two rescues in 2004), and in some fisheries, provides a real-time communications link for transmitting daily catch and effort information to NOAA for use in quota management of fisheries.

#### Support for Homeland Security Activities Along the Coast

In 2004, NOAA Enforcement Program supported homeland security activities in collaboration with other federal law enforcement agencies. In addition to specific requests for support, OLE Special Agents participate on the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Department of Justice's Anti-Terrorism Task Force and the Department of Homeland Security's Maritime Domain Awareness initiative. The Deputy Chief of OLE is a member of the NOAA Homeland Security Senior Management Team, which acts as an executive steering committee to the NOAA Homeland Security Program Office.





## International Activities

The NOAA Fisheries Service conducts a variety of international activities by working with its partners throughout the world to help conserve, manage, and protect living marine resources and their habitats. To carry out these responsibilities, the office assists in the negotiation and implementation of international agreements, including trade agreements, and supports and participates in advisory and regulatory arrangements. The office also helps raise awareness of living marine resource issues and helps build the capacity of nations to address those issues.

### International Commission Sees Large Drop in Illegal Fishing for Chilean Sea Bass

Scientists released new data showing a dramatic decrease in illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing for Chilean sea bass (also known as Patagonian toothfish). The new data were presented at the 2004 meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.



Estimates show that illegal fishing within the area regulated by the Commission decreased by 75 percent, from 10,070 tons in 2003 to 2,622 tons in 2004. In recent years, overfishing due to the high volume of illegal toothfish harvests prompted the United States to take action, both within the commission and through domestic regulation to reduce financial incentives for poachers. These actions helped provide assurances to importers and consumers that the resource is being

managed in a controlled manner for long-term sustainability.

### U.S. Hosts ICCAT Meeting; Proposal for Atlantic Shark Finning Ban Adopted

For the first time since its inception in 1969, the United States hosted the annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Sixty-three countries gathered in New Orleans, Louisiana, in November 2004 for ICCAT's annual meeting. ICCAT adopted the U.S. proposal to ban the wasteful practice of shark finning – the practice of slicing the fin off the shark and discarding the rest of the fish to save space on a fishing vessel. The agreement included adoption of other shark management practices, such as data collection on catches, research on shark nursery areas, and a provision to encourage the release of live sharks, especially juveniles.

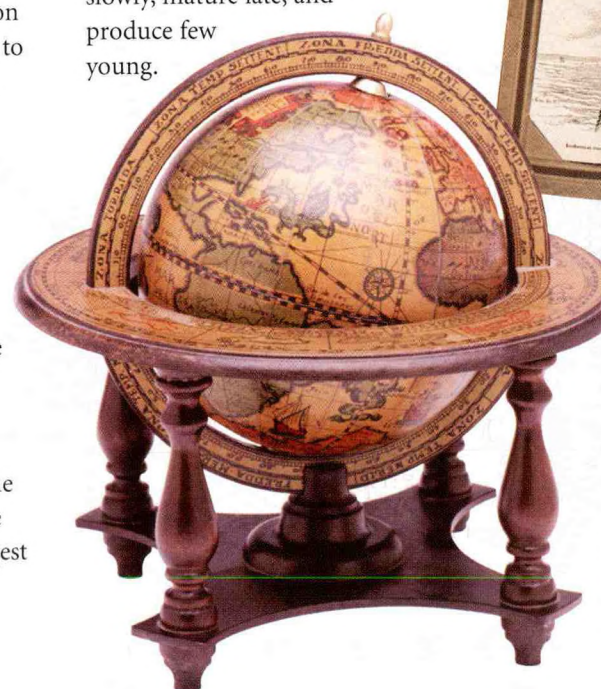
### Inaugural Meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

After three years of preparations, the initial meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Preparatory Conference convened in the Federated States of Micronesia in December 2004. The Commission is responsible for the conservation and management of the last unmanaged tuna fisheries in the world. These are also the world's largest

tuna fisheries, with an annual total ex-vessel value of up to \$2 billion, of which roughly \$250 million can be attributed to U.S. fishermen. The United States established a leadership role at the inaugural meeting and was successful in gaining commission resolve for conservation and management measures that will address bigeye and yellowfin tuna overfishing, as well as mitigation measures to address the mortality of non-target species (e.g. seabirds, turtles, and sharks).

### Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Sets Limit for Thorny Skates

The 26th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) was held in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, in September 2004. The United States led a successful effort to set a total allowable catch limit for thorny skates. Although advice of NAFO's Scientific Council for a more conservative quota was not followed, the adopted measure is an important first step. Skates, like sharks and rays, are particularly susceptible to overfishing because they grow slowly, mature late, and produce few young.





A new Fisheries technological laboratory is set up in Boston; it would move to a new building in Gloucester, MA in 1959.

National Tuna Week, November 5-14 celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the tuna canning industry. In 1903, the entire U.S. tuna industry consisted of one cannery in San Pedro, CA, supplied by a few boats fishing nearby waters.

1947

1953



#### Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) Achieves Progress in Supporting the Conservation of Marine Species

At the October 2004 meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), the Irrawaddy dolphin was afforded the

full protection of CITES by a listing in Appendix I. In other developments, international trade in great white shark, humphead wrasse and the European date mussel will now be tracked in Appendix II of CITES. The Animals Committee of CITES was directed to continue its review of shark species affected by international trade.

#### International Consultation on Sea Turtles Yields Promising Results

In 2004, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) convened a technical consultation on sea turtle conservation and fisheries in Bangkok, Thailand. The U.S. delegation included NOAA Fisheries Service sea turtle experts, and representatives from industry, Fisheries Management Council, academia, and the conservation community. Participants reviewed the current status of sea turtle conservation and new developments in fishing gears and techniques, and considered ways to provide assistance to members of developing countries for the conservation of sea turtles. The United States played a critical role in achieving the major outcome of the meeting—a set of guidelines on reducing sea turtle interactions with fishing operations and resulting sea turtle mortality.

#### Free Trade Agreements Improve U.S. Market Access

NOAA Fisheries Service made major contributions to negotiations of free trade agreements to improve market access for U.S. seafood products abroad. Examples include agreements with Singapore, Chile, Morocco, Australia, and Central American and countries, as well as global efforts in the World Trade Organization. In a specific product negotiation in concert with Peru, the United States won a case against the European Union's restrictions on species to be included in its definition of canned sardines.







## ~ Organization and Outreach

**T**wo vital components round out the science, management, enforcement, and restoration work carried out by NOAA Fisheries Service—(1) having a smooth running organization made up of world class staff and facilities, and (2) an active outreach program that informs and educates those who have a stake in the success of NOAA Fisheries Service.

### Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., Features “Water Ways: Mid-Atlantic Maritime Communities”

NOAA was one of the primary sponsors for the summer 2004 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. “Water Ways: Mid-Atlantic Maritime Communities,” which highlighted local culture from coastal Long Island, NY to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The festival, which was held on the national mall in July, provided a unique opportunity for the public to interact with boat builders, commercial and recreational fishermen, scientists, watermen and women, and others who demonstrated the mid-Atlantic region’s rich cultural heritage. NOAA helped visitors understand the role that ocean and coastal processes play in shaping the past, present and future of the region. NOAA Fisheries Service was a strong presence at the festival, providing interactive displays, marine species models, fishing gear models, nautical charts, aerial photographs, and interpretive activities to illustrate NOAA’s involvement in the mid-Atlantic region.

### Improved Communications with Constituents

During 2004, NOAA Fisheries Service worked to improve its communications with constituents in response to a series of nine regional workshops held in 2003. More than 1,000 attendees provided comments and suggestions.

Also, NOAA Fisheries Service issued a series of new policies establishing regional and national points of contact, and new procedures and practices to strengthen collaboration on conservation and recovery goals with coastal states.

### “Center of Excellence” Investigates Linkages Between Oceans and Human Health

Oceans and humans are inextricably linked: our activities on land, sea, and

**RIGHT:** The first of four new NOAA fisheries ships, the OSCAR DYSON and its sister vessels will carry a wide range of sophisticated research and fishing gear—that are not found in the fishing industry or university research fleets—giving scientists the ability to conduct oceanographic sampling at the same time as fish sampling. Most important is the OSCAR DYSONs low acoustic signature (reduced noise), a feature that will enable it to monitor fish populations without changing their behavior.

NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations (NMAO) civilians and NOAA Corps officers will staff, operate and maintain OSCAR DYSON as part of the NOAA fleet. The NOAA Corps is one of the nations seven uniformed services. Officers operate and command NOAA’s fleet of ships and aircraft as well as lend their operational expertise to program offices ashore.



air impact the health of the oceans, and the health of the oceans impacts us. NOAA has designated the Northwest Fisheries Science Center as one of three Centers of Excellence in Oceans and Human Health. At the Northwest Center, scientists are investigating the impacts of pathogens, marine biotoxins,



The United States Fish and Wildlife Service is created, including two Bureaus: the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, the descendant organization of the original U.S. Fish Commission, and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

With fishing industry help, the Bureau organizes a safety program to reduce the number of accidents on fishing vessels.

1956

1957



and toxic chemicals on fish and marine mammals. This research will help us better understand and predict human health impacts from the oceans and assist resource and human health managers in making sound decisions. By increasing our understanding of the linkages between oceans and human

health, NOAA's Oceans and Human Health Initiative supports two primary mission goals: (1) to protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through ecosystem-based management, (2) to understand climate variability and change to enhance society's ability to plan and

respond. Key research partners include the University of Washington, the University of California at Davis, the Marine Mammal Center, Oregon State University, the Institute for Systems Biology, and NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center.





## ~ Organization and Outreach

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) sponsored a tour of the NOAA ship DAVID STARR JORDAN, which is home-ported in San Diego. From this well equipped ship, scientists conduct research at sea throughout the central and eastern Pacific Ocean.

### Alaska Fisheries Science Center hosts students from the Minorities in Marine Sciences Undergraduate Program (MIMSUP)

The Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) hosted eight students from the Western Washington University MIMSUP. This program was designed to introduce members of racial or ethnic groups under-represented in science and engineering to academic and professional careers in marine science. The AFSC visit provides an opportunity for the students to present their ongoing research conducted during the MIMSUP, to a room full of scientists that provide feedback and questions. The second part of their day was spent listening to presentations from AFSC staff that discussed their career paths, information about their current job and research projects.

### NOAA Ship DAVID STARR JORDAN Is "Star" For A Day

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) sponsored a tour of the NOAA ship DAVID STARR JORDAN, which is home-ported in San Diego. From this well equipped ship, scientists conduct research at sea throughout the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. Big eye telescopes help scientists study protected resources,

including whales, dolphins and sea turtles. A leader in fish survey design, the Laboratory uses sophisticated technology including the Continuous Underway Fish Egg Sampler, specially designed nets, and a Remotely-Operated Vehicle to monitor West Coast fish stocks. About 120 people attended including Girl Scouts, their leaders and parents, SWFSC employees and families. They viewed the special equipment, nautical charts, fish tanks, shark teeth and preserved fish specimens.

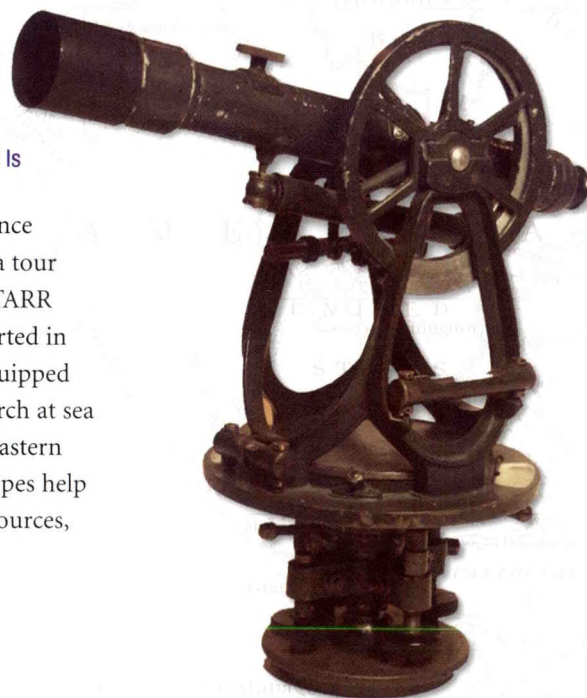
### Highly Migratory Species Division Successfully Reaches Out To Fishermen

The Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division of NOAA

Fisheries Service is working to improve communication and outreach with fishermen and the interested public. In 2004, the Division produced videos in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese for Atlantic longline fishermen detailing how to release sea turtles. The instructions were also provided in all three languages on waterproof paper and on a laminated quick reference guide. Additionally, the Division recently updated all its one-page brochures and its annual compliance guide for people seeking an easy to understand reference to the regulations for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, shark, and billfish fishing.

### NOAA Fisheries Service Local Fisheries Knowledge Project Continues Second Year

The Local Fisheries Knowledge Project (2003-2005) is a two-year experiment in place-based learning at two Maine high schools. The project helps students explore their communities' social, economic, and natural connections to the marine environment through a series of interviews with local people involved in fishing or other marine environment related activities. The transcribed interviews are then archived in a publicly accessible on-line database developed and maintained by NOAA Fisheries Service. The Rural School and Community Trust, an education non-governmental organization (NGO)





Sandy Hook Laboratory sport fish biologists begin long-term investigations into egg and larval fish surveys, red tide, and behavior of adult bluefish.

On January 9th, President Lyndon B. Johnson appoints the 15 members of the Stratton Commission who immediately begin their study of the Nation's marine problems and needs.



works directly with teachers to develop the curriculum around the project's framework. The Local Fisheries Knowledge Project was developed and funded by NOAA Fisheries Service.

#### **NOAA Fisheries Service Host Maury Project Teachers**

NOAA Fisheries Service helped NOAA host 35 science teachers at a special open house at its headquarters in Silver

Spring, Maryland. For the past nine years, NOAA's contribution to the Maury Project teacher enhancement program is to provide the science teachers an opportunity to talk directly with NOAA scientists and experts. The program focuses on the physical foundations of oceanography. NOAA employees also were invited to stop by and learn about NOAA Fisheries

Service. The Maury Project is a unique partnership between the American Meteorological Society, the United States Navy, and NOAA. Each year, the U.S. Naval Academy hosts the summer workshop to train pre-college teachers. Matthew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873), is generally recognized as the father of physical oceanography.





## ~ Organization and Outreach

In September 2004, approximately 800 habitat restoration experts attended the second-annual Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) conference on coastal and estuarine habitat restoration.

### **NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Region Launches Fishing Industry Homepage**

NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Region has recently developed a Fishing Industry Homepage for constituents to access regulations by sub-regions. The development of this website was in direct response to a recommendation provided by the fishing industry. Although the Region has set up the website using groundfish as a pilot project, it intends to include other species in the near future.

### **NOAA Fisheries Service Support Natural Resources Leadership Academy**

The Natural Resources Leadership Academy (NRLA) is managed by Washington State University's (WSU) Division of Governmental Studies and Services. The NRLA is designed for professionals already working in natural resources, environmental protection and law enforcement in state, federal, tribal, and local agencies. The NRLA offers innovative multi-disciplinary training, coaching and consultative services that address both agency training needs and individual development. NOAA Fisheries Service Office for Law Enforcement's Northwest Enforcement Division provided start-up funding for the NRLA and continues its support by providing staff and funding for training activities.

### **Unique Education Program Brings Southwest Enforcement and Community Closer Together**

The Office for Law Enforcement (OLE) Southwest Enforcement Division's Conservation Education Corps (CEC) is an innovative long-term program that provides community relations while freeing OLE special agents and enforcement officers to conduct investigations and patrols. Volunteers were recruited from the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) as NOAA's ambassadors of goodwill and sources of information. The volunteers underwent two-week's training on NOAA and its programs, including the OLE mission, laws and regulations, wildlife/marine biology, safety, and first aid. CEC volunteers participate in events and work with schools to educate the public about the delicate coastal and ocean environments, and the need to protect them. The first CEC graduating class was late December 2003—since then they conducted more than 19 presentations to 1400+ students.

### **NOAA Fisheries Service Places Science In Hands Of Practitioners**

In September 2004, approximately 800 habitat restoration experts attended the second-annual Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) conference on coastal and estuarine habitat restoration. The conference, co-sponsored by NOAA Fisheries Habitat Restoration and held



Photo by: Dr. Eugene Hester

in Seattle, WA, provided a national forum for habitat experts to discuss restoration issues, exchange ideas, and learn about the latest restoration technologies. In attendance were organizations with restoring habitat, they included: non-governmental organizations, state, local, and federal agencies, and academia. Much of the funding that NOAA provides RAE is passed along to smaller organizations that otherwise would not have sufficient funds for restoration projects. A highlight of the conference was the keynote address by Denis Hayes—the coordinator of the first Earth Day in 1970.

### **A Celebration of the Sea; NOAA Fisheries Collaborates on SeaFest 2004**

For a day in June, 2004 NOAA Fisheries participated in the third annual H.M.S.C. SeaFest at the Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon. Former Oregon Governor and Senator Mark O. Hatfield opened the day's activities, which included a "science zone" in NOAA's Captain R. Barry Fisher building, as well as tours and talks, demonstrations, and educational booths related to the campus' state, federal, and academic research activities. Over 4,000 people participated in this year's SeaFest, many of whom visited the NOAA Fisheries' displays and hands-on activities.



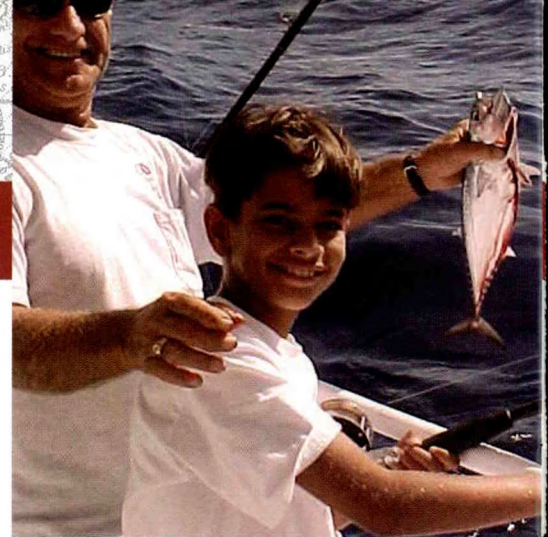
The Stratton Commission presents its final report and recommends creation of a new federal entity—a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency—later established in 1970 by President Richard Nixon.

1969



Photo by: George Gentry





## *Organization and Outreach*

In 2004, NOAA Fisheries Service, in partnership with the Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program engaged an estimated 14,500 students in outdoor watershed education.

### **FishNews Subscriptions On The Rise**

FishNews is the first weekly electronic publication from NOAA to deliver timely information and solicit direct participation from stakeholders and the interested public on sustaining our nation's marine ecosystems and living marine resources. Debuting in 2000 as a simple list serve e-mail, FishNews currently delivers an easy-to access e-Document to more than 4500 weekly subscribers. Anticipated to nearly double by the end of 2005, FishNews has become a favorite information tool of Congressional staff, stakeholders, interest groups and the media.  
[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishnews/](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/fishnews/)

### **MAFAC**

NOAA Fisheries Service manages the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC), a national advisory body to the Secretary of Commerce on all marine resource issues under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce. Co-chaired by the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Administrator for Fisheries, MAFAC meets twice annually to provide recommendations and build common ground on key issues related to the sustainable use of the nation's living marine resources. Committee membership and reports are located at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mafac/](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/mafac/).

### **A Workshop for Regional Fishery Management Council Members**

NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS) hosted members and staff of all eight Regional Fishery Management Councils at a three-day workshop in Baltimore, Maryland, to discuss current issues in implementing the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The workshop provided a unique opportunity for NMFS and the Councils to share information and discuss issues of mutual interest. Topics discussed included ecosystem approaches to management, the Councils' governance role in regional ecosystem management, using the best available science, cooperative research, individual transferable quotas, buyback programs, regulatory streamlining, overfishing guidelines, protected species, and marine protected areas, council training, and legal trends.

### **Office of Science & Technology Holds Second Annual Constituent Data Review**

In March 2005, the Recreational Fisheries Statistics Team hosted more than two-dozen representatives from recreational fisheries constituent groups, MAFAC, ASMFC, and our state partners at its second annual constituent data review. Rebecca Lent provided opening remarks. In all, more than 25 invited guests attended the day and a half meeting, which focused on

reviewing 2004 catch and effort data and discussing the current recreational data collection and estimation methods. Constituents noted that the meeting was "informative," "important" and "valuable," and encouraged the continuation of this annual meeting.

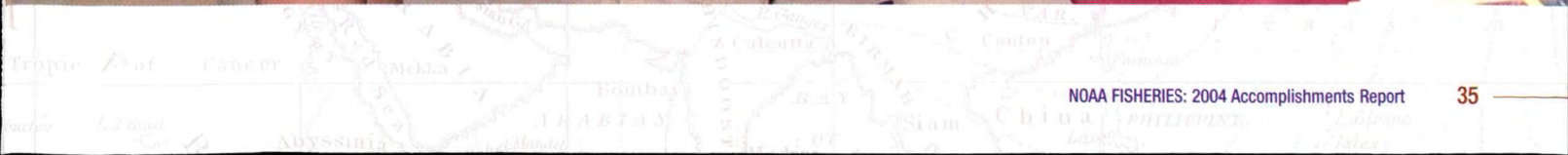
### **NOAA Fisheries Service Helps Teachers and Students Learn About Watersheds**

In 2004, NOAA Fisheries Service, in partnership with the Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program engaged an estimated 14,500 students in outdoor watershed education. The program, led by the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, also provided professional training for 3,300 teachers from schools throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. The 3,300 teachers were expected to reach nearly 130,000 students in 2004 through meaningful watershed experiences, such as hands-on, outside the classroom learning experiences in watershed areas. Funding for the activities was supplied through 34 grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$200,000.



Robert White, first NOAA Administrator, establishes four major offshore fisheries research centers throughout the Nation: the Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, Southwest Fisheries Center, Northwest Fisheries Center, and Southeast Fisheries Center. The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) is established by the Secretary of Commerce to advise on marine fisheries resource issues.

1971







## *Organization and Outreach*

NOAA believes that a workplace in which all people are respected as individuals and are valued for their contributions is an integral part to accomplishing the agency's mission.

### **Safety, Security, and Physical Plant Facilities Management in 2004**

In 2004, NOAA Fisheries Service committed to a wide variety of projects and improvements to the places where we work.

- Site work was completed for the Ted Stevens Marine Research Laboratory at Lena Point in Juneau, and facility design is near completion for a construction start in FY 2005.
- The first phase of a three part rehabilitation of the historic Galveston Laboratory was completed, restoring full utility to office and lab space previously abandoned out of concern for employee safety, and providing modern electrical and cooling systems for the site.
- The project to replace the La Jolla Laboratory has taken a big leap forward with the identification of a parcel of land across the street from the current facility. Site approval will allow project planning and the environmental assessment to progress.
- A new warehouse and shore side staging areas are now in use in Pascagoula, and the new laboratory wing and dock extension project are underway.
- A deal was "inked" for new leased space to relocate the Southeast Regional Office adjacent to the University of South Florida campus.
- Lease action to consolidate the now fragmented Northeast Regional Office has begun with the award of a real estate support contract and development of the program space requirements.
- Also in the Northeast, planning and initial collaborative discussions with the Corps of Engineers are proceeding for berthing space for the FSV Bigelow in Woods Hole.
- Facility repair projects totaling nearly \$2 million were completed at six Fisheries installations, correcting life safety deficiencies and upgrading or improving heating, air conditioning, and electrical systems.
- A facilities program organization was established within Fisheries with the appointment of field office Regional Facilities Representatives and a National Facilities Program Manager.

### **NOAA Fisheries Support an Inclusive Workplace**

NOAA believes that a workplace in which all people are respected as individuals and are valued for their contributions is an integral part to accomplishing the agency's mission. NOAA Fisheries Service management enthusiastically supports NOAA's diversity goals by modifying programs, practices, and policies that could pose barriers to an inclusive and engaged workplace.

In 2004, NOAA Fisheries Service's management served as role models and example—working to integrate managing diversity strategies by increasing employee involvement in the decision making process at all levels of the workforce, providing training and development opportunities to all employees, and ensuring a flexible work environment.



NOAA Fisheries Service conducts tests to develop "excluder panels" that keep turtles from being caught in shrimp nets while permitting shrimp harvest.

Three whales are trapped in ice near Barrow, Alaska. For three weeks NOAA Fisheries Service leads an international rescue operation that allows two of three whales to swim free from the ice.

1978

1988



**Above:** Architectural rendering for the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute, Lena Point in Juneau, Alaska. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2005.

#### Specific actions/accomplishments in 2004:

NOAA Fisheries Service leadership support and participate in all diversity initiatives, including management's attendance at the Diversity Network Conference, Diversity Retreat, and Council/Committee meetings.

Organizational Assessment and Survey Feedback Action (SFA). Begun in 2002, NOAA Fisheries Service continues to implement employee recommendations and develop solutions to employee's concerns. Results include: improved communications between management and employees; a more fair and equitable awards process throughout

the agency; and more training and career opportunities.

Refinement of the NOAA Fisheries Service comprehensive intra-net site for employees. The site provides better access to awards programs, training and developmental, and career information. As a result, there was a sharp increase in the number of award nominations and participation in training activities.

Establishment of a NOAA Fisheries Training Working Group—designed to ensure a coordinated and focused effort on training and personnel development within Fisheries.

Creation of the new position—Workforce Management Officer. Established to focus on training and employee orientation.

Initiated the NOAA Fisheries Service Telework Program in late 2004. Following its initial kick-off, the highly successful program experienced substantial increases in the number of employees opting to participate—with more requests coming in daily.





## *Fisheries Service 2004 Awards*

Presented by the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries to employees from NOAA Fisheries, the NOAA Office of General Counsel, the NOAA Office of Public Affairs, or the NOAA Office of Legislative Affairs for their contributions to the Nation towards the stewardship of living marine resources as recognized by their NOAA Fisheries peers.

### NOAA FISHERIES EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Administrative/Support  
GS 1-10 or Pay Band  
Equivalents

**Beverly Malley**  
AKC

**Janet Rose Herr**  
AKR

**Margo Elliott**  
HQ

**Mary Woodruff**  
NEC

**Angelo "Skip" Bertolino**  
NER

**Diane Tierney**  
NWC

**Maryann Nickerson**  
NWR

**Sheila Ann Matsukawa**  
PIC

**Charis David**  
PIR

**Debi Pierson**  
SWC

**Gayla Fornea**  
SEC

**Lawrence Kelley, Jr.**  
SER

**Kathryn Schuck**  
SWC

Administrative/Support  
GS 11-15 or Pay Band  
Equivalents

**Dona Cocking**  
AKC

**Shawn Carey**  
AKR

**Constance Barclay**  
(NOAA PA)  
HQ

**Barbara Jobe**  
NEC

**Kelley McGrath**  
NER

**Cyndy Masada**  
NWC

**Brigitte Kenny**  
NWR

**Susan Tanahara**  
PIR

**Esther Keltner**  
SWC

**Heather Blood**  
SER

**Dan Poulos**  
SEC

**Jim Milbury**  
SWC

Program Management/  
Scientific/Technical  
GS 1-10 or Pay Band  
Equivalents

**Lisa Thompson**  
AKC

**Troie Zuniga**  
AKR

**Brian Smith**  
NEC

**Megan Callahan-Grant**  
HQ

**Vicky Krikelas**  
NWC

**Merrick Burden**  
NWR

**Shawn Murakawa**  
PIC

**Dawn Golden**  
PIR

**Amy Hayes**  
SWC

**David Bartee**  
SEC

Program Management/  
Scientific/Technical GS  
11-15 or Pay Band  
Equivalents

**James Orr**  
AKC

**Gregory Bledsoe**  
AKR

**Rick Hawkins**  
HQ

**Pam Thames**  
NER

**Timothy Sheehan**  
NEC

**Sarah McLaughlin**  
NER

**James Herkelrath**  
NWC

**Leslie Schaeffer**  
NWR

**Raymond Christopher**  
**Boland**  
PIC

**Alan Everson**  
PIR

**Joanne Lyczkowski-Shultz**  
SEC

**Robert Bistodeau**  
SWC

**John (Jack) McGovern**  
SER

**David Woodbury**  
SWC





**Supervisor**

**Phillip Rigby**  
AKC

**Jeanne Hanson**  
AKR

**Mark Paterni**  
HQ

**Alan Risenhoover**  
HQ

**Ronald Goldberg**  
NEC

**Vernon Nulk**  
NER

**Edmundo Casillas**  
NWC

**Donna Darm**  
NWR

**Christofer Boggs**  
PIC

**Kevin Busscher**  
PIR

**Alex Chester**  
SEC

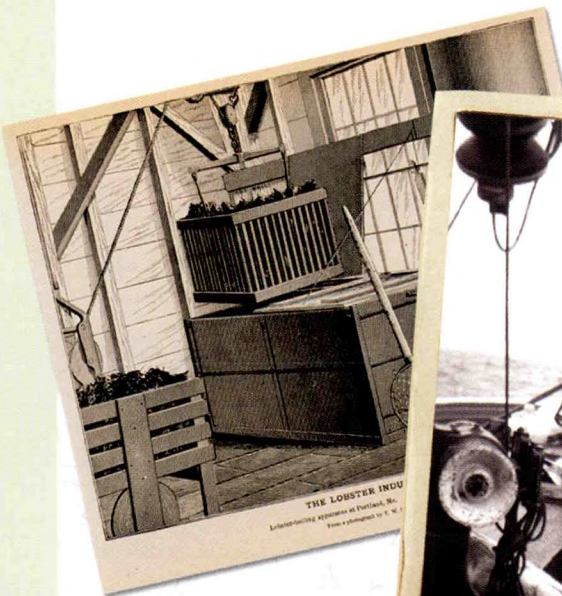
**Miles Croom**  
SER

**Peter Dutton**  
SWC

**R. Craig Wingert**  
SWC



THE OYSTER INDUSTRY.  
Oyster-dredging vessel at work in Long Island Sound. (Reel, p. 106; 6 pp. 100, 101.)



THE LOBSTER INDUSTRY.  
Lobster-trapping apparatus at Portland, Me. (from a photograph by F. W. ...)







## *Fisheries Service 2004 Awards*

Although NOAA was formed in 1970, the agencies that came together at that time are among the oldest in the Federal Government, including the Bureau of Fisheries formed in 1871. Throughout its history, NOAA and its forerunner agencies have valued its employees as its greatest asset. Each year NOAA, a part of the Department of Commerce, honor these dedicated and talent individuals with a comprehensive awards program. The following are the 2004 recipients:

### DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

Presented by the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere/Administrator of NOAA for significant long-term contributions and commitments to accomplishing NOAA's mission goals. This award honors an individual for contributions on a sustained basis—a body of work—rather than a single, defined accomplishment.

**Bruce Collette**  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

**Walton Dickhoff**  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center

**Patricia Kurkul**  
Northeast Regional Office

**Bruce Morehead**  
HQ Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**Richard Parrish**  
Southwest Fisheries Science Center

### SAFETY "BEST OF THE BEST" AWARD

**Dorthea Smith**  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center

**Susan Kamei**  
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

### GOLD

The highest honorary award granted by the Secretary. A Gold Medal is awarded for distinguished performance characterized by extraordinary, notable or prestigious contributions to the Department of Commerce or unit within the Department. Contributions can be in one of the following areas: support, customer service, heroism, leadership, organizational development, personal and professional excellence, or scientific/engineering achievement.

#### Individual Award:

**Casey Oravetz**  
Headquarters Office of Law Enforcement

#### Group Award:

**Correigh Greene**  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center

**LTJG William Mowitt**  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center

**Casimir Rice**  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center

**LTJG Andrew Hall**  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center

**William Reichert**  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center

**Frank Sommers**  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center

#### Group Award:

**Kerry Griffin**  
Headquarters Office of Habitat Conservation

**Thomas Bigford**  
Headquarters Office of Habitat Conservation

**Garry Mayer**  
Headquarters Office of Habitat Conservation

**Steven Kokkinakis**  
NOAA Office Program, Planning, Integration

**Ramona Schreiber**  
NOAA Office Program, Planning, Integration

**Jane Hannuksela**  
NOAA General Counsel

### SILVER

The second highest honorary award granted by the Secretary. A Silver Medal is awarded for exceptional performance characterized by noteworthy or superlative contributions, which have a direct, and lasting impact within the Department based on its Strategic Plan performance measures. Contributions can be in one of the following areas: support, customer service, heroism, leadership, organizational development, personal and professional excellence, or scientific/engineering achievement.

#### Individual Award:

**Phillip Levin**  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center





**John Collins**

Headquarters Office of Habitat  
Conservation

**Group Award:**

**Joseph Albert**

Northwest Regional Office

**Becky Renko**

Northwest Regional Office

**Group Award:**

**Barbara Schroeder**

Headquarters Office of Protected Resources

**Therese Conant**

Headquarters Office of Protected Resources

## BRONZE

The highest honorary award granted by a head of an operating unit or Secretarial Officer or equivalent. A Bronze Medal is awarded for superior performance characterized by outstanding or significant contributions which have increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the operating unit. Contributions can be in one of the following areas: support, customer service, heroism, leadership, organizational development, personal and professional excellence, or scientific/engineering achievement.

**Individual Award:**

**Diane Borggaard**

Northwest Regional Office

**William Hearn**

Southwest Regional Office

**William Lind**

Northwest Regional Office

**William Peterson**

Northwest Fisheries Science Center

**Glenn Salvador**

Northeast Regional Office

**Special Agent Roy Torres**

Headquarters Office of Law Enforcement

**Amanda Wheeland**

NOAA Office of General Counsel

**John Williams**

Northwest Fisheries Science Center

**Nancy Daves**

HQ Office of Protected Resources

**Thomas Hourigan**

HQ Office of Habitat Conservation

**Group Award:**

**Louis Chiarella**

Northeast Regional Office

**David Stevenson**

Northeast Regional Office

**Michael Pentony**

Northeast Regional Office

**Bonnie VanPelt**

Northeast Regional Office

**Lawrence Beerkircher**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**Cheryl Brown**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**Daniel Foster**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**John Watson, Jr.**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**Charles Bergmann**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**Sheryan Epperly**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**Dennis Lee Southeast**

Fisheries Science Center

**Stephen Meyers**

HQ Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**Ronald Rinaldo**

HQ Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**John Ward**

HQ Office of Constituent Services

**Karyl Brewster-Geisz**

HQ Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**Gregory Fairclough**

HQ Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**Chris Rilling**

HQ Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**Heather Stirratt**

HQ Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**Joseph Desfosse**

HQ Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**Peter Fricke**

HQ Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**Margo Schulze-Haugen**

HQ Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**Caroline Park**

NOAA Office of General Counsel

**Kimberly Damon Randall**

Northeast Regional Office

**Julie Crocker**

Northeast Regional Office

**Jennifer Anderson**

Northeast Regional Office

**Pasquale Scida**

Northeast Regional Office

**Julie Williams**

NOAA Office of General Council

**Charles Lynch, Jr.**

NOAA Office of General Council





## *Fisheries Service 2004 Awards*

**Janet Hannah**

NOAA Acquisitions and Grants Office

**Robert Ransom**

NOAA Acquisitions and Grants Office

**Donald Thompson**

NOAA Acquisitions and Grants Office

**Jeffrey Lockwood**

Northwest Regional Office

**Robert Anderson**

Northwest Regional Office

**Russell Strach**

Northwest Regional Office

**Cathryn Tortorici**

Northwest Regional Office

**Benjamin Meyer**

Northwest Regional Office

**Michael Crouse**

Northwest Regional Office

**Robert Jones, Jr.**

Northwest Regional Office

**Herbert Pollard**

Northwest Regional Office

**Cathryn Tortorici**

Northwest Regional Office

**John Mitchell**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**Jack Forrester**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**Nicholas Hopkins**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**Robert Stevens**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**Kendall Falana**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**Bret Hataway**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**Mariel Hughes**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**Charles Taylor**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**Bonnie Ponwith**

HQ Office of Science and Technology

**Margo Schulze-Haugen**

HQ Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**Gregory Power**

Northeast Regional Office

**Daniel D'Entremont**

Northeast Regional Office

**Joe Moscato**

Northeast Regional Office

**Vincie Susanno**

Northeast Regional Office

**Pamela Thames**

Northeast Regional Office

**Sandra Arvilla**

Northeast Regional Office

**Ethan Hawes**

Northeast Regional Office

**Donald Paskowski**

Northeast Regional Office

**Marianne Taylor**

Northeast Regional Office

**Esther Young**

Northeast Regional Office

**Nathan Raring**

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Erika Acuna**

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**William Flerx**

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Vanessa Lowe**

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Gary Walters**

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Alisa Abookire**

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Eric Brown**

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Stanislaw Kotwicki**

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Richard MacIntosh**

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Mark Wilkins**

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Anita Riportella**

Northeast Regional Office

**Peter Colosi, Jr.**

Northeast Regional Office

**Stanley Gorski**

Northeast Regional Office

**Karen Greene**

Northeast Regional Office

**James Sargent**

HQ Office of the Chief Information Officer

**Patricia Hansford**

HQ Office of the Chief Information Officer

**Kevin Holland**

HQ Office of the Chief Information Officer

**Philip Steele**

Southeast Regional Office

**Steven Branstetter**

Southeast Regional Office

**Cheryl Franzen**

Southeast Regional Office

**Janet Miller**

Southeast Regional Office

**Wendy Skrosznik**

Southeast Regional Office





**Michael Arn**  
Southeast Regional Office

**Rodney Dalton**  
Southeast Regional Office

**Shepherd Grimes**  
Southeast Regional Office

**Robert Sadler**  
Southeast Regional Office

**Carolyn Sramek**  
Southeast Regional Office

**Stanley Wang**  
Northeast Regional Office

**Geraldine Gaipo**  
Northeast Regional Office

**Jerome Hermesen**  
Northeast Regional Office

**Alison Verry**  
Northeast Regional Office

**Joseph Cofone**  
Northeast Regional Office

**Laurie Heigl**  
Northeast Regional Office

**Jonathan O'Neil**  
Northeast Regional Office

**Kurt Wilhelm**  
Northeast Regional Office

**Thomas Warren**  
Northeast Regional Office

**George Darcy**  
Northeast Regional Office

**Susan Murphy**  
Northeast Regional Office

**Jon Brodziak**  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

**Eric Thunberg**  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

**John Walden**  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

**Catherine Belli**  
HQ Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**Mark Millikin**  
HQ Office of Sustainable Fisheries

**Gene Martin Jr.**  
NOAA Office of General Council

**Mark Hodor**  
NOAA Office of General Council

### ADMINISTRATOR'S AWARD

Presented by the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere/ Administrator of NOAA for significant contributions to NOAA programs.

#### Individual Award:

**Ronald Berg**  
Alaska Regional Office

**David Bernhart**  
Southeast Regional Office

**Joseph Blum (deceased)**  
Southwest Regional Office

**Laurel Bryant**  
HQ Office of Constituent Services

**Robert Clark**  
HQ Office of Habitat Conservation

**Rachel Husted**  
Office of the Assistant Administrator

**Ralph Mayo**  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

**Mark Spurrier**  
HQ Office of Law Enforcement

**Philip Steele**  
Southeast Regional Office

**John Stein**  
Northwest Fisheries Science Center

**Rachel Sweeney**  
Southeast Regional Office

#### Group Award:

**Rebecca Allee**  
HQ Office of Habitat Conservation

**Jennifer Macal**  
HQ Office of Habitat Conservation

**Brian Brown**  
Northwest Regional Office

**Ritchie Graves**  
Northwest Regional Office

**Bryan Nordlund**  
Northwest Regional Office

**Kristine Petersen**  
Northwest Regional Office

**Peter Christopher**  
Northeast Regional Office

**Hannah Goodale**  
Northwest Regional Office

**Jonathan Heifetz**  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Dean Courtney**  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Patrick Malecha**  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Robert Stone**  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Bruce Wing**  
Alaska Fisheries Science Center

**Eric Hutchins**  
HQ Office of Habitat Conservation

**James Turek**  
HQ Office of Habitat Conservation





## *Fisheries Service 2004 Awards*

### **Thomas Warren**

Northeast Regional Office

### **Susan Murphy**

Northeast Regional Office

### **George Darcy**

Northeast Regional Office

### **Eric Thunberg**

Northeast Fisheries Science Center

### **John Walden**

Northeast Fisheries Science Center

### **Jon Brodziak**

Northeast Fisheries Science Center

### **Randolph Wilkins**

HQ Office of the Chief Information Officer

### **Mariam McCall**

NOAA Office of the General Counsel

### **Leila Afzal**

NOAA Office of the General Counsel

## **DIVERSITY SPECTRUM AWARD**

Presented by the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere/Administrator of NOAA and the Office of Diversity to NOAA employees for participation in managing diversity activities during the last 12 months that goes beyond normal job requirements.

### **Individual Award:**

#### **Patricia A. Kurkul**

Regional Administrator, Northeast Regional Office

#### **Christopher Mantzaris**

Deputy Regional Administrator, Northeast Regional Office

#### **Deirdre Kimball**

Northeast Regional Office

### **Organizational Award:**

**NMFS Northeast Region Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Advisory Committee**

## **BEST PRACTICES AWARD**

### **Susan Murphy**

Northeast Regional Office

## **OTHER NOAA AWARDS**

**Best Poster Award at International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)**

**Azure Westwood and Steve Cardin**

Northeast Fisheries Science Center

**Coastal America Partnership Award  
Northwest Fisheries Science**

**2003 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers**

**Kyle Shertzer, Ph.D.**

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

**American Fisheries Society Awards  
Carolyn Griswold**

Northeast Fisheries Science Center

### **Kenneth Beal**

NOAA Northeast Regional Office

**Environmental Protection Agency  
Bronze Medal Group Award**

**Mary Myers and Tracy Collier, Ph.D.**

**Communications Concepts' Award  
for Publication Excellence  
Alicia Senauer and Su Kim**

**2002 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers**

**Andrew Bruckner, Ph.D.**

Headquarters Office of Habitat Conservation

**2004 Archivist Achievement Award**

**Lori Durall**

NOAA Alaska Regional Office

**Seattle Girls' School Grace Hopper's  
Outstanding Achievement Award  
Usha Varanasi, Ph.D.**

Northwest Fisheries Science Center

**2003 Distinguished Presidential  
Rank Award**

**Rolland Schmitt**

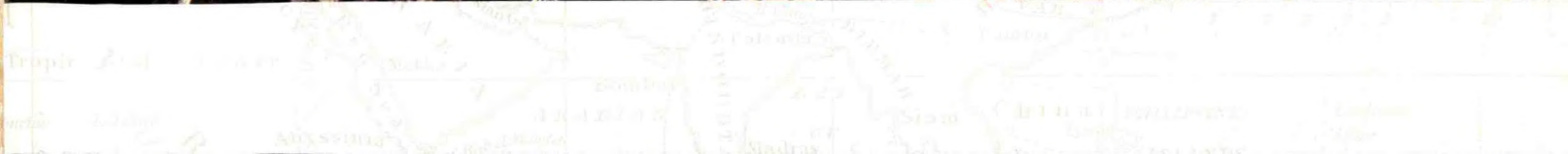
Headquarters Office of Habitat  
Conservation

**Aquacultural Engineering Society  
Award of Excellence**

**John Colt, Ph.D.**

Northwest Fisheries Science Center









**U.S. Secretary of Commerce**  
Carlos M. Gutierrez

**Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and  
Atmosphere and Administrator, National Oceanic  
And Atmospheric Administration—NOAA**

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

**Assistant Administrator for Fisheries**  
**NOAA Fisheries Service**  
William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.

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