

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

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INTERIOR'S MARINE RESOURCES PROGRAMS PLACED UNDER UNIFIED LEADERSHIP

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced that coordination and leadership of the Department's various marine resources programs have been assigned to a newly redesignated Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Parks, and Marine Resources.

The Assistant Secretary, Clarence F. Pautzke, will be supported by a new Office of Marine Resources, reporting to him.

Acting chief of the new Office of Marine Resources is Dr. J. L. McHugh, on detail from his permanent post as Deputy Director of Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. Acting as deputy under Dr. McHugh in the new office will be Howard H. Eckles, who has been Program Manager, Marine Resources Development, in Assistant Secretary Pautzke's office.

The Office of Marine Resources will support the Assistant Secretary in carrying out his responsibilities for advancing and coordinating Interior's marine resources policies, programs, plans, and legislation; analyzing the programs to assure they are in balance with one another and with other Interior programs; reviewing and preparing reports; serving as a focal point with other Federal agencies, state and local governments, international organizations, private industries, universities, the scientific community and the public.

In addition, OMR will coordinate Interior's contributions to the marine resources data systems; help develop policy guidelines for such emerging programs as marine pollution control, estuarine studies, international research, survey and development activities; multi-use of the coastal zone and high seas, etc; and contract or arrange for special marine resources studies.

"The Department of the Interior is the Executive Department with the primary responsibilities for the use and development of natural resources both from the land and the oceans," Secretary Udall said in signing the order creating the new office and broadening the Assistant Secretary's title.

"These actions are designed to strengthen the advancement and coordination of Interior's significant marine resources programs, including those related to

marine geology, determination of mineral potential, mineral development, oil and gas exploration and leasing, desalination, estuarine and marine hydrology and pollution, estuarine studies and management, marine biology and ecology, commercial uses of the living resources of the sea, sport fisheries, and recreation."

The Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Parks, and Marine Resources will serve as the Secretary's alternate to the National Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development. To aid him in this role, the Marine Resources Advisory Committee, composed of non-Governmental experts, will continue in operation and will advise him in the development, review and support of the Department's marine resources policies and programs. The Interior Marine Resources Council--composed of the Assistant Secretaries, the Science Adviser to the Secretary, and the Solicitor--will serve as an internal steering committee to the Assistant Secretary in carrying out his role with respect to marine resources policies and programs.

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