

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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GORDON WATSON APPOINTED ALASKA AREA DIRECTOR
FOR INTERIOR'S BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Gordon W. Watson, currently on the faculty of the University of Alaska, is returning to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Alaska Area Director for the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Commissioner Charles H. Meacham of the Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

Watson, 45, will have charge of the Bureau's area office in Anchorage, to be established July 1. He was formerly associated with the Fish and Wildlife Service's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in Anchorage, Juneau and Washington, D.C.

Watson received an Interior Department award for leading studies of the effects upon fish and wildlife of the proposed Rampart Dam in Alaska. He is candidate for a doctorate in Resource Economics from the University of Michigan.

In face of the need for increased fish and wildlife management in Alaska, Watson brings to his new assignment "a background in conservation and demonstrated ability to provide effective leadership," Commissioner Meacham stated. The new area director will work closely with Alaska's Fish and Game Department and other governmental and private conservation organizations in a joint effort to protect and enhance Alaska's fish and wildlife values.

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