



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

For Release: October 6, 1992

Hugh Vickery 202-208-5634

**MICHAEL J. SPEAR NAMED FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE'S
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT**

The Director of the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, John Turner, announced today the appointment of Michael J. Spear as Assistant Director for Fish and Wildlife Enhancement. Spear brings to his new position more than 19 years experience with the Service, including the last 10 years as Regional Director for the Southwest Region, headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

"Mike Spear exemplifies the highest degree of professionalism in the management of our Nation's fish and wildlife resources," Turner said. "He has a distinguished record with the Service and will do an outstanding job overseeing many of the agency's most significant conservation programs."

As Assistant Director for Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, Spear is to direct the Service's endangered species, environmental contaminants, and habitat conservation programs. He also will be responsible for the Federal Aid program which apportions Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration funds to the States. In addition, Spear will oversee the Office of Management Authority, which issues import/export permits under the

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Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1963, Spear served as a nuclear submarine officer. In 1973, he joined the Fish and Wildlife Service as Assistant Director for Planning and Budget. Later, he served as Associate Director for Environment before moving to the Southwest Region.

A native of San Francisco, Spear also earned an M.B.A. from Stanford University. He was presented the Interior Department's Meritorious Service Award in 1986 and the Distinguished Service Award, the Interior Department's highest honor, this past May.

Spear replaces Ralph Morgenweck, who moved to Denver to become Regional Director of the Service's Mountain-Prairie Region. John G. Rogers, Jr., formerly Deputy Assistant Director for Refuges and Wildlife in Washington, DC, replaces Spear as Regional Director in Albuquerque.