



BULLETIN

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

BABBITT HONORS SAM MARLER WITH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

At a December ceremony in Washington, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt recognized longtime U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee Sam Marler of Daphne, Alabama, with the Department's Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to fish and wildlife conservation.

The award is the highest given by the Department to career civil servants and recognizes outstanding achievement in their careers.

Marler worked for the Service for 20 years, including serving as the agency's first assistant director for external affairs from 1986 to 1992 and as regional director in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region from 1992 to 1995.

As assistant director, he established high standards of professionalism for natural resource communicators. He also worked closely with Congress on natural resource issues, gaining the respect of Senators and Congressmen across the political spectrum, and spearheaded efforts to expand cooperation in conservation projects with Canada, Mexico, and Central America.

As regional director, Marler worked closely with state wildlife agencies, private landowners, corporations, and conservation groups to conserve and restore wetland habitat vital to waterfowl and other wildlife species. Of 2,900 restored wetland sites across the Nation, more than 1,600 are in the Great Lakes Region.

In addition, under Marler's leadership, regional endangered species staff documented the successful recovery of the bald eagle, a species now reclassified from endangered to the less critical threatened status. Marler's leadership and skill at brokering conservation partnerships both within and without the government, benefitted creatures as diverse as the Kirtland's warbler and the coaster brook trout.

December 19, 1996

Hugh Vickery 202-208-5634