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# NOAA WEEK

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

## Trouble-Shooters Tackle Texas Coastal Problems

A team of environmental trouble-shooters from Texas A&M University is helping cities, industry, and individuals locate and solve environmental problems. Supported by the Office of Sea Grant, scientists under Project Director J. Martin Hughes are bringing the results of their research and technical expertise directly to bear on knotty problems of coastal ecology.

Representing ten disciplines in the Environmental Engineering Division of the university, the team began operations in September. It responds to requests for help by sending out task forces of one or more team members with the appropriate training and experience to analyze problems and recommend action.

For example, a problem recently brought to the group was posed by a shipyard that specializes in marine repairs and barge cleaning. Their work involves noxious effluents which the yard has heretofore dumped into the Houston ship channel, a practice which the yardowner fears may lead to heavy fines under new state legislation. The team study of his problem took three directions. They advised the yardowner of the appropriate laws, including both technical provisions and penalties; they made an engineering review of his treatment process; and they advised him of other facilities with similar problems, suggesting possibilities such as that several yards together put in a treatment plant that individually none could afford.

In another trouble-shooting project, the team was approached by a small Texas city with a malfunctioning waste treatment plant. The "digester" -- where separated solids are cooked in a non-oxygen environment -- was foaming and experiencing other problems, apparently from receiving excess oils, grease, and detergents. A three-day investigation by a task group found that this was indeed the case, and traced the source of the harmful substances back to certain local plants. The facts were given to the city for action in accordance

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## Hirings and Promotions Are Frozen by President

The President has, as of December 11, 1972, imposed a freeze on all new hirings and promotions by executive branch agencies. This, of course, includes NOAA. Effective on the above date, this freeze will remain in effect until the new budget is transmitted to the Congress on or about January 20, 1973.

Questions about the freeze are posed in this issue's *Personnel Perspective*. The answers to these questions should eliminate confusion as to the details of the freeze and how it will operate.

The President does not expect this freeze to interfere in any way with plans to revitalize the Federal Government. It will also have no effect on employees' eligibility for step increases, or on the scheduled comparability pay raise for Federal employees at the turn of the year. (However, no adjustments will be made in executive pay levels.) Any further developments relating to the freeze will be published promptly.

## U.S. Pacific Tuna Fleet Aided By Special Radio Advisories

The first and only system established in the United States for transmitting daily advisory information to fishing vessels at sea operates regularly from the National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Center at La Jolla, Calif. Broadcasts are transmitted via radiofacsimile to the U.S. tuna fleet in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, and messages are received on converted U.S. Navy equipment installed aboard 52 tuna seiners.

The radio service, instituted by Dr. Michael Laurs, the team leader of fishery-oceanography investigations at the La Jolla laboratory, has been in operation for the past 18 months. Oriented specifically toward needs of fishermen on fishing grounds, NMFS station WWD sends daily (except weekends) two charts containing information based on data from many sources: merchant

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As the holiday season approaches and 1972 nears its end, we in NOAA can look back on a most successful year -- one of notable accomplishments made possible by the dedicated efforts of all NOAA employees.

In the new year, we will be engaged in a number of new programs to preserve or restore the quality of our environment and to protect its living creatures. For me--and I know for all of you--it is rewarding to be able to take part in work that benefits mankind now and for generations to come.

Howard Pollock and John Townsend join me in wishing you and your families a joyous holiday season and a happy new year.



Dr. Robert M. White  
NOAA Administrator



Each holiday season brings renewed hope for peace and goodwill throughout the world. In this spirit, I join the employees of the National Weather Service at their duty stations scattered over much of the world in extending to everyone throughout NOAA holiday greetings and best wishes for the coming year.



George P. Cressman  
Director, National Weather Service



Once again that season of the year is at hand, when most of us can emerge briefly from our everyday world and rejoice in holiday festivities. It is a time when pleasure mingles with introspection about the year that has come and gone and conjectures about what's in store for us in the year ahead.

For the Fisheries Service, 1972 was one of the most challenging in its 100-year history. It had everything--excitement and suspense, disappointment and triumph, frustration and success. NOAA's second year was one in which the many diverse elements within NOAA settled into a truly cooperative working relationship, grew to know each other personally and professionally, and gained a far deeper understanding of the organization's broad objectives than was possible in NOAA's first rather tumultuous year of existence. All things considered, 1972 was a most productive year.

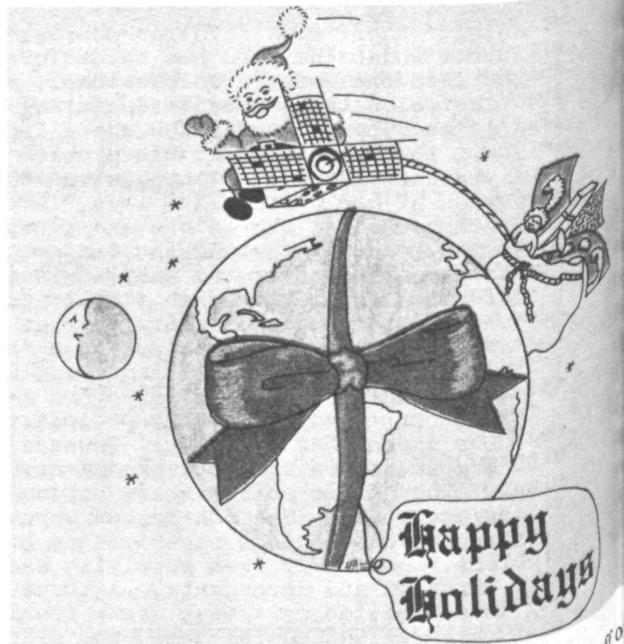
To all of my co-workers in NMFS, I extend my appreciation for the imagination, fidelity, and plain hard work that were unstintingly given throughout the year.

To all members of the NOAA family, I offer sincere best wishes for the happiest of holidays and for a 1973 "thrice and four times blessed."



Philip M. Roedel, Director  
National Marine Fisheries Service

Season's Greetings  
Meilleurs Voeux  
Felices Fiestas  
С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ



Season's Greetings from David S. Johnson and the staff of  
the National Environmental Satellite Service.



Reindeer Caravan," UNICEF card design by Terentyeva, U.S.S.R.

This UNICEF card was inspired by Vaughn D. Rockney, Chief of the National Weather Service Overseas Operations Division, who, in 1968, photographed a painting in the Arctic and Antarctic Museum in Leningrad, USSR. As Acting President of the World Meteorological Organization's Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observation, he was there as the guest of Dr. N.P. Rusin of the Main Geophysical Observatory, and Dr. Yu. K. Alekseyev of the Arctic and Antarctic Institute.

Upon his return to Washington, Mr. Rockney sent a copy of the picture to the United Nations Children's Fund with the suggestion that it be considered for use in the UNICEF Greeting Card Program. UNICEF personnel liked the picture, and negotiations were begun to obtain permission to use it. With considerable cooperation of Dr. Alekseyev and his secretary, Nina Petrovna (who has been the English interpreter for various USSR delegations in recent years), permission was obtained to use the picture, and it was included in the UNICEF programs for 1972.



The three wise men of the Christmas story were the scientists of their day; we could almost call them the patron saints of science. Just as they paused in their everyday pursuit of scientific knowledge to participate in the celebration of a greater truth and to establish the example of gift-giving at Christmas-time, we in NOAA now pause to celebrate this Christmas season, and to express its spirit of love and generosity to families and friends. May I, then, in this spirit, wish each of you a most merry Christmas and a very happy New Year, both for myself and for everyone in the Environmental Data Service.

*Thomas S. Austin*  
Thomas S. Austin  
Director, Environmental Data Service

The holiday season now upon us is a time to pause to reflect on the past and look with renewed spirit to the future, a time when our thoughts turn from our daily pursuits to our fellow man and to peace on earth. I want to thank each NOS employee for your support and dedicated efforts. I look forward to the coming year with confidence and extend to each of you my sincere best wishes for the holiday season and the new year.

*Allen L. Powell*  
Allen L. Powell  
Director, National Ocean Survey



The Director, NOAA Corps, and staff extend the best of holiday thoughts to all the widespread NOAA team. We particularly salute those whose duties throughout the world prevent them from enjoying more intimate contacts with the dynamic developments here at headquarters.

*Harley D. Nygren*  
Harley D. Nygren  
Rear Admiral, NOAA



Season's Greetings from high above the high country, from Dr. Wilmot N. Hess and the staff of the Environmental Research Laboratories.

## Questions and Answers About the Freeze

These questions and answers have been prepared in connection with the President's statement about the freeze on hiring and promotions of civilians in the Executive Branch of the Federal government.

1. What is frozen?

**Answer:** The freeze stops all hiring of civilian employees by Federal agencies, whether the appointments would be permanent or temporary, whether the persons would be new appointees or reinstated former employees. The freeze also stops all grade-to-grade promotions, permanent and temporary, of present Federal employees.

2. Are there any exceptions possible which might permit some limited hiring?

**Answer:** Where firm commitments were made prior to the President's directive, commitments can be honored and the persons hired. In addition, appointments, reemployments or promotions required pursuant to law may be made (for example, reemployment after military service.)

3. What is a "firm hiring commitment"?

**Answer:** This means that an authorized official extended an offer of employment to a prospective employee before the President's directive. This includes a firm offer made subject only to satisfying a required pre-condition before entrance on duty, such as an investigation or medical examination.

4. Is there any provision for exception from the hiring freeze on an individual agency basis?

**Answer:** The Office of Management and Budget will permit exceptions only in cases where the actions are essential to preserve human life and safety, to protect property, to preserve the continuity of government, or for other emergency situations. Any specific questions about such situations should be directed by agency headquarters to the Office of Management and Budget.

5. Are transfers from one Federal department or agency to another also frozen?

**Answer:** Yes. The freeze applies to each agency individually, so Agency A may not add to its employment during the freeze by the transfer of an employee from Agency B. However, movements within a department or independent agency are authorized.

6. Why is the freeze being put into effect?

**Answer:** The President has stated that a reduction in the size of the Federal government is needed. Since

it will take time to make specific decisions about agency and program adjustments it is advisable in the interest of government and all employees to freeze hiring and promotions now in order to soften the possible impact on Federal employees later.

7. How long will the freeze last?

**Answer:** Until a new budget is sent to Congress in January.

8. Could an agency which cannot hire, instead contract with a private firm?

**Answer:** No. Contracting may not be used to circumvent the President's directive.

9. Does the promotion freeze mean that employees' pay is frozen?

**Answer:** No. The freeze applies to promotions from one grade to a higher grade, but it does not apply to changes to a higher pay rate within the pay range of a grade (step increase).

10. Are there any exceptions to the promotion freeze?

**Answer:** Where prior commitments or provisions of law require, promotions may be effected during the freeze. These situations are the following:

A. Analogous to the "hiring commitment" situation, where an authorized official has offered a promotion to a properly selected employee prior to the President's directive, the promotion may be made.

B. Employees being developed under formal training plans which contain written commitments to promote upon successful completion of specific requirements, may be promoted.

C. The classification statutes require agencies and the Civil Service Commission to place positions in their appropriate grades, based upon the duties and responsibilities of the positions. Classification determinations reached during the freeze, which would entail upgrading of a position and promotion of an employee, based upon duties assigned and actually being performed prior to the freeze, will be effected. For example, a Commission decision on a position classification appeal, which is issued during the freeze period, and classifies the position to a higher grade, must be complied with.

11. Suppose an agency planned to rearrange duties during the freeze, and some jobs in an office would then be worth higher grades - would promotions be permitted?

**Answer:** No. The rearrangement or redistribution of duties, is something management can control. The

## PERSONNEL PERSPECTIVE

### Questions and Answers About the Freeze

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"upgrading" situation described in question 10 is not a matter of planned management action, but recognition that a position has changed over time, and has been operating at a higher level for some time.

12. With hiring and promotions frozen, what can an agency do to fill essential jobs which are vacant?

Answer: The personnel system contains provisions to meet such situations. An agency may detail, i.e., temporarily assign, employees to other positions, or reassign them, i.e., to move to another job at the same grade level. Depending on such factors as how much attrition takes place, agencies may have to make choices of priorities to assure the most essential services are carried out. Less important activities may have to be delayed or slowed down.

### Summer Employment Examination

The Civil Service Commission's examination announcement #414, "Summer Jobs in Federal Agencies," was issued on October 30, 1972. The announcement covers all career-related sub-professional positions in grades GS-3 and GS-4 and all clerical positions grades GS-1 through GS-4.

This is a reminder that all candidates for summer employment at grades GS-1 through 4 must file with the U.S. Civil Service Commission to take the written test unless they qualify as an "Outstanding Student". Applications must be postmarked by December 29, 1972, for the next testing date of February 10, 1972.

An "Outstanding Student" is one who has completed at least two years of College (60 semester hours, or equivalent) at the end of the school year and who has a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or above (on 4.0 scale) at time of application.

Forms required in making application for the written test or for applying based on grade-point average are included on the last page of the announcement. Applicants may obtain a copy of the announcement from their college placement office and the Federal Job Information and Testing Centers at the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

Attention is called to the fact that there is a typographical error on page one of the announcement under the heading of "Group 1". It is printed that this group includes grades GS-1 through 5--this should read grades GS-1 through 4.

### Health Benefits for the Retiree

The Federal Employees Health Benefits law allows a retiree to continue his health benefits into retirement if his retirement is:

- on an immediate annuity
- after 12 or more years of service or under the disability provisions of the retirement law, and
- after enrollment in a plan under the Program during
  - the 5 years of service immediately preceding retirement or
  - all service since his first opportunity to enroll.

Because there is no authority to waive these requirements, employees should be aware of the above. Additional information about the health benefits program should be requested from the personnel office.

### Holiday Activities and Gratuities

With the Christmas season approaching, the Department of Commerce desires to bring to all employees' attention the policy on holiday activities and gratuities.

1. Leave - Supervisors should maintain a liberal leave policy to employees who request leave and whose services can be spared.

2. Christmas Parties - Parties not to exceed one hour of work time may be held before Christmas in each operating unit. This hour may be combined with the regular 30 minute lunch period. No employee may be granted excused absences during this period and no activities may be held on Department premises after working hours.

3. Conduct - All supervisors are requested to see to it personally that employees conduct themselves in such a manner that no reasonable criticism may be directed to the Department.

4. Gifts - Many people desire to express their feelings of **friendship** to associates during the holiday season. However, Government employees are considered as occupying a position of trust and are forbidden, by law and regulations, to give presents to official supervisors or to accept them from employees receiving lower salaries than themselves. In addition, Government employees are forbidden to accept any favors or gifts, the acceptance of which might be construed as contrary to public interest.

## Rotation of NOAA Personnel In Antarctic Is Underway

NOAA is in the process of rotating the scientists and technicians who conduct the geophysical monitoring program in Antarctica as part of the NSF-funded U.S. national program. Activities during the 1971-1972 expedition year at the South Pole included a geomagnetic and seismological observatory program; meteorological monitoring; riometer observations; and geophysical monitoring for climatic change. The personnel involved were Lt. Larry Minter, Edward Jessup, Harold Hoots, and Vernon Rumble, who already have returned or will be returning shortly. The 1972-1973 program will be essentially the same and will be staffed by Lt. Gary Adair, Bruce Webster, Marvin Kempton, and Russell Wertz.

### Harold M. and Marion Jordan Die

Harold M. Jordan, Chief of the Automated Analysis Branch at the National Weather Service's National Meteorological Center in Suitland, Md., for the past four years, and his wife, Marion, were among those who died in the December 8 air tragedy in Chicago, Ill. He had been in the NMC since its inception in 1958, having served in the National Weather Analysis Center (forerunner to the NMC) since 1955. He previously was a Weather Service aviation forecaster at LaGuardia and Kennedy Airports in New York City and a weather officer during World War II. They are survived by a son, Steven, of Oak Park, Ill., a daughter, Mrs. David (Carol) Sunshine, of Milton, Vt., and a grandson.

### Special Radio Advisories for Tuna Fleet (Continued from page 1)

ship weather and sea-surface temperature observations; satellite data received at the NMFS center; the Navy Fleet Numerical Weather Center at Monterey; NOAA National Weather Service bulletins covering storm warnings and other weather advisories; and cooperating fishing vessels.

Communiqués are regularly issued on the sea state, including details about wave swell direction and height, and wind-wave height. A chart is sent weekly, which displays and analyzes sea-surface temperature for a seven-day period; another weekly chart conveys information on the direction and speed of surface winds, location and direction of movement of tropical cyclones, location of squall areas and other inclement weather, and location of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone. (The zone is a favorable area for tuna fishing because of the high frequency of light winds and seas required for purse-seine fishery.) The charts cover a geographical area of 7 million square miles, from the American West Coast to 140° W. between latitudes 30° N. and 5° S.

The advisories increase fishermen's ability to make sound tactical fishery decisions and to maneuver safely under a

## Boulder Science Centers Toured By Students From 78 Countries

Students from 78 countries toured NOAA's Space Environment Services Center and National Earthquake Information Center in Boulder, Colo., on Dec. 10, as part of a two-week tour of the United States' major space and science centers.

The group was participating in the International Youth Science Tour sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The purpose of the tour is to give young people throughout the world some idea of the scope of the space program and the development of science in this country. Participants were selected by their governments, and ranged in age from 15 to 17 years.

While in Boulder, the group also visited facilities of the National Bureau of Standards and the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

### G.L. Robinson Is MIC at Palmdale, Calif.



Gerald L. Robinson has been appointed Meteorologist in Charge of the Weather Service Office in Palmdale, Calif. He was formerly a Weather Radar Specialist at the Auburn, Wash., Weather Service Office (Radar). His earlier assignments were at Las Vegas, Nev., and Stampede Pass, Wash.

variety of weather conditions. The service also provides a "feedback" to marine scientists at work on the oceanography of Pacific waters. Fishermen have sent via radio more than 1,800 oceanographic and bathythermograph observations that have been added to the NMFS center's data collections.



Dr. Laurs (right) recently received a Special Achievement Award of \$350 for his pioneering work in developing the fishery advisory service. It was presented to him by Dr. Brian J. Rothschild, Director of the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center.

## Puget Sound Chum Salmon Catch Reaches New High, NMFS Reports

Puget Sound catches of fall, or chum, salmon topped all previous records in the area, according to a late October report by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The number of salmon caught -- 590,000 (5.9 million pounds) -- was nearly seven times higher than last year's catch of 85,000 fish and 150 percent greater than the 1968 total, which was considered notably high. Biggest increase was in the Point Roberts area of the Sound, where the catch was 149,145 fish.



### notes about people...

Richard Morse, EDS Associate Director, Marine Sciences, and T. Winterfeld, of NODC's Development Division, recently participated in a three-day meeting of chairmen of ad hoc groups of the Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission Working Group on International Oceanographic Data Exchange in Brest, France. Principal items discussed were the development of new arrangements for international exchange, development of standard multi-disciplinary exchange formats, and first- and second-level data inventories for oceanographic and related data and information.

Ceel Van Den Brink, the National Weather Service's Agricultural Advisory Meteorologist in Lansing, Mich., has been selected Chairman of the American Society for Horticultural Science's Committee for Climatology and Meteorology for 1973-1974. Also, he was recently commended by the Society's President, Charles E. Hess, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at Rutgers University, for his activities and efforts in educating the society about its dependence upon the NWS.

Dennis L. Meredith, science editor for the University of Rhode Island's Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service, is the winner of a \$1,000 award for excellence in science writing in a competition sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Westinghouse. Mr. Meredith's entry in the contest's classification covering science writing in newspapers with under 100,000 circulation was a series of articles on nuclear power plant siting. The effects of nuclear power plant cooling processes on marine ecology, which are of major concern to environmentalists, were dealt with at some length in Mr. Meredith's series of articles. The award will be presented during the AAAS annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in late December.

## Commander James Collins Named To National Geodetic Survey Post

Commander James Collins is now Deputy Director of the National Geodetic Survey, the first to hold that position. The NGS



*Cdr. Collins*

is a branch of the National Ocean Survey. Cdr. Collins will serve under Captain Leonard S. Baker, NGS Director, at NOS headquarters in Rockville, Md.

Cdr. Collins joined the NOS' predecessor, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, in 1960 following his graduation from Northeastern University. Since then he has served on six ships, most recently as commanding officer of the RUDE and HECK, with various geodetic field parties, and in Norfolk, Va., and in Rockville. He holds a Ph.D., with a major in geodesy from Purdue University.

## Nile Woltman Is New MIC at Eugene, Oreg.

Nile Woltman, former Principal Assistant at the Pendleton, Oreg., Weather Service



Office, is the new Meteorologist in Charge at the Eugene, Oreg., WSO. He began his NWS career at Pendleton in 1967, after 15 years' service in the Air Force as a weather officer and navigator. He received his B.S. degree in meteorology from the University of Washington in 1959.

## Trouble-Shooters (Continued from page 1)

with the applicable laws and ordinances.

The team is made up of fifteen scientists and engineers at the university who carry out normal university teaching and research activities. To form the team on an experimental basis, they obtained Sea Grant funding from the NOAA grant and private sources, for the equivalent of one person for six months, with any of the fifteen available to be called upon for a brief period of time to participate in a task force. Among them are specialists in such areas as water quality, environmental health, waste treatment, coastal pollution, air pollution, transportation engineering, computer sciences, chemical oceanography, microbiology, and aquatic biology.

An important adjunct to the team operations is an environmental information center, directed by a research chemist. The information center organizes reference material on environmental quality for the use of the team members, and maintains documentation of the projects accomplished by the task forces.

## NOAA Personnel Participating In Space Shuttle Planning

The first manned orbital flight of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's space shuttle system is planned for 1978 or 1979. The shuttles are expected to provide manned laboratory and observatory facilities during the missions. In this connection, working groups are being established to advise NASA on the planned experiments. NOAA personnel are among the Government, industry, and university representatives comprising some of the groups established to date.

Dr. William O. Davis, of the Office of Environmental Monitoring and Prediction, is the NOAA member of the Earth Observations Working Group. Three panels of experts have been formed to make recommendations to the Working Group in the disciplinary areas of meteorology, oceanography, and earth resources. NOAA panel members include: Dr. Sigmund Fritz, National Environmental Satellite Service; Dr. C. Gordon Little and Donald H. Pack, Environmental Research Laboratories (Meteorology); Max S. Mull, National Weather Service; I. Y. Fitzgerald, National Ocean Survey; John W. Sherman, III, NESS; and Dr. John R. Apel, ERL (Oceanography); and Dr. E. Paul McClain, NESS, and Lawrence W. Fritz, NOS (Earth Resources).

Two space shuttle study groups have been appointed to design and implement a set of active experiments as part of a plasma physics and environmental perturbation laboratory on the shuttle.

William Bernstein of ERL's Space Environmental Laboratory in Boulder, Colo., is chairman of a group which is studying the modification of the magnetosphere and the interaction of particle beams with space plasmas. Other members of his study group include: Joseph N. Barfield of EDS, David S. Evans of SEL, Tom E. Holzer and George C. Reid, both of ERL's Aeronomy Laboratory.

John R. McAfee of ERL's Aeronomy Laboratory is chairman of the other study group which is involved in the areas of waves and plasmas. Wynn Calvert of ERL's Wave Propagation Laboratory is a member of this group.

### Walter L. Eppel Dies

Walter L. Eppel, an Electronic Technician at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Philadelphia, Pa., died in Havre de Grace, Md., on December 10. He had had more than 18 years' Federal service, and had been with the NWS since 1968, serving in Washington, D.C., and Syracuse, N.Y., before transferring to Philadelphia in October 1972.

## Billfish Tournament Data Reveal Male Blue Marlins May Be Lonely

On the basis of the male-to-female ratio among billfish caught in this year's Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament, a male blue marlin is hard put to find a mate this season. Tournament biologist J. Naughton of the National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Center ascertained after the event that among the 77 blue marlin caught, the sex ratio was eight males to one female. Reasons for the unusually high imbalance -- the previous ratio was found to be 4.5 to one -- are not known. Whether the females are more clever than males at evading fishermen's lures, were off somewhere else "doing their thing," or were naturally in short supply at fishing sites, is anybody's guess.

NMFS will add the data collected from this year's billfish tournament to past findings, toward the eventual production of detailed analyses of sportfish populations of the Pacific.

### A.J. Suzuki Becomes OIC at Yap



Akira J. Suzuki (left) was sworn in on November 27 as the Official in Charge of the Weather Service Office on Yap. The oath was administered by P. H. Kutschenreuter (right), Director of the NWS Pacific Region. In the center is John G. Norris, PRH personnel officer.

Mr. Suzuki, formerly the supervisory weather observer at the WSO at Ponape, is the second Micronesian named to be an OIC this year.

He entered the NWS in May 1954 after graduating from the Pacific Islands Central High School at Truk. Except for a short assignment at WSO Truk, he has spent all of his 18 years at Ponape, where he became supervisory observer in 1963.

Items to be considered for publication in NOAA WEEK should be submitted to:  
Office of Public Affairs, NOAA, Room 221, Bldg. 5, Rockville, Md. 20852. Phone (301) 496-8243.

# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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