FRANK APPOINTED NOAA ADMINISTRATOR

Commerce Secretary Juanita M. Kreps administers the oath of office to Richard A. Frank.

Richard A. Frank, former director of the Nation's first and largest public interest law firm, has been appointed NOAA Administrator by President Carter.

Mr. Frank took over the NOAA post from Dr. Robert M. White, the organization's Administrator since its formation in 1970. Dr. White has accepted the Chairmanship of the Climate Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences.

Prior to his new appointment, Mr. Frank headed the Center for Law and Social Policy in Washington, D.C. The Center's activities include health care, women's rights, and mine health and safety.

In his first months as NOAA Administrator, Mr. Frank has taken several steps toward reshaping the organization to help it meet new and growing responsibilities for ocean use and resource management and climate and weather modification.

A reorganization plan, recommended by Mr. Frank and approved by Commerce Secretary Juanita M. Kreps, will involve major realignment of administrative duties and the addition of several new offices at the top levels of the Administration.

Another of Mr. Frank's major concerns since taking over as NOAA Administrator has been the bowhead whale issue involving the International Whaling Commission's action extending its ban on bowhead hunting to include the traditional hunting of the creatures by Alaskan natives.

In October, Mr. Frank announced the formulation of an expanded research program on bowhead whales and initiation of the development of a management and conservation regime of the bowhead whale stock in cooperation with the Eskimo communities involved in hunting for bowheads. Mr. Frank stated that he would personally work for IWC approval of a reasonable subsistence hunt.

Within NOAA, Mr. Frank has dealt with several complex areas of concern including formation of a multi-use facility at Sand Point in Seattle, Wash. Mr. Frank visited the future site of the 116-acre Western Regional Center which will bring together nine NOAA elements now scattered in seven locations in Seattle.

Shortly after coming to NOAA, Mr. Frank supported a program requesting NOAA employees to submit suggestions for humanizing the work place. More than 400 employees responded with more than 900 suggestions. Each idea was sent to the appropriate unit in NOAA for evaluation and, where practical, resolution.

Mr. Frank's experience in environmental issues and Government policy matters extends back over a varied career in the practice of law.

Prior to his appointment as NOAA Administrator, Mr. Frank was involved with the Center for Law and Social Policy's International Project, representing a wide range of public-interest clients—consumers, church groups, environmental organizations—on such international issues as trade, ocean environment, and human rights.

During his tenure with the International Project, Mr. Frank participated in such areas as law of the sea, deepsea mining, pesticide exports, nuclear export policy, and weather modification.

Born in Omaha, Nebr., in 1936, Mr. Frank received an A.B. degree from Harvard College in 1958 and a J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1962.

From 1962 to 1969, he was with the State Department's Office of the Legal Advisor, in Washington, D.C., where he was responsible for economic-legal matters in trade, transportation and communication, international business and banking, international environmental issues, foreign assistance and military assistance.

During his State Department tour, he participated in a wide variety of activities, such as the 1969 arbitration with Brazil over coffee; as U.S. spokesman during the INTELSAT conference; and representing the United States at conferences to draft oil pollution conventions. He participated in the drafting and negotiation of the Panama Canal treaties, served as counsel before Senate and House investigating committees and with respect to the Warren Commission Report.

Frank aboard the NOAA ship Rainier during visit to Seattle with (from left) Leonard Saari, Representative of the Secretary of Commerce, Region X, R. Adm. Eugene Taylor, Director Pacific Marine Center, and Lt. Cdr. Thomas Richards.

New NOAA Radar May Become Major Environmental Tool

A current-sensing radar developed by NOAA may become a major tool for monitoring sea pollutants and setting environmental baselines where petroleum and other exploration are planned.

The radar permits monitoring of surface currents up to 50 miles and enables production of current-movement computer maps over 750 square miles every half hour, according to NOAA scientists.

Developed by scientists of the Wave Propagation Laboratory, the new radar system could provide an effective alternative to surface drifters, drogues, and other ocean current determination methods now used that measure water motion only at a single point.

According to Dr. Donald Barrick, the Alaska results showed that "...we can produce a single current-vector map covering thousands of square kilometers after only 15 minutes of operation; we can gather at least a thousand times more data in a given twelve-hour period than any alternative technique; and our system error is at worst half a knot of current velocity, and probably much better."

NOAA's new radar system deduces ocean current velocity by sensing the scattering of radar echoes by ocean waves. The underlying principle of the system was first demonstrated experimentally by Dr. Douglass Crombie, now director of the Commerce Department's Institute for Telecommunications Science in Boulder. Nearly a decade later, in the mid-1960's, the observed phenomenon was confirmed theoretically by Barrick, in what is considered a breakthrough in wave propagation theory.