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ADMINISTRATION

CONTACT: Chris Smith, Public Affairs Officer
(727) 570-5301
Pager (888) 955-4854

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NOAA FISHERIES APPOINTS NEW SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

William T. Hogarth, director of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), today announced the appointment of Roy E. Crabtree as the administrator of NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region. Crabtree brings more than 20 years of scientific, teaching, and managerial experience to his new position.

"We are delighted that Roy has accepted this appointment," said Hogarth. "His considerable experience as a scientist, businessman, marine fisheries manager, and leader make him uniquely well qualified to serve the diverse constituencies and meet the many challenges he'll face in this vast region."

NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region encompasses the eight coastal states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, the inland states of Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tennessee, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Crabtree, 48, is married and has three daughters. A native of Chapel Hill, N.C., he earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Furman University in 1976, his master's degree in marine science from the University of South Carolina in 1978, and his doctorate in marine science from the College of William and Mary in 1984. He has served as research fishery biologist for the South Carolina Marine Resources Center, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and the Florida Marine Research Institute. His managerial experience includes operating his own fishing guide business in the Florida Keys and Everglades National Park, service as a fishery management specialist with NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region and, most recently, as the Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Division of Marine Fisheries.

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“This is really a homecoming for me and I look forward to working with my colleagues at the regional office again as well as the fine staffs at our science center in Miami and our laboratories,” said Crabtree. “I’m committed to delivering the best possible scientific and management services by nurturing the strong relationships we already enjoy with three fishery management councils and our many partners in the public and private sectors.”

NOAA Fisheries is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation’s living marine resources through scientific research, management, enforcement and the conservation of marine mammals and other protected marine species and their habitat. To learn more about NOAA Fisheries, please visit <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

The Commerce Department’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation’s coastal and marine resources. To learn more about NOAA, please visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

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Photo caption: Roy Crabtree (L) is congratulated by Rollie Schmitt, the Chief of NOAA Fisheries Habitat Conservation Division who also served temporarily as the Acting Administrator of NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region.