

Meet the New AD

Dr. F. Eugene Hester has been appointed Associate Director for Natural Resources for the National Park Service. Before joining the Service, he was Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1981-1987). Hester began his career in 1959 as Assistant Professor of Zoology at North Carolina State University. In 1963, he left this position to become the leader of the North Carolina Cooperative Fishery Research Unit of the USFWS. He became Chief of the Division of Fishery Research in 1971 and later was made Associate Director for Research (1974-1981). Among the numerous awards Hester has received for his service with the Federal Government, are the Department of the Interior Meritorious Service Award (1981) and a Presidential Distinguished Rank Award (1982).

He has a B.S. from North Carolina State University, an M.S. in wildlife biology from North Carolina State, and a Ph.D. in fisheries from Auburn University. He has published widely on fish genetics, fisheries management, and waterfowl population dynamics. An accomplished wildlife photographer, he has had photos published in and on the cover of many magazines.

Of the many diverse natural resource issues in the NPS science sphere, Dr. Hester indicated particular interest in genetic and biological diversity, the implementation of a Servicewide strategy to collect baseline inventory and long-term monitoring information, and the ecological impacts of adjacent land use changes on resources in the parks. One of Dr. Hester's first activities will be to visit the Regions, meet with the Regional Directors, Regional natural resource management and science staffs, and park staffs, and discuss how the Washington Office can help them address natural resource management problems. He expressed particular interest in assuring that the necessary communications occur between managers and scientists so that management decisions will be based on good scientific information.

