

# Ecosystem-Based Research

Reorganization of the SER office of the Deputy A/RD for Science and Natural Resources will more fully support an ecosystem-based research program. Three divisions have been established under direction of Regional Chief Scientist Dominic Dottavio: (1) Natural Resource Management, (2) Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Research, and (3) Terrestrial Ecosystem Research.

Rick Dawson, chief of the natural resource management division, is responsible for the Region's resource management planning, minerals, oil and gas, GIS, endangered species, wildlife, integrated pest management, air quality, water quality, vegetation management, publications, and social science.

Gary Hendrix, chief of the coastal and marine ecosystem research division, and Susan Bratton, chief of the terrestrial ecosystem research division, are responsible for administering research in their respective areas. This includes preparation of ecosystem research plans, inventory and monitoring proposals, and proposals for WASO special initiatives; supervision of the Region's field scientists and research projects; and development of cooperative research programs.

Research positions supported by Regional funds will investigate questions of regional scope as well as park-specific issues. The field scientists are assigned to either the chief of coastal and marine ecosystem research or the chief of terrestrial ecosystem research.

SER Director Bob Baker expressed belief that these changes "will focus existing financial and manpower resources, make our Region and parks more attractive for funding and cooperative programs with other agencies, and establish a more consistent research policy among the parks."