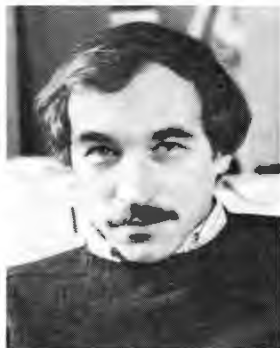


regional highlights

Spotlight on A Region: North Atlantic

On Oct. 1, 1983, Dr. Michael Soukup assumed the position of Chief Scientist for the North Atlantic Region. Mike, an aquatic management biologist, has served as Deputy Regional Chief Scientist for the past four years. He takes over for Dr. Paul Buckley who leaves to become first Director of the Cooperative Park Studies Unit at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

A variety of field research projects were conducted this past summer in North Atlantic Regional parks. Researchers from the University of Maine and College of the Atlantic (Bar Harbor, ME) continued field work on the effects of acid rain on water resources in Acadia NP. At Fire Island National Seashore, Dr. William Patterson (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) working under a cooperative agreement with the US Forest Service, studied fire ecology and determined the Island's fire history. This completes a series of fire history studies at ACAD, CACO, and FHS which have been initiated and coordinated by Mary Foley, Air Quality Specialist. These studies will provide each park with the basis for fire management plans.



Mike Soukup

Bill Patterson, with funding provided by the Interdisciplinary Science Team initiative, also led an investigation of the vegetative and land-use history of the William Floyd Estate. The team included Dr. Mark Sayre (Wildlife Biologist, U/Mass., Amherst) who evaluated the present and historical trends in wildlife habitat, Dr. Steve Kesselman (Historian and the Unit Manager) and James Clark, a University of Massachusetts palynologist.

Dr. Howard Ginsburg (Stonybrook University) conducted research on mosquito population dynamics, with emphasis on their migratory capabilities. Dr. Alan MacIntosh and graduate student Mark Sprenger (Rutgers University) surveyed water resources at Fire Island National Seashore to determine the level of water quality problems. In addition, as an in-house project with the Fire Island NS staff, a deer census was initiated.

Ann Lewis, a forest ecologist, completed a vegetation inventory for the FDR National Historic Site. Researchers from Associated Ecologists, Inc. and the County College of Morris investigated water quality and aquatic organism distribution at Morristown National Historical Park. At Gateway National Recreation Area, Dr. Raul Cardenas (Polytechnic Institute of New York) completed his field season evaluation coastal water quality and the present park monitoring effort. Professors Bill Harris and Peter Franz (Brooklyn College) finished their field work on benthos population distributions in the Jamaica Bay (GATE).

Rutgers University completed two coastal geomorphology projects: (1) the development of an aeolian sediment budget for the south shore of Long Island barrier islands from Fire Island to Montauk Point and, (2) monitoring of sediment dynamics accompanying the beach nourishment project at Sandy Hook Unit (GATE). NARO's Coastal Geomorphologist, Dr. James Allen continues to be involved in shoreline studies at Gateway NRA and Fire Island NS plus paleogeographic reconstructions through vibracoring analysis at Sandy Hook (GATE), Cape Cod National Seashore, and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site.

Bob Johnson (a student at the University of Lowell) has provided analytical determinations for our in-house water quality investigations (mosquito ditching impacts, Herring River, (CACO), Marshall Brook (ACAD), and Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site) under a no-cost cooperative agreement with EPA's Lexington Laboratory.

Copies of the final reports will be available at the conclusion of these projects from the Office of Scientific Studies, North Atlantic Region, National Park Service.

Resource Management and Visitor Protection within the Division of Management and Operations has two new staff appointments. Len Bobinchock is the Resource and Visitor Protection Specialist and Nora Mitchell is the Resource Management Specialist. They will be developing new initiatives for the NAR Resource Management Program in close cooperation with the Office of Scientific Studies.