

Western Region

From Gary Davis, marine research biologist at Channel Islands NP, comes the xerox of an abstract, in Russian, of a recent paper Davis wrote for the *Bulletin of Marine Science*. The paper was translated into Russian and the abstract published in the USSR.

Davis delivered, on Nov. 5, 1983, at the Third International Artificial Reef Conference in Biscayne NP, Florida, a paper describing the effective mitigation of marina construction impacts on lobsters in the Florida park. The paper will be published in the *Bulletin of Marine Science*.

Wrote Davis: "I made useful new contacts with marine scientists from Israel, Australia, and the Philippines regarding the role of parks and sanctuaries in managing marine resources and fisheries. I was told by a representative of the Florida Department of Natural Resources that renewal of the Biscayne Bay lobster sanctuary by the State of Florida was proceeding smoothly, and should be accomplished without difficulty. The conference was also an opportunity to demonstrate to the Pacific Coast scientific community the high quality of marine research the National Park Service supports. It was one of the best conferences I have attended."

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Dave Parsons, research scientist at Sequoia and Kings Canyon NPs, is the author of "Wilderness Protection: An Example from the Southern Sierra Nevada, USA," published in the Spring 1983 issue of *Environmental Conservation*. "The need to take an active hand in assuring the preservation of naturally functioning communities, even within legally protected areas," he writes, "presents one of this era's greatest challenges to land managers." The article is a case study of the Rae Lakes Basin area in Kings Canyon NP.

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Word comes from Kheryn Klubnikin, resource manager at Santa Monica Mountains NRA, about the park's Science Working Group. Klubnikin said she realized in 1982 that no one knew what scientific work had been done or was on-going at the park and it occurred to her that a survey would reveal the extent of past and current research, the level of interest among southern California scientists, and the potential "pool" of expertise on which the park might draw in times of need.

Of 1,000 questionnaires she sent out, Klubnikin received 210 back, showing a high level of interest in the area. About 72 on-going research projects were revealed, providing the basis for the first Superintendent's Annual Research Report, and a large number of classes were found to be using the mountains for field studies. Out of this interest began to grow the *ad hoc* Working Group, with impetus from the Park's Advisory Commission, which sees the Group as a way

of bringing well-known experts into the Resource Management planning process, especially in the design of projects.

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"The Ecology and Management of the Mineral King Deer Herd" is the title of a study by D.C. Cornett, W.M. Longhurst, R.E. Hafenfeld, T.P. Hemker, and W.A. Williams, published by the Cooperative NP Resources Studies Unit at U/Cal, Davis as Technical Report #14. Field work from 1976 to 1978 defined the ecology of the herd, its history, population size, food habits, seasonal movements, mortality factor, range condition and boundaries, and use of distinct habitat types. Observations also were made of deer behavior relative to human activity in fawning areas on summer range. Land ownership (a mixture of private and public land administered by BLM), herd biology, and range vegetation were considered in order to develop management recommendations for the herd.