

Mike Boylan Receives Meritorious Service Award

On August 14, Assistant Secretary for Fish Wildlife and Parks Thomas L. Strickland presented Region 7 Refuge Supervisor Michael Boylan with the Meritorious Service Award of the Department of the Interior. The Meritorious Service Award is the second highest Departmental award that can be given to a career employee. The presentation took place at the conclusion of a Regional all-employee gathering marking the Assistant Secretary's first official visit to Alaska.

The award recognized Boylan's many accomplishments during a career in the Service that has taken him from Ohio's Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge to the remote Adak Naval Air Station in the heart of the Aleutians Island Unit of Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, with stops along the way to serve in the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Washington D.C., and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, the most visited refuge in Alaska. Mike now serves as one of Region 7's two refuge supervisors, and oversees management of the Arctic, Yukon Delta, Yukon Flats, Kanuti, Izembek, Tetlin, and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska, which total almost 53 million square miles.

Specifically mentioned in the award citation were Boylan's history of support for youth and young adult programs; his creative approaches to outreach and education; his dedication to strong partnerships; and his roles in laying the foundations for the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act and the system's *Fulfilling the Promise* vision document.

Mike's dedication to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and his passion for its mission have been evident to everyone who's been fortunate enough to work with him. Though he was obviously surprised at receiving this award, it was well deserved and roundly applauded by his co-workers.