

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Brown 202/343-5687

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### ENDANGERED SPECIES SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY GETS FIRST EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND CHARTER

The Interior Department today announced the appointment of William Y. Brown, a zoologist and lawyer, as Executive Secretary of a recently formed government group called the "Endangered Species Scientific Authority," the ESSA--a body to be the final authority over the scientific policies concerning the regulation of international trade in endangered plants and animals.

Dr. Brown holds a Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Hawaii and a J.D. from the Harvard Law School. He previously taught biology at Mount Holyoke College and has served with several Federal agencies, including one year as a consultant to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Dr. Brown is presently living in Silver Spring, Maryland, and is married to Judith Anne Johnson, a fourth-year student at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School.

The interim charter of this new body was published in the July 11, 1977, Federal Register, and public comment is invited on it. Address comments to Executive Secretary, ESSA, 18th & C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Foremost among the responsibilities of this group are establishing scientific policies regulating international trade in animals and plants protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, known as the "CITES."

Each nation which ratified the CITES is to establish a Scientific Authority and a Management Authority, with the former setting basic scientific policy on trade, and the latter actually issuing and administering permits, formally communicating with the Parties and making certain legal determinations. The Fish and Wildlife Service is the U.S. Management Authority. The ESSA's role under the Treaty is coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's permit program for trade in animals.

The ESSA itself was established by Presidential Order on April 13, 1976, and is composed of representatives of six Federal agencies and the Smithsonian Institution. The ESSA is chaired by John Spinks, Chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Endangered Species. Also members are Dr. Robert L. Williamson, Department of Agriculture; Dr. R. V. Miller, Department of Commerce; Dr. Joe R. Held, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Mr. William Sievers, National Science Foundation; Dr. Lee M. Talbot, Council on Environmental Quality; and Dr. David Challinor, Smithsonian Institution. Decisions of the ESSA are made by majority vote so that no single member, department, or agency controls the organization.