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★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Flanagan - Interior 5634

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JOSEPH F. PUNCOCHAR NAMED ASSISTANT TO FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COMMISSIONER

Joseph F. Puncochar of Baltimore, long-time Federal official, has been named Assistant for Program Review in the office of the Commissioner of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today.

Mr. Puncochar, 50, will begin his new duties January 7, and he succeeds O. Lloyd Meehean who retired December 8. He is currently research director for the Maine Sardine Council in Bangor, a position he has held for two and a half years. Prior to his present job, he had been with the Fish and Wildlife Service for 24 years.

In his new position, Mr. Puncochar will be responsible for over-all Fish and Wildlife Service program review and appraisal for the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. His responsibilities will cover such diverse programs as increasing the efficiency of the Nation's commercial fishing industry to preserving the 32 remaining wild whooping cranes.

He graduated from the University of Maryland with a major in bacteriology. Shortly after graduation in 1936, he became a bacteriologist for the former United States Bureau of Fisheries.

After fishery service in Puerto Rico, he spent 10 years as Director of the Service's technological laboratory in Boston, and was promoted then to Assistant Regional Director for the Service in Boston.

In 1957 he became the Regional Director for the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries with offices in Gloucester, Massachusetts. This position he held until he resigned to go with the Maine Sardine industry.

Mr. Puncochar is married to the former Myrul Naomi Pfeiffer. They have three daughters Myrul Dora, Linda Jo, and Mary Lee.

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