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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT LABORATORY, PART OF WORLD'S LARGEST MARINE SCIENCE COMPLEX, TO BE DEDICATED IN FLORIDA

The new Tropical Atlantic Biological Laboratory, operated by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, will be dedicated in Miami, Fla., November 20, the Department announced today.

The new laboratory, at Virginia Key, is part of the world's largest tropical ocean science complex. Also to be dedicated at the same time is the Virginia Key Campus of the Institute of Marine Science, University of Miami. The new Federal Laboratory and the Marine Science Campus are on opposite sides of Rickenbacker Causeway, in Biscayne Bay, a short distance from downtown Miami.

Rear Admiral O. D. Waters, Jr., newly appointed Oceanographer of the United States Navy, will deliver the dedicatory address. Other speakers will include Dr. Stanley A. Cain, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks; Dr. Henry King Stanford, President of the University of Miami; Dr. Thomas S. Austin, Director of the new Federal laboratory; Dr. F. G. Walton Smith, Director of the Institute of Marine Science; and the Hon. Chuck Hall, Mayor of Dade County.

Donald L. McKernan, Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, said the new research installation is an expansion of the Biological Laboratory established in Washington, D.C., in 1958, and transferred to Miami earlier this year. He said the expanded facilities will enable the laboratory personnel to continue investigations of the tropical and equatorial Atlantic. These include surveys covering the distribution and abundance of surface schools of tuna and their availability to live-bait and purse-seining methods of fishing.

Investigations also will be continued, he said, involving variations in the physical, chemical, and biological environment that combine to produce concentrations of tuna schools.

Mr. McKernan said the dedication of the Tropical Atlantic Biological Laboratory is the culmination of years of planning by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries for the establishment of a laboratory devoted to the study of fishery-oceanography in the tropical Atlantic.

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