



NOAA

**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



**Statement by John Bullard
Announcing Increased NOAA Fisheries Presence in Mid-Atlantic
at the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
in Annapolis, Maryland
December 10, 2013**

When I took over as Regional Administrator for the Northeast Region of NOAA Fisheries, I wanted to get out and meet constituents to hear their issues and concerns. We conducted several meetings in the Mid-Atlantic -- in New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and North Carolina. One point that came up over and over was that NOAA Fisheries needed to expand its presence in this portion of our region.

I am pleased to announce that NOAA Fisheries is, indeed, stepping up our presence in the Mid-Atlantic. We are appointing Dr. Kevin Chu to serve as assistant regional administrator, charged with constituent engagement and located in the mid-Atlantic. We plan to establish a modest office in Annapolis, Maryland with the Chesapeake Bay office to augment the ongoing efforts of staff already located in New York, New Jersey and Virginia. Kevin will be my primary representative in the mid-Atlantic, and will report directly to me regarding what he hears from our stakeholders in the region.

Kevin brings an unusually wide range of experience to this new position. Trained as a whale biologist, Kevin has been with the NOAA Fisheries for almost 20 years. During that time, he has worked at Headquarters, at the Northeast and Southwest regional offices and at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. He has also worked at the US State Department and, briefly, for Congress. He has worked on a wide variety of issues of local, regional, national and international concern. He has served on international delegations and on consensus-building teams like marine mammal Take Reduction Teams. Most recently, he served as the Deputy Regional Administrator of the Southwest Regional Office, supervising a staff of 170 and coordinating the development of positions on habitat conservation, highly migratory species management and rebuilding salmon populations.

Perhaps one of Kevin's greatest strengths is that he is a good listener. This will come handy as he takes up his new NOAA Fisheries post here in Maryland.

To reach Kevin directly please contact him via email at Kevin.Chu@noaa.gov.