



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



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### **NOAA Selects Interim Southwest Fisheries Science Center Director**

LA JOLLA, Calif. – NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has asked Usha Varanasi, Ph.D., to assume oversight of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, Calif., while the process to select a permanent Director for the SW Center is underway.

Varanasi is the Director for the Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, Wash., and will work in both capacities during the job recruitment process.

“The Center is at a critical juncture now with the November retirement of long-time SW Deputy Director Norm Bartoo, and because of the rebuilding of the La Jolla Laboratory and the construction of a new research vessel to replace the DAVID STARR JORDAN,” said James W. Balsiger, Acting Director for National Marine Fisheries Service. “Dr. Varanasi brings a wealth of experience and scientific standing that will enhance the development of both projects while finding areas of synergy between our two Centers.”

Varanasi has been the Director of the Northwest Fisheries Science Center since 1994, when she became the first woman to lead one of NOAA Fisheries Service Science Centers. Dr. Varanasi is an accomplished scientist, leader, educator and mentor for young science students.

“It is a great opportunity to work with such a professional group of scientists as we expand our oceanographic research capabilities coast wide to keep pace with our rapidly changing environment,” Varanasi said.

The Southwest Fisheries Science Center employs approximately 250 personnel in La Jolla and its satellite laboratories in Santa Cruz and Pacific Grove, Calif. The Center has been managed for the last two years by the Deputy Director, Norm Bartoo, Ph.D, who will retire this November.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources.

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On the Web: Usha Varanasi, Ph.D, Biography: <http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/usha.cfm>  
High Resolution Photos of Usha Varanasi, Ph.D: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/usha.htm>