

Branch chief Cross

Jeffrey Cross has worked with marine and coastal issues throughout his career. After obtaining his PhD in marine fisheries from the University of Washington in 1981, he worked for about 10 years as a practicing fisheries biologist. He then moved to a management position as executive director of Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, a research institute focusing on the coastal ecosystems of southern California, in 1990. Cross moved to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1996, where he worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service. After five years he left NOAA for the National Park Service, where he served as chief of Resource Management at Grand Canyon National Park. "One of the reasons I came to the National Park Service was that we do hands-on resource management in the national parks." Cross wanted to head up this new branch because, as he says, "I was frustrated with the status of fishery



NPS/NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM CENTER

resources when I left NOAA. Most of the commercial and recreational fisheries were fully exploited or overexploited. The fishery science that was being produced was not always used effectively by fishery management councils to make decisions." Cross explains that one of his priorities is to avoid allowing economics to trump research for the purposes of developing sensible ocean and coastal resource protection policies for the National Park Service.