

Dr. Spiess receives John Price Wetherill Medal

June 24, 1965

Dr. Fred N. Spiess, Director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Marine Physical Laboratory, has been awarded the John Price Wetherill Medal by The Franklin Institute for "accomplishment in the field of oceanography."

Dr. Spiess, who is a Professor of Oceanography and has served as Director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, was recommended for the honor by the Committee on Science and the Arts of The Franklin Institute. Medals of the Institute are awarded annually at a dinner, this year to be held October 20 in Philadelphia.

The John Price Wetherill Silver Medal is awarded for discovery or invention in the physical sciences or for new and important combinations of principles or methods already known.

The citation which accompanies the medal reads: "In consideration of his long and distinguished record of individual accomplishment in the field of oceanography, but specifically for the skill with which he combined known with unconventional concepts in the successful development of the Navy's pioneer Floating Instrument Platform for underwater acoustic research."

The Floating Instrument Platform, better known as FLIP, was developed three years ago by the Marine Physical Laboratory under the direction of Dr. Spiess. Construction was financed by the Office of Naval Research which had a specific need for a stable open-sea platform from which to conduct research in the field of physical oceanography-- primarily underwater acoustics.

Dr. Spiess graduated from the University of California in 1941 and, after serving five years in the Navy, returned in 1946 to work at Harvard University where he received his Master's degree. He received his Ph.D. in physics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1952. He joined the staff of the Marine Physical Laboratory the same year and was named Director in 1958. In 1961 he was named Acting Director of Scripps, a position he maintained for a year and a half. In October, 1964, he began a nine month term as Director of Scripps.