

Dr. Warren S. Wooster appointed chairman of nationwide committee

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Dr. Warren S. Wooster, San Diego scientist, has been appointed chairman of a 45-man, nationwide steering committee to plan the scope and content of the scientific and engineering aspects of U. S. participation in the International Decade of Ocean Exploration (IDOE) for the 1970s.

Dr. Wooster is professor of oceanography at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, and president of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Resources.

Other Scripps representatives on the steering committee are Drs. E. D. Goldberg, Henry W. Menard, and Milner B. Schaefer, and Joseph L. Reid; and Dr. Alan R. Longhurst, who is also director of the La Jolla laboratories of the U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

The IDOE was proposed last March by the Executive Office of the President through the National Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development, of which Vice President Humphrey is chairman.

Representatives of the nation's oceanographic laboratories, government agencies, and industry comprise the steering committee, which was appointed jointly by Dr. Frederick Seitz, president of the National Academy of Sciences, and Dr. Eric A. Walker, president of the National Academy of Engineering.

"We believe it is important that scientists and engineers professionally active in the marine environment provide substantive judgment in the early phases of the formation of policy and programs for the proposed Decade," they said.

"This steering committee has the responsibility of guiding the NAS-NAE study on the scientific and engineering aspects of the scope and content appropriate for the proposed Decade."

The steering committee is holding its first planning sessions this week and next at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Mass.

On last March 8, President Johnson proposed launching "an historic and unprecedented adventure - the International Decade of Ocean Exploration for the 1970s."

He subsequently stated such activities could "expand cooperative efforts by scientists from many nations to probe the mysteries of the sea; increase our knowledge of food resources, to assist in meeting worldwide threats of malnutrition and disease; and bring closer the day when the people of the world can exploit new sources of minerals and fossil wealth."

Vice President Humphrey, as chairman of the NCMRED, sees the International Decade of Ocean Exploration as one of "intensified and sustained international exploration to plan, develop, and implement programs for exploring the world's oceans. The Decade of cooperative endeavor should set a pattern for other endeavors with tangible rewards - a pattern that can extend both seaward and landward of the water's edge."