

Acting Director Rowan W. Gould

Rowan Gould is the Fish and Wildlife Service's Deputy Director for Operations. In this capacity, he oversees regional directors, ensuring agency performance and accountability, consistent application of all Service resource management policies, and is responsible for the day-to-day Service operations.

Prior to his appointment as Deputy Director for Operations, Gould served as acting Fish and Wildlife Service Director during the transition to the new Administration.

As acting Director, Gould worked to promote the agency's mission and priorities throughout the United States and abroad by developing and strengthening partnerships with other Federal agencies and foreign governments, States, Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Gould ensured agency performance and accountability, customer service, and consistent application of all Service resource management policies; and was responsible for the day to day operations of the Service in implementing its field based mission.

Gould is a native of Oregon and received his B.A., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in fish health and fish biology from Oregon State University. Gould started his Service career as a research microbiologist at the Seattle National Research Center in 1976. Over Gould's extensive career with the Service, he has served in numerous research positions including as section chief at the National Fisheries Research Center in Seattle, Washington and the Director of the National Fisheries Research and Development Laboratory, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

Before stepping in as acting Director, Gould was selected in September 2008 as the agency's Deputy Director. Prior to that Gould was Assistant Director – Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration. Gould's other previous leadership positions include terms as Regional Director of the Alaska Region, Deputy Assistant Director for Fisheries in Washington, D.C., and Deputy Regional Director for the Service's Pacific Region.

Some noteworthy experiences for Gould came about when he served in Alaska. In 1989, as Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services and Fisheries, he was responsible for coordinating the Service's activities in response to the Exxon Valdez oil spill and served as the Department of Interior's representative to the inter-governmental oil spill damage assessment management team. After that, he served as the Assistant Regional Director for Refuges and Wildlife in Alaska, where his responsibilities included the oversight of the 77-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System and the Migratory Bird program.