

Mike Murphy's accomplishment and contributions to marine resource assessment and management in the US SE region span more than 35 years. After receiving his Master of Science from Texas A&M University, he joined the Florida Dept. of Natural Resources (later DEP and now FWC) in 1981 as a fishery biologist and spent his next 35 years devoting his time to advancement of our knowledge of fish population dynamics of many important estuarine and coast species in the SE region.

In the mid 1980's, Mike's research involved life history studies (growth, reproduction, and migration and movement) of spotted seatrout and red drum, leading to several peer reviewed publications that are still being used in stock assessment modeling. In the mid 1990's, Mike's research interest advanced toward quantitative fisheries assessment and modeling, applying and developing population dynamics models for stock assessment and management of important fish species in the SE region, generating more than 30 stock assessment reports used by the Commissions and Councils for managing marine fisheries in the SE region. Under his leadership since 2001, the stock assessment group at FWC-FWRI is one of the leading fisheries stock assessment and modeling group in the SE. Over the past 35 years, Mike has been a member of many technical committees serving various commissions and councils (GSMFC, ASMFC, GMFM, SAFMC) contributing to advancement of fisheries assessments and management processes at the state and federal levels.

Over the years, Mike has helped many young people get started. Mike was very generous in helping Florida's Fishery Independent Monitoring program get started in the late 1980's and early 1990's. He would go into the field and show new people how to set nets, record data, tag fish, and anything else that needed doing on a sampling trip. In the laboratory, he showed people how to cut otoliths and read otoliths. He spent many hours showing people how to discern the first annulus. As a founding member of the stock assessment group in 1992, he brought that same can-do attitude. Once he was puzzled when trying to reconstruct an age-structure and his resolution of the issue led to a publication on using the Chapman-Robson method with catch curves (1997). As an integral part of the stock assessment group, he has helped many new people learn to ask critical questions when analyzing populations.

Mike has been an active member of the American Fisheries Society for many years. He was Florida chapter president in 1993-94, has been a frequent speaker at the Chapter's annual meetings, and has always been willing to talk with new people. He helped out in other roles such as a regional editor for AFS's journals.

Overall, Mike Murphy is a good candidate for the Rich Cailteux Award.