

American Fisheries Society Genetics Section Hall of Excellence



Dr. Fred M. Utter

Dr. Fred M. Utter was a pioneer in the development of genetic methods for the study of natural populations and a visionary in his early advocacy of the critical importance of genetic information for managing fish populations. Considered one of the founding fathers of fishery genetics, Fred began his career at the NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center fishery genetics laboratory in 1959. He became the head of the laboratory in 1969 and led the genetics group until he retired from NOAA in 1988. In “retirement” Fred has remained active in the field of fisheries genetics as an adjunct professor at the University of Washington, co-editor of the Transactions of the American Fisheries Society for 18 years, past president of the Genetics Section, and many other related activities. Through his career Fred has mentored numerous graduate students, many of whom now occupy positions of leadership in the field. He has authored over 150 scientific publications, co-edited the influential book Population Genetics and Fishery Management, and has been a strong advocate and catalyst for getting research published by students and junior scientists.

Elected into the Genetics Section, Hall of Excellence, 2014