

American Fisheries Society Genetics Section Hall of Excellence



Dr. Bernard (Bernie) P. May

Bernie May has made many important contributions to fisheries genetics and aquatic resource management over his professional career. Bernie pioneered the application of allozyme electrophoresis to measure genetic variability in aquatic organisms. His work in gene mapping is the foundation for our current understanding of the salmonid genome. Bernie designed one of the earliest population genetic software programs (Genes in Populations) that used a graphic user interface. Bernie has been the director of the Genomic Variation Laboratory at UC Davis since 1995 where his research program applies cutting edge genetic tools to answer questions about the ecology and evolution of aquatic organisms distributed throughout North America. Much of his research has had direct management implications and there is an extensive list of federal, state, and tribal stakeholders that have benefitted from his expertise. Mentoring is a priority for Bernie and he has supported the career development of students, postdocs, and early career researchers. He has been dissertation or thesis advisor for 34 graduate students and has served on the committees of 28 others. Three of his 217 peer-reviewed publications papers have been recognized as outstanding by AFS through the Robert L. Kendall Award (1994, 2013) and the Phelps Award (2008). Many of the beneficiaries of Bernie's wisdom, selfless enthusiasm and vision have gone on to successful careers in academia or resource management.

Elected into the Genetics Section, Hall of Excellence, 2015