

DR. MICHAEL P. SISSEWINE

Dr. Sissenwine is a Visiting Scholar at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and an independent marine science consultant with projects worldwide. He served as Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor for the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service for three years until June 2005. He was responsible for about 25 laboratories, research on eight offshore research vessels and 1,400 staff throughout the U.S. His organization's mission was to provide the scientific basis for conservation and management of living marine resources and their ecosystems.

From 2002 until mid-2004 he also led eleven National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration programs, funded at a total of nearly one billion dollars annually, to support the Agency's stewardship mission. From 1996-2002, he served as Director of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, an institution comprised of five laboratories and approximately 300 staff. Previously, Dr. Sissenwine served for almost six years as the National Marine Fisheries Service Senior Scientist, overseeing the Agency's scientific programs throughout the U.S.

Dr. Sissenwine has over 30 years of experience as a research scientist, authoring over 100 scientific reports and publications on a wide range of topics including ecosystem dynamics, fisheries oceanography, resource assessments and fishery management theory and case studies. He is also the co-editor of three books. Dr. Sissenwine has convened several international scientific conferences. He has given testimony to the U.S. Congress, participated in radio talk shows and frequently been interviewed by the news media.

Dr. Sissenwine was President of the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES) from 2003-2006. He is a former Scientific Council member for the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization; a U.S. delegate to the Pacific Science Association (PSA) and former chair of the National Academy of Sciences' National Committee for PSA; a former member of the scientific steering committee for the U.S. Global Ecosystem Dynamics Program (GLOBEC) and a former co-director of GLOBEC; member of the Fishery Resources Commission of the World Humanity Action Trust of the UK; the former chair and current member of the Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research for the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO); participant in FAO "Expert Consultations" on Fisheries Management Techniques, the Precautionary Approach, Indicators of Sustainability, and Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries; and present and past member of several National Research Council Panels and Committees, and of its Ocean Studies Board. He served as an advisor to the Pew Foundation Conservation Fellows Program.

Dr. Sissenwine serves on many other advisory and scientific review groups and he has advised on research and resource management problems worldwide. Throughout his career, Dr. Sissenwine has provided scientific advice to U.S. policy makers and managers concerned with the conservation and management of marine living resources, such as legislatively mandated Fishery Management Councils. In 2004-2005, he served as the Chair of the Interagency Working Group of the National Oceanographic Partnership Program.

Dr. Sissenwine received a Presidential Rank Award, a Silver Medal and a Distinguished Career Award from the U.S. government. The American Fisheries Society honored him with both the William Ricker and the Elton Sette Awards for career excellence. He received his Ph.D. in oceanography from the University of Rhode Island in 1975.