

MICHAEL P. SISSENWINE

Dr. Michael Sissenwine is a Visiting Scholar of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Adjunct Professor at the School for Marine Science and Technology of the University of Massachusetts, and an independent marine science consultant with projects worldwide. He was President (2004-2006) of the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and chair (2008-20010) of its Advisory Committee. ICES coordinates marine science and advises European governments (including the European Union) on marine ecosystems. He was the Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor for the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (2002-2005). He was responsible for about 25 Laboratories, research on eight offshore research vessels and 1,400 staff throughout the USA. His organization's mission was to provide the scientific basis for conservation and management of marine living resources and their ecosystems. He also led eleven NOAA programs, funded at a total of about one billion dollars annually, that supported the Agency's stewardship mission (2002-2004). From 1996-2002, he served as Director of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, comprised of five laboratories and approximately 300 staff. Previously, Dr. Sissenwine served almost six years as the Senior Scientist of the National Marine Fisheries Service, overseeing the Agency's scientific programs throughout the USA.

Dr. Sissenwine has over 35 years of experience as a research scientist and scientific leader, 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 US Congress and a European Parliamentary Committee, participate in radio talk shows and frequently been interviewed by the news media.

Dr. Sissenwine is a former Scientific Council member for the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization; a US 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 US 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 of the Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research of 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 past member of several National Research Council Panels and Committees, including the Ocean Studies Board and the National Academies of Sciences' Board on International Scientific Organizations. He served as the chair of the Interagency Working Group of the National Oceanographic Partnership Program. He served as an advisor to the Pew Foundation Conservation Fellows Program. He was a member of the President's panel on Ocean Exploration. He serves on many other advisory and scientific review groups and he has advised on research and resource management problems worldwide. Throughout Dr. Sissenwine's career, he has provided scientific advice to policy makers and managers. He has served as a member of the Scientific and Statistical Committees of the New England and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils (NEFMC and CFMC), and as a member of the NEFMC.

Dr. Sissenwine received a Presidential Rank Award, Silver Medal, and Distinguished Career Award from the US Government. The American Fisheries Society honored him with three awards for career excellence named in honor of William Ricker, Elton Sette and Dwight Webster. In 2011, he received Outstanding Achievement Awards from both ICES and the American Institute of Research Fishery Biologist. He holds a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island (1975), from whom he received the 2009 Dean's List Award for distinguished alumni.