

American Fisheries Society

Genetics Section Hall of Excellence



Dr. Anthony Gharrett

Dr. Anthony Gharrett is a fisheries geneticist whose expertise informs the management and conservation of many culturally and economically important fish species in Alaska, particularly Pacific salmon and rockfishes. Tony has spent most of his career as a professor in Fisheries at the University of Alaska, but he held several interim positions during that time including visiting professorships at the University of Michigan and Hokkaido and Kitasato universities in Japan. His research stands out for its rigor and creativity, using novel methods such as freezing pink salmon sperm to create hybrid lines between the even and odd broodyear lines to understand outbreeding depression, and breeding an allozyme marker into a population of pink salmon to study the evolutionary dynamics of run timing. Dr. Gharrett was instrumental in the development of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Genetic Policy, and he played an important role in “melting the Ice Curtain” by initiating and sustaining research collaborations with Russian fisheries geneticists during Soviet times and since. He also cares deeply about mentoring his graduate students, who emerge with a profound understanding of population genetics and its applications to fisheries management. Many of the fisheries geneticist positions at the NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center and ADF&G have been and continue to be occupied by his students. He has authored more than 80 papers on fisheries genetics, three of which have won the Stevan Phelps Memorial Award for best genetics publication in an American Fisheries Society publication.

Elected into the Genetics Section Hall of Excellence 2023