

American Fisheries Society

Genetics Section Hall of Excellence



Dr. Ruth Phillips

Dr. Ruth Phillips had a very long career as a geneticist, receiving Master's (1964) and PhD (1967) degrees in a time when it was uncommon for women to do so. Ruth was highly collaborative and deeply engaged in the salmonid research community. She was especially known for providing skills and tools that were essential for the earliest days of physical chromosomal mapping aiding in the characterization of salmonid genome evolution, particularly as the age of salmonid genomics took off. She was widely recognized as an expert in fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH), and indeed, towards the end of her career, she was one of the only remaining researchers in fisheries genetics who practiced this technique. Her work laid an important foundation for what we now know about genome organization in salmonid genomes, which is important not only in evolutionary biology, but also in our broader understanding of the consequences of genome duplication. Her work has important ramifications for conservation and management as we learn more about the genomics of adaptation in a number of salmonid species. She mentored, directly and indirectly, countless students and postdocs throughout her long career. She was an inspiration to future generations of fisheries scientists, both men and women alike.

Elected into the Genetics Section Hall of Excellence 2024