



## **Thomas W. Gengerke**

Thomas Gengerke has distinguished himself as a leader for fisheries conservation both within the State of Iowa and regionally through his 35-year career. He worked for Cornell University and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in the 1970s. In 1977, Tom began his career with the Iowa Conservation Commission as Leader of the Mississippi River Research Team in Bellevue. While there, he authored a final report on paddlefish and initiated channel catfish research that formed the basis for common management strategies among the five States in the Upper Mississippi River Basin. From 1978 to 2008, Tom was Northwest Region Fisheries Supervisor in Spirit Lake, Iowa. His leadership in this position included notable fisheries management accomplishments such as: facilitating record high walleye harvests at Clear Lake and Storm Lake; initiating Iowa's first contract commercial fishing program for rough fish in 30 lakes and impoundments; writing the State Plan for the Management of Aquatic Nuisance Species required for \$720,000 federal dollars to come to Iowa; and constructing 32 new or improved boating access facilities on 25 lakes and streams.

Tom was recognized regionally as the expert on Missouri River issues as a founding member of the seven-State Missouri River Natural Resource Committee established in 1987. He led the 15-year review process of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Master Manual. Tom's review group provided the biological science needed to bring balance in this water management plan for mainstream reservoirs and river. But Tom's greatest contribution to Iowa's fisheries resource was thought to be in protecting areas riparian to Iowa's natural lakes. Through his foresight and leadership, three large land tracts totaling 13,900 feet of shoreline on three lakes were permanently protected.

As a member since 1969, Tom has been active in the American Fisheries Society in a number of ways. He chaired the Walleye Technical Committee of the North Central Division, chaired the Boards of Professional Certification and Appeals, and served as President of the Iowa Chapter and the Fisheries Management Section. He is an AFS Certified Fisheries Professional Emeritus with several presentation awards and 11 peer-reviewed publications.

The outstanding fisheries management accomplishments of Thomas W. Gengerke have had a lasting impact on the aquatic resources of the heartland of the United States.

Elected into the NATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT HALL OF EXCELLENCE, 2008  
Executive Committee, Fisheries Management Section, American Fisheries Society