



## **Dr. Richard R. Whitney**

Dr. Richard R. Whitney received an A.B. and a M.S. from the University of Utah in 1949 and 1951, respectively, and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University in 1955. He was a Research Biologist at the University of California, Los Angeles (1954-1957), Susquehanna Fishery Study Project Leader at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (1957-1960), and Chief of Tuna Behavior Investigations at the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (1961-1967). In 1967, he became Unit Leader at the Washington Cooperative Fishery Research Unit, and then Professor at the School of Fisheries, University of Washington (1983-1993).

Dr. Whitney has made notable contributions to fisheries management wherever he has worked. These include establishing sport fisheries in the Salton Sea, anadromous fish passage in the Susquehanna River, and improved methods for harvest of tuna. He is perhaps best known for his appointment as Technical Advisor and Chairman of the Fisheries Advisory Board for the United States District Court in the treaty rights fishing case of the United States versus the State of Washington, 1974-1979. The “Boldt Decision” provided an opportunity to move salmon management into a fully quantitative system where decisions were based on daily measurement of population size and catch. Dr. Whitney’s contributions toward developing salmon and steelhead management plans and methodologies for developing in-season run size updates were recognized by the Honorable George H. Boldt as “...invaluable assistance to the court in his role as Expert Advisor on matters of fisheries science and management.”

As a Chair, Co-Chair and member of numerous fisheries advisory and review committees, Dr. Whitney served the fisheries profession admirably for many decades. Most recently, these were related to hydropower development and operations in the Columbia River Basin. Through these committees, Dr. Whitney contributed to resolution of issues such as minimum flows for passage of juvenile salmonids and stocked rainbow trout effects on sockeye salmon production. He has a lengthy list of publications primarily on Pacific Northwest fisheries management and is a primary author of two editions of the widely used “Inland Fisheries of Washington,” published in 1979 and again in 2003. Dr. Whitney has been a member of AFS since 1951.

The exemplary, long-time accomplishments of Dr. Richard R. Whitney in fisheries management serve as an inspiration to all current and future fisheries professionals.

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