



## **Gordon C. Robertson**

Gordon C. Robertson, a native of West Virginia, earned his B.S. (1969) and M.S. (1973) degrees from West Virginia University. Gordon began his career in West Virginia, then moved on to work for the New York Division of Fish and Wildlife. After holding positions with the Wildlife Management Institute and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Gordon returned home and served 13 years as the Deputy Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources.

In 2002, Gordon joined the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) as Vice President and lead for Government Affairs, where he played a crucial role in representing the recreational fishing industry to government agencies and policymakers responsible for fisheries resource management. Gordon was integral to two reauthorizations of the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 2005 and 2012. In no small part due to his efforts, beginning in 2005, more than \$100 million was added annually to the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund which pays for fisheries management and conservation activities in all 50 states. He worked on the 2006 revision of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, advocating for significant advances in conservation and management of federal marine fisheries on behalf of recreational anglers. He conceived and implemented the KeepAmericaFishing™ program, now the largest angler advocacy organization in the nation. Finally, he oversaw the FishAmerica Foundation, which provides crucial funding for grassroots sportfish conservation and habitat restoration throughout the United States and Canada.

Perhaps Gordon's proudest legacy during his time at ASA has been his work with young professionals entering the natural resources field via the Everett Hames Policy Fellowship. Given his wide-ranging career, from on-the-ground fieldwork to agency administration to federal policymaking, he has mentored the Policy Fellows who worked alongside him sharing his invaluable knowledge and experience. These same Policy Fellows are now working in a wide-range of agencies and organizations. Because Gordon never missed the opportunity to introduce these young people to new and career-building experiences, his legacy will endure.

For more than 40 years, Gordon has exhibited a record of service on behalf of responsible management of our nation's natural resources. As he says at every toast, his career has truly been a labor of love dedicated "to the resource." There is hardly a fisheries manager in the United States that hasn't been impacted by Gordon's unparalleled ability to work with Congress and federal and state agencies on complex resource issues.

Elected into the NATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT HALL of EXCELLENCE, 2014 Executive Committee, Fisheries Management Section, American Fisheries Society