



Dr. Harold L. Schramm, Jr.

Dr. Harold L. Schramm, Jr. received a B.A. (1970) from University of Illinois and M.A. (1973) and Ph.D. (1977) from Southern Illinois University. He made meaningful contributions to fisheries management, education, and public outreach while working at the University of Florida, Texas Tech University, and Mississippi State University where he was Leader of the USGS Mississippi Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. As a researcher, teacher, and graduate student mentor his focus was on recreational fisheries management, working at the interface between resource users and fish populations. His contributions have served to guide recreational fisheries management in the USA and abroad.

Hal was a multifaceted researcher and jack of all trades. He pioneered the use of otoliths for aging freshwater fish, a tool that became important for fishery managers in the last quarter of the 20th century. He was among the first to measure post-release mortality of tournament-caught fish and to assess relationships between mortality and environmental factors. He developed key popular publications on care of fish during fishing tournaments, now considered standards in competitive fishing. Hal also conducted large river research, including studies at spatial scales from microhabitats to entire floodplain rivers. He developed methods to collect, tag, and monitor endangered pallid sturgeon, and to define their habitat associations in the difficult and dangerous environment of the Lower Mississippi River.

Hal taught courses on Fish Ecology, Fisheries Science, and Fisheries Management. He directed theses and dissertations for over 35 M.S. and Ph.D. students, most of which now occupy influential positions in agencies across the country. Along with his students and cooperators, Hal published about 100 journal articles and book chapters. He also served the profession as journal editor, associate editor, book editor, and president of the Fisheries Management Section of AFS.

One of his most distinctive contributions is a passion for packaging scientific information for the angling public as popular articles and television segments. He averaged about 30 articles per year in leading magazines. His popular writing excels in conveying research findings to the angling public in non-technical language. A common thread running through Hal's popular articles was angler education.

His devotion for fishing coupled with his enthusiasm for research and teaching made him an effective professional capable of relating complex ecological principles to students, anglers, and peers.

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