

American Fisheries Society Genetics Section Hall of Excellence



Dr. John C. Avise

Dr. John C. Avise is a highly regarded evolutionary geneticist, a conservation ecologist and natural historian. His foundational work in the field of phylogeography, he coined the term in 1987, began a new field of study that examines the principles and historical processes governing the geographic distribution of genetic variation among populations and species. Three decades of phylogeographic studies of aquatic species, including work by John and his students in the southeastern United States, have revealed many important insights into historical factors influencing colonization, migration, and patterns of gene flow in marine and freshwater species. These studies often have provided the foundation for practical applications in conservation and management. Another exemplary contribution of John's research involved studies of the genetic parentage and mating systems of fishes and poikilothermic vertebrates in general. He has written or edited 26 books and published over 340 peer reviewed research papers, often with an emphasis on freshwater and marine systems and species. John's enduring legacy is equally evident in the many PhD and postdoctoral scholars he has mentored who have gone on to make outstanding contributions in the field of aquatic evolutionary biology, conservation, and management.

Elected into the Genetics Section, Hall of Excellence, 2014