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### **CHIEF SCIENCE ADVISOR FOR NOAA FISHERIES RECEIVES AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY AWARDS**

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) has presented Dr. Michael P. Sissenwine with two prestigious awards for excellence in natural resource conservation and fishery research. Sissenwine was honored August 11 at the annual AFS meeting in Quebec, Canada.

Sissenwine has been the director of scientific programs and chief science advisor for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) since March 2003. He oversees science activities that support conservation and management of the nation's marine living resources and is responsible for about 1,400 staff in six fisheries science centers throughout the country, using 30 laboratories and eight offshore research vessels.

Sissenwine is the 2003 recipient of both the William E. Ricker Resource Conservation Award and the Oscar E. Sette Award. The William E. Ricker Resource Conservation Award was established in 1995 and is given annually, if warranted, to an individual or entity for an accomplishment or activity that advances aquatic resource conservation that is significant at a national or international level. The Oscar E. Sette award recognizes an outstanding marine fishery scientist for sustained excellence in marine fishery biology through research, teaching and administration, or a combination of the three.

"I could not be more thrilled with the selection of Mike Sissenwine for this recognition by the American Fisheries Society," said Bill Hogarth, director of NOAA Fisheries. "As one of the world's top marine scientists, Mike has dedicated his career in service to the country and the environment by helping develop world-class scientific principles used to support fishery management programs, and NOAA Fisheries is fortunate to have him lead our scientific programs," Hogarth said.

From 1996-2002, Sissenwine served as director of NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, Mass., comprised of five laboratories and 300 employees, using two NOAA offshore research vessels. Previously, he served six years as senior scientist for NOAA Fisheries, overseeing the agency's scientific programs throughout the country from its Silver Spring, Md., headquarters.

Sissenwine has over 20 years experience as a research scientist, authoring over 100 scientific reports and publications on a wide range of topics including ecosystem dynamics, fisheries oceanography, resource assessments and fishery management theory and case studies. He also is the co-editor of three books and has served on the editorial board of several publications, including the Ecological Society of America's Ecological Applications. Sissenwine has convened several international scientific conferences and he is frequently an invited speaker at national and international meetings.

Sissenwine earned his Ph.D. in Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island in 1975.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is an agency of the Department of Commerce. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management and enforcement. The agency provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public. To learn more about NOAA Fisheries, please visit: [www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov).