



Contact: Connie Barclay  
301-713-2370

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **NOAA Honors University of Missouri Research Professor with Dr. Nancy Foster Award**

NOAA today awarded Dr. Charles Rabeni, former research professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences at the University of Missouri, with the 2010 Dr. Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Award for his extraordinary commitment of more than 30 years to stewardship, research and outreach concerning our nation's estuaries.

"Dr. Charles Rabeni has dedicated his career to habitat-related research, addressing questions useful to the conservation or restoration of the biological integrity of streams," said Eric Schwaab, NOAA assistant administrator for NOAA's Fisheries Service. "One of the most critical threats to fish habitat in the central and southeastern United States is habitat degradation. Dr. Rabeni has spent many years of his career looking at this very issue."

Rabeni joined the University of Missouri in 1979. For more than 30 years, he led the Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, and served as a research professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences. He holds a Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Maine, and has published more than 90 peer-reviewed journals, articles and book chapters.

Since retiring in 2008, Dr. Rabeni has remained involved with student research, professional committees, reviews of restoration programs and state conservation efforts.

He served as President of the North American Benthological Society (1992); served twice as President of the Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society; and as the Associate Editor for *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*. He has served on numerous panels and boards, including the National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, the Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Forest Service.

"Dr. Rabeni's work has been widely used in Missouri fisheries habitat management," said Schwaab. "His contributions are widely cited throughout the midwestern and southeastern United States, which is in keeping with the outstanding example set by Dr. Nancy Foster in her 23 years at NOAA."

The Dr. Nancy Foster Habitat Conservation Award was established in 1997 by NOAA's Fisheries Service to recognize leaders in habitat conservation. The first award was presented to Dr. Foster to acknowledge her career commitment to protect, conserve and restore habitats of living marine resources. Under her direction, NOAA created the Office of Habitat Conservation and the Restoration Center to focus on protecting and restoring the nation's coastal and marine habitats. Dr. Foster served as a visionary leader at NOAA until her death in 2000.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Visit us at <http://www.noaa.gov> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/usnoaa.gov>.

On the Web:

Nancy Foster Award for Habitat Conservation:

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/partners/awards.html>

