

Dr. R. Michael Laurs – Overview CV

Education

- PhD – Biological Oceanography, Oregon State University (1967)
- M.S. – General Science (Oceanography), Oregon State University (1963)
- B.S. – Fisheries, Oregon State University (1961)

Work Experience

- Nearly 4 decades of Federal government service with U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service.
 - ✓ About 2/3 of career spent as a fisheries oceanographer scientist at the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, California primarily leading multidisciplinary programs on tunas and on the development and application of satellite remote sensing in marine fisheries research and harvesting.
 - ✓ About 1/3 of career served as director of NMFS fisheries research laboratories in Honolulu, Hawaii and Pacific Grove, California.

Experience and Credentials

- Demonstrated leader and recognized scientific expert in fisheries oceanography; satellite remote sensing applications to fisheries and oceanography; large pelagic fish ecology, biology, and fisheries; fisheries interactions with protected species; and management of fisheries research programs.
- Internationally recognized authority on albacore tuna.
- Pioneered research and development on the application of satellite remote sensing in U.S. marine fisheries research and fisheries operations and is an acclaimed international expert on satellite applications to marine fisheries.
- Authored or co-authored over 100 scientific articles published in scientific journals.
- Authored or co-authored more than 150 U.S. government reports.
- Presented scientific findings at more than 200 national and international scientific and related meetings.
- Broad experience and competence as a manager of marine fisheries research. As the Director of the NMFS Honolulu Laboratory for nearly a decade provided leadership resulting in a five-fold increase in the Laboratory's annual operating budget, a three-fold increase in staff, and significant expansion and development of new research programs, e.g., coral reef research and removal of marine debris in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands and other Central Pacific Islands, expansion of research in support of domestic and international fisheries management, and the research related to the recovery of endangered Hawaiian monk seal and marine sea turtles.

- Broad knowledge and understanding of the U.S. fishery management council process and Regional Fishery Management Organizations in the Pacific.
- Widespread experience in working with international fisheries and marine scientists in Europe, Canada, Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Island Nations, Mexico, South and Central America, India, Sri Lanka, and Africa.
- Served on numerous scientific advisory committees and review panels for Federal, State, and local agencies; for foreign governments; international organizations; and for academic institutions.
- Served on the Board of Directors of several marine science programs including the Joint Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Research at the University of Hawaii, the Large Pelagic Fisheries Center at the University of New Hampshire, and the San Diego Undersea Park.
- Served as the scientific advisor for more than 20 years to the American Fishermen's Research Foundation and the Western Fishboat Owner's Association.
- Developed and directed a highly successful and unique cooperative research program between the NMFS and the U.S. albacore fishing industry. This program is recognized as a model for cooperative research between the U.S. government and the U.S. fishing industry.
- Served as a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Hawaii, a Research Assistant at Oregon State, and a Research Fellow at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.
- Received numerous NMFS performance awards, Department of Commerce Silver Medal, Distinguished Graduate Oregon State University Dept. Fisheries and Wildlife, Frank Martins Award in recognition of cooperative fisheries research, and more.
- Since retirement in late 2005 from the U.S. Federal service worked part-time as an independent consultant to NOAA National Environmental Data and Information Service, University of Hawaii, and Oregon State University; Senior Associate with Ocean Associates, Inc. consulting company; and serves on panel of experts regarding the Marine Stewardship Council certification the U.S. jig and baitboat fisheries for albacore in the North and South Pacific by American Albacore Fishermen Association vessels.