

# Watson Harry Everhart

*June 5, 1918 — October 1, 1994*

Professor Emeritus Watson Harry Everhart had a long and distinguished career in the science and management of fisheries and in higher education. Born June 5, 1918, in Connellsville, Pennsylvania, Harry began his training as a biologist at Westminster College (Pennsylvania) where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1940. Two years later, Harry completed requirements for a Master of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh and entered the Air Force, rising to the rank of Squadron Commander.

In 1945, Harry resumed his academic training by entering a doctoral program at Cornell University in fishery science, with minors in vertebrate zoology and insect ecology. Completing requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy in 1948, he joined the faculty at the University of Maine as an Assistant Professor. In 1950, Harry was appointed Chief of Fisheries, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game; and in 1955, he was appointed Chief of Research, Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, two posts he held simultaneously while remaining an active faculty member at the University of Maine. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1952 and to Professor in 1956. During this time, he co-authored a text in fishery science which served as the basic treatment of this subject for virtually all universities offering such a curriculum. It was rewritten with Cornell colleagues; this text is now in its third edition.

In 1967, Harry became Chairman of the Fishery Major at Colorado State University, returning five years later to Cornell as Chairman, Department of Natural Resources, a position he held until retirement in 1982. He was named Professor Emeritus the following year.

As Chairman, Harry effectively represented his department at college, university, state, and national levels; remained active in the classroom; and guided the department through a period of rapid evolution. His students perhaps best remember him as a mentor for their professional writing skills, a task Harry was especially suited for from his experience as Editor-in-Chief (1960-61) of the *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, one of the world's top two journals in fishery science and management.

Over the course of his career, Harry's research focused principally on fish habitat management in the broadest sense of this term. Publications of Harry and his graduate students ranged from studies of heavy metal toxicity to the effects of land use on fish habitats. In addition, he published basic works on the fishes of Maine and Colorado and on the restoration of Atlantic salmon.

While at Cornell, Harry began a long association as a consultant to the Great Northern Paper Company (Maine). He continued important work in this capacity until stricken with Alzheimer's disease. His death, at the age of 76, was due to complications from this disease.

Watson Harry Everhart was a leader in his profession during a time when fishery resources were coming under rapidly increasing stress. Through his writings, teaching, and administrative leadership, he played an important role in the development of a science to deal with these problems. The discipline of fishery science was in its infancy when Harry began his career and he played a significant role in guiding it wisely through the formative early years.

*Richard Baer, William Youngs, Ray Oglesby*