

**2014 Recipient of the Oscar Elton Sette Award
presented by the Marine Fisheries Section
of the American Fisheries Society**

Dr. Mary C. Fabrizio

Mary Fabrizio is currently Moses D. Nunnally Distinguished Associate Professor of Fisheries at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Her career in marine fishery biology has been exemplary in research, teaching, and administration.

Most of her teaching experience has been at VIMS, but she has also taught at Michigan State University and the University of Rhode Island. At VIMS, she is known for her outstanding teaching in quantitative methods and fisheries science. Previous students who have taken her various courses have testified to her wonderful ability to convey complex information in a very clear and insightful manner, her compassionate and genuine character as an instructor, and her willingness to assist students with both coursework and research activities, always emphasizing deeper concepts and principles.

Mary has mentored many students through their MS and PhD degrees. In her time at VIMS and elsewhere, she has been the primary advisor to seven masters students and one PhD student, and has been a member of graduate committees or otherwise mentored 19 other students. Her department chair at VIMS notes that she has the highest or next-to-highest committee load in the department, clearly has considerable input as a committee member, especially in the area of data analysis, and has been included as co-author on several publications by students for whom she was not major advisor. Her former students speak incredibly well of her mentorship. She aggressively integrates her students into the fisheries discipline, expects them to present papers at national and regional conferences where she readily supports their attendance financially and intellectually, and instills in them the responsibility of contributing to the fisheries field through membership and research.

Mary's administration and professional service record is truly impressive. She has been heavily involved in AFS, where she has served many roles, including President of AFS (2007–2008); President of the Marine Section (2002–2004); chair of the Governing Board, Management Committee, Publications Overview Committee, Nominating Committee, Program Committee for the annual meeting, Award Committee, Distinguished Service Award Committee, the Past Presidents Advisory Council, and six other committees; and non-chair member of 27 other AFS committees. In addition to AFS, Mary regularly provides service to state agencies as an advisor in marine fishery management and conservation, contributes substantially to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, advises the Virginia legislature, contributes regularly to stock assessments by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and plays an active and important role in the Hudson River Foundation on the Board of Directors.

Mary spends a considerable amount of time working to improve her field and department, and has been an outspoken advocate for increasing the number of women in marine science. As the only woman in her department, and only the sixth female President of AFS (out of 129 Presidents), she has been a role model for many young women who have worked with her. Her

ability to balance her research, teaching, and service in her career (not to mention her life outside her career) are remarkable.

Through her research and publications, Mary is best known for being an important contributor to understanding the biology and ecology of several commercially important marine species, including striped bass, introduced blue catfish, American eel, summer flounder, black sea bass, and lake trout. Mary has published 49 peer-reviewed studies in top fisheries journals. Her research emphasizes rigorous quantitative approaches to understanding spatial and temporal variation in fish abundance. Some of her most important contributions to the field of fisheries science include assessment of survey design and implementation. One of Mary's most valuable contributions to fishery science is the maintenance of the long-term fisheries survey database at VIMS.

The letter nominating Mary for this award contained numerous accolades from former students as well as former AFS Presidents with whom she served in various capacities. Among the words of praise for her as a person and a professional were her incredible ability to capture, improve, create, and articulate ideas; her capacity to hold her ground on principle, ethics, and good science; and the love for her chosen profession coupled with a strong aspiration for excellence.

Dr. Mary C. Fabrizio is truly a most deserving recipient of the 2014 Oscar Elton Sette Award.

--Prepared by Emory Anderson, Chairman, Oscar E. Sette Award Committee, Marine Fisheries Section