Prologue

In a figurative sense, the salmonid resources around the globe have been buffeted and shaped by multi-directional forces representing social, economic, and political interests. Much recent concern has been expressed regarding the diminishing levels of many wild stocks (c.f. Aquaculture, 1981 and Aquaculture, 1983) and the status of enhancement efforts by local, state, national, and international agencies in maintaining and replenishing such stocks. In addition, private aquaculture companies have been developed to provide salmonid-based products to the consuming public. These varied interests have led to the enormous generation of basic and applied research on salmonid biology. As a result, salmon culturists are currently being exposed to new advances in biotechnology without complete knowledge of the benefits and limitations of the techniques.

This international symposium on salmon and trout reproduction was designed for exchange of information in one very important and sometimes neglected aspect of salmonid culture. Increased research efforts in recent years, and growing interests by hatchery managers, sea ranchers, and net-pen culturists on broodstock production, prompted us to offer a symposium covering five major areas in salmonid reproduction: (1) endocrinology, (2) genetics, (3) nutrition, (4) environmental factors, and (5) husbandry. Specific topics within these areas included precocious maturation, sex reversal, induced ovulation, dietary requirements of captive broodstock, genetic studies in reproduction, temperature and photoperiod effects on maturation, and the normal endocrine events preceding and concurrent with maturation and spawning.

Attended by more than 300 participants, the symposium featured a total of 84 presentations over a two-and-one-half day period. Slightly less than half of those contributions are published in this special issue. During an evening discussion period, the primary focus was on the benefits and limitations of current research results applied to salmonid production. With the diverse group present, the only and obvious consensus was the need for further information and support on the various aspects of salmonid reproduction.

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Acknowledgements

The International Symposium on Salmonid Reproduction evolved from two prior workshops held in Seattle, Washington, in 1980 and 1981, sponsored by the Washington Sea Grant Program and coordinated by Terry Nosho. Although the symposium was originally intended for a regional audience, the need for an international forum to promulgate information exchange and to discuss pertinent and current issues on salmonid reproduction became apparent. Escalation to that level of organization required the cooperation of many individuals and institutions, which it is now our pleasure to acknowledge.

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