

## 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.

STACIA A. SOWER  
ROBERT N. IWAMOTO

### 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 Noshø. 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.

We are indebted to the Washington Sea Grant Program for its enthusiastic support and willing sponsorship of the symposium from conception to completion. In particular, we would like to acknowledge Patricia Peyton, a member of the Steering Committee, and her staff for their excellent organization and expertise with communications. The efforts of William Davis, Terry Noshø, and Louis Echols are also gratefully recognized. We would like to acknowledge other members of the Steering Committee — William Hershberger, Conrad Mahnken, and Colin Nash — for their organizational contributions. Special thanks go to Carl Schreck and Edward Donaldson of the Advisory Committee who provided valuable assistance and criticisms. Additional financial contributions from the Sea Grant College Programs in Oregon, Hawaii, California, and Alaska, from National Marine Fisheries Service, and from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permitted us to invite several international participants who otherwise would not have been able to attend the symposium. Finally, we would like to thank the speakers/participants at the symposium, the contributors to this special issue of *Aquaculture*, and Elsevier, the publishers of *Aquaculture*, who kindly consented to this permanent record of portions of this first, and hopefully not last, symposium on salmonid reproduction.

ROBERT N. IWAMOTO  
STACIA A. SOWER