

John Ward recently retired from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) where he spent in excess of 30 years working as a natural resource economist with a specialty in marine fisheries. He has Bachelor Degrees in Economics and Political Science and a Masters Degree in Economics from the University of Maine at Orono where he was fortunate to have James Wilson as his thesis chairman. His Ph.D. in economics with a natural resource specialty, under the mentorship of Dr. Jon Sutinen, is from the University of Rhode Island, Kingston that he attended under a NOAA long-term training program.

After a brief stint with the Maritime Administration estimating supply and demand for domestic petroleum tankers, he began his fisheries career with the National Marine Fisheries Service at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center in Miami FL. His expertise in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery resulted in the development of an empirical dynamic model of shrimp fishing fleet behavior. This was expanded into an empirically-estimated, dynamic, bioeconomic model of the shrimp fishery while estimating the effect of finfish bycatch for Amendment 9 of the Shrimp Fishery Management Plan for the Southeast Regional Office, which was commended by the Economics Panel of a special MREG red snapper management review.

As team leader for economics in the Office of Science and Technology in Silver Spring, MD, he developed the NMFS national economics program, the fisheries economics internship program in conjunction with the National Sea Grant Office, and the economics and social science division. His contributions to fish harvesting capacity resulted in a national program that distinguished overcapacity, a market failure, from excess capacity, a short run market adjustment. Recent contributions include incorporating congestion into the capacity paradigm. Additional fisheries for which significant contributions have been made while serving as chief economist in the Office of Constituent Services include the east coast swordfish, for which he received a letter of commendation from the fishing industry, and tuna fisheries for market revitalization programs.

He has received bronze medals for exceptional service with the NMFS and has published in the American Journal of Agricultural Resource Economics, the Journal of Marine Resource Economics, the Journal of Marine Policy, and Commercial Fisheries Review. He has participated in technical consultations and authored technical reports for the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, as well as conducted training exercises in fisheries management in Africa for FAO and the World Bank.