

## **Biography**

### **Kenneth P. Sebens**

Dr. Kenneth P. Sebens is currently Director of the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Laboratories (since 2005), Professor of Biology in the UW Department of Biology, Seattle, and Professor in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences. Dr. Sebens received his BA from the University of Connecticut in 1972 and his PhD from the University of Washington in 1977. During 1977-1985, he was Assistant and then Associate Professor at Harvard University, Associate Curator at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology. He then became Professor at Northeastern University (1985-1991), and Director of Northeastern's Marine Science Center at Nahant, MA, and of the East-West (now Three Seas) Marine Biology Program. In 1991, he became Professor of Biology at the University of Maryland College Park, Professor in the UM Center for Environmental Science, and Director of the Marine Estuarine Environmental Sciences Graduate Program for the UM System (to 1997). He also served as the first Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, during 2003-2005.

Dr. Sebens conducts research on marine subtidal benthic populations and communities in both temperate and tropical locations. One ongoing project is an investigation of community and population dynamics and long-term change in rocky subtidal habitats in Massachusetts. This project has been funded by NSF since 1979, facilitating one of the most extensive long-term studies of coastal marine communities in the world, and will be continued in collaboration with researchers at Northeastern and Salem State Universities. He has also initiated new research on the rocky subtidal communities of the San Juan Islands, beginning in 2006, focusing on the community level effects of marine preserves. Dr. Sebens has had over 38 years experience as a diving scientist, including six one to two week missions living and working in the underwater laboratories "Hydrolab" and "Aquarius", located on Caribbean coral reefs. His research on coral ecology has focused on the diverse sources of nutrition for reef corals, and the influence of hydrodynamics on coral particle capture and nutrient uptake from seawater, calcification and growth rate (NSF, NOAA funding, 1985-2003). These studies have taken him to many Caribbean reef locations including Jamaica, St. Croix, Belize, and Bermuda. He also spent a sabbatical year in Australia working on the Great Barrier Reef, while based in Townsville and Lizard Island.

Dr. Sebens has published over 80 papers and book chapters on a wide variety of topics. His paper on indeterminate growth and optimal size in marine invertebrates resulted in the Ecological Society of America's 1983 Mercer Award for "outstanding ecological research published in the United States and Canada". Funding for Dr. Sebens' research (since 1978) comprises over 40 awards, including continuous funding from the National Science Foundation (1979-2011) and facilities support from NOAA and the Smithsonian Institution. Grants during the last four years include two facilities grants from NSF (FSML Program), totaling \$525,000 (\$1,090,00 with match) two NSF research grants (\$1,603,910) and a NSF GK12 Program grant to support graduate students working with local high schools (\$2,892,577), plus several smaller awards. Dr. Sebens has mentored 31 graduate students at four universities since 1978, many of whom now have careers as university faculty and research scientists.