

## PROFILE

**NAME:** Frances P. Solomon

**RESEARCH AREA:** aquatic toxicology (impacts of toxic chemicals on aquatic organisms), aquatic ecology, environmental health

**FACULTY:** Western Washington University (WWU), Huxley College of the Environment on the Peninsulas, Port Angeles, Washington, USA

**INSTITUTE:** Environmental Teaching International

**TITLE/ POSITION:** Ph.D. Professor (WWU), Owner (Environmental Teaching International)



## MESSAGE

Frances P. Solomon (Fran Solomon) was born and raised in New York City, USA. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in chemistry from the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York, and a master's degree in environmental health and Ph.D. in fisheries from the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Solomon was the second woman to ever earn a Ph.D. in fisheries from this university.

She has over 25 years of professional experience in environmental agencies, leading and collaborating with interdisciplinary teams of scientists to plan, manage, and implement environmental projects in the Puget Sound region of Washington State. This includes field research on water quality, sediment quality, plants, and animals in urban bays, rivers, streams, and lakes, and applying the data to develop and implement action plans to prevent and control pollution, clean up contaminated sites, and restore healthy habitat.

Fran is keenly interested in the impacts of endocrine disruptor chemicals (EDCs) on human health and the aquatic environment, and participates in EDCs research projects for the Washington Toxics Coalition ([www.watoxics.org](http://www.watoxics.org)), an environmental nonprofit organization in Seattle, Washington. Her recent projects include pathways for entry of phthalates to Puget Sound waters, and prenatal exposure of humans to several EDCs.

Fran enjoys bringing her work experience and knowledge to the classroom and mentoring students. Currently, she teaches "Environmental Pollution" at Western Washington University. She has taught environmental biology courses at University of British Columbia, Northwest University in Xi'an, China, University of Washington (UW), and The Evergreen State College. She also teaches short courses for environmental professionals and the general public in Washington State, Alaska, and Canada, and gives presentations to many public audiences on toxic chemicals in the environment. Every summer from 2006 to 2010, she has lectured on salmon and water quality for "Humans in the Environment," a course at UW attended by students from Keio University.

Fran is passionate about encouraging girls and women to become scientists and advancing opportunities for them in science careers. In 1985, she was a founding member of the Seattle chapter of Association for Women in Science (AWIS) and has served the chapter continuously in many leadership roles including chapter President, Board member, chair of a scholarship program for undergraduate women, and mentor to many young women. In 2005, National AWIS honored Fran as an AWIS Fellow for "significant contributions to the mission of AWIS by promoting women in science through scholarship, leadership, education, mentoring, advocacy, or service." In June 2010, Fran was an invited speaker at the International Workshop on International Research Collaborations in Arlington, Virginia, USA. In addition to her women in science advocacy activities, Fran is Vice-President of the Pacific Northwest chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, a Past-President of the Washington chapter of the American Water Resources Association, and a current Board member of the Coastal Watershed Institute.

Fran is married to Dr. Tyler Folsom and is an enthusiastic hiker, bicyclist, and international traveler. She is very happy to have this opportunity to lecture in Japan.