

National Shellfisheries Association

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

September 2011



ORONO, ME

President's Message

For many of us, this summer has been busy and sweltering. As we return from our field activities and family vacations, it's time to turn our attention to the upcoming fall season, whether that be a new academic year, crop harvests, or 2012 conference planning. I can assure you that NSA activities continued in full-throttle during the summer. Perhaps most importantly, the NSA Executive



Committee established the NSA Conference Manager position to bring more expertise to bear on the Association's annual conference planning. Dr. Sandy Shumway will serve under contract as the NSA Conference Manager. Sandy has played a major role in planning and organizing NSA meetings for many years, including coordinating the triennial conferences with the World Aquaculture Society and the American Fisheries Society. She is very knowledgeable with regard to negotiating with conference venues, a process critical to keeping meeting costs down.

Truth be told, NSA has lagged behind other scientific organizations in realizing that elected officers are not necessarily effective conference planners. I know this to be true from personal experience; science and the art of meeting organization are two very different animals. Conference planning and management requires very specific expertise and a heck of a lot of work. Both are often in short supply from an association's elected officers. So, thank you Sandy for accepting this daunting task. I am confident that NSA will be afforded the best amenities for our annual meetings as well as reaping financial benefits.

Be sure and mark your calendar for the 104th Annual Meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association to be held March 25 to 29, 2012 at the beautiful Renaissance Hotel in downtown Seattle, Washington. Conference information is available on the NSA website (www.shellfish.org). Online registration will begin on September 15, 2011. The deadline for abstracts is December 1, 2011. All abstract submissions will be handled through the NSA website and the deadline

will be strictly enforced, since the completed program and book of abstracts will have to be sent to the printer on a tight schedule.

I'd like to express my gratitude to Joth Davis for his dedicated service as President of NSA for the past two years. I look forward to working with him, and seeking his guidance, during my tenure as President. I'm sure I will be well served by my colleagues and friends Chris Davis (President-Elect), Gef Flimlin (Vice-President), John Scarpa (Treasurer), Steven Roberts (In-coming Member at Large), and Brett Dumbauld (Pacific Coast Section Chair). The efforts of Marta Gomez-Chiarri in her important role as Secretary, George Abbe

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The 104th Annual Meeting of the NSA will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Seattle, WA. The Renaissance is centrally located and one of the best appointed hotels in downtown Seattle. See inside this Newsletter or visit the NSA website, www.shellfish.org, for more details.

In this issue:

- ***Feds Betting on Bivalves***
- ***Offshore Mussel Culture***
- ***Recruits Co-Chairs Bid Adieu***

Recruits' Corner

Hello Recruits! We hope that you've had a wonderful summer. As you plan the year ahead, we want to remind you of two research grants that can boost your research potential and productivity! NSA offers the Melbourne R. Carriker Student Research Grant and the Michael Castagna Student Grant for Applied Research. Both awards provide \$1250 to a graduate student to augment non-travel related expenses associated with their thesis research. These grants are competitive so commit your plans to paper and submit an application before the November 30, 2011 deadline.



Another very important date to note is the December 1st deadline for submitting abstracts for oral or poster presentations at the 104th Annual Meeting in Seattle. Congratulations to Maud Cross and Hilde Zenil Becerra for winning a Thurlow C. Nelson Award for outstanding oral presentation and a Gordon Gunter Award for outstanding poster presentation, respectively, at the 103rd meeting in Baltimore. Your name can join Hilde, Maud, and the ranks of those who have been recognized for high quality presentations at the annual meeting only if you submit an abstract.

Your Recruits' Co-Chairs are always looking for ways to facilitate communication among the Recruits. To submit your ideas, take a look at the Facebook page created for us (search National Shellfisheries Association) and leave a note. Details are still being finalized for the next meeting's student session and activities, so drop us a message about what you'd like to see or, better yet, what you are willing to help organize.

The time has also come for your current Recruits Co-Chairs, Maxine and Stephanie, to step down. We have had a wonderful time the past few years serving the Recruits and NSA. While a large part of being a member of NSA is career networking, our most cherished memories have been the result of the relationships we've formed as members of the Recruits. The two of us have become good friends during our time as Co-Chairs and have also become good friends with many of you. Two hardworking and very capable Recruits, Allison Mass and Maria Rosa, have volunteered to take over the position of Recruits Co-Chairs. Allison is a Ph.D. candidate at the City University of New York working on oyster physiology and ecotoxicology while Maria is a Ph.D candidate at the University of Connecticut researching the mechanisms of particle selection by suspension-feeding bivalves. Both are looking forward to working alongside other Recruits at the NSA meeting and developing relationships with their peers. We look forward to hearing more from them in the next *QNL*. **See you in Seattle!**

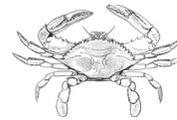
Maxine Chaney & Stephanie Reiner
Recruits Co-Chairs

Student Endowment Fund Travel Awards

The NSA Student Endowment Fund (SEF) provides lodging and registration awards to support NSA students presenting reports on their research at annual meetings. The deadline for applications seeking student travel support to attend the March 25-29, 2012 meeting in Seattle, WA is December 8, 2010, a week after the abstract deadline. Find complete information and application forms for all SEF awards at <http://shellfish.org/endow/endowapp.htm>. Applicants should email completed applications for SEF travel awards to either of the new Co-Chairs of the SEF Committee, Stan Allen ska@vims.edu or Lisa Milke lisa.milke@noaa.gov.

The Student Endowment and Awards Committee also coordinates evaluations of student presentations for the Thurlow C. Nelson (oral) and Gordon Gunter (poster) Awards. Presentations by all NSA-students will be evaluated as candidates for presentation awards. Eligibility for all SEF awards requires students to be NSA members, to present their original research, and to apply with the available application form(s). Recent graduates may also apply if they present on research performed as students, and received their degree during the 12 months preceding the meeting.

Stan Allen
Lisa Milke
Student Endowment and Awards Committee



Pacific Coast Section News

Pacific oysters are actually setting in Willapa Bay as I write. This is good news after a stretch of years with poor set and most of the shellfish hatcheries have had some success, as well! We look forward to hearing about these and many other exciting summer research successes at PCS Annual Meeting at the Grand Hotel in Salem, Oregon, September 19-22, 2011. Yikes, that will be only days away when the *QNL* goes to press.

You can still go to our PCS website (www.nsapcs.org) or the PCSGA website (www.pcsga.org) to register, view the agenda, and obtain additional information on the meeting. A pre-meeting thank you to the folks at NOAA, Michael Rubino, Chris Botnik, and Carole Reb, for providing support enabling students to attend the meeting. Finally, I encourage all PCS members to attend the Business Luncheon on Wednesday, September 21st. I hope to see you all there!

Brett Dumbauld
Pacific Coast Section Chair

Presidents Message.....

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as Financial Officer, and Steve Allen and Dan Cheney as EXCOM Members-at-Large are greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank all the folks that have kindly accepted my invitation to continue their efforts as Chairs and Co-Chairs of the NSA committees, in particular our Student Recruits Co-Chairs (Stephanie Reiner and Maxine Chaney), Karolyn Hansen and Dave Bushek for their tireless efforts to maintain and update the NSA web portal, and Stan Allen and Lisa Milke, our incoming Co-Chairs of the important Student Endowment/Awards Committee.

Intimidated by the prospects of writing my first "President's Message", I grabbed a stack of *Newsletters* from previous years for a bit of wisdom. If you don't save them, you should! An article from 2008 really caught my attention. It is titled, "Volunteerism" by Sandy Shumway. It's a wonderful article, starting with the definition of "volunteer" in English, Spanish, French, Latin, and yes, even Japanese (sound like Sandy?). But, she makes some very relevant points about donating your individual talents to support NSA. As Sandy comments, "No matter how you spell it or what form it takes – the word means giving of your time and effort, and it is the backbone of every VOLUNTEER-based society, including NSA". If I wasn't totally convinced that she would catch me for plagiarism, I would have made them my own eloquent words. She continues: "You can volunteer to:

- Help judge student travel grants, proposals for research awards, and presentations at the annual meetings
- Provide material for inclusion on the NSA webpage
- Write an article for the *Newsletter*
- Serve as a committee member
- Help with annual meeting preparations
- Organize a special session for the annual meeting
- RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER!!"

So if you would like to contribute your time and talents to NSA, simply contact the President, the Editor of *JSR* (Sandy), or any appropriate committee member listed on the back of this *Newsletter*. "Your time and talent are needed to help sustain NSA today and into the future. VOLUNTEERISM – try it you might like it" (Shumway, circa. 2008).

I am both honored and humbled to serve as the President of the National Shellfisheries Association, and I am sure that I am walking a similar trail with Joth before me, and Dave and Lou before him, and so many, many others that have dedicated their time and talents in contribution to NSA. And despite the challenge, I know that my predecessors enjoyed the support and contributions of the NSA community. Our scientific association would not have achieved the prestige it enjoys today without the very professional commitment of our members.

Please feel free to contact me with all of your inspired thoughts, offers to participate in NSA programs and activities, and dare I say, complaints and suggestions. With your help, the National Shellfisheries Association will live up to its impressive history and continue into the future as a significant contributor to shellfish science.

LeRoy Creswell
President



Nominations Sought for Honored Life Member and David H. Wallace Awards

The Awards Committee is accepting nominations for the NSA Honored Life Member Award and for the David A. Wallace Award. Nominations should include a 100 to 200 word description of the nominee's achievements that will allow the Committee to evaluate the suitability of the nominee for an award. The person proposing a candidate will also work with the Committee to provide a description of the candidate's accomplishments that will be published in the *Journal of Shellfish Research* and the *Quarterly Newsletter*. Both awards are open to members and non-members, alike.

Honored Life Member Award - Nominees are individuals who through their exemplary service to NSA or to the profession deserve recognition as Honored Life Member of the Association. In general, nominees should be highly respected individuals who have made substantial contributions to shellfisheries science, education, or the industry.

David A. Wallace Award - Nominees should be individuals whose activities in shellfisheries, aquaculture, and conservation have promoted understanding, knowledge, and cooperation among industry members, the academic community, and government, as exemplified by Mr. David H. Wallace during his lifetime.

The deadline for nominations is November 15, 2011. Nominations should be sent to Dr. Joth Davis (NSA Past-President) Davis at jdavis@bainbridge.net or 15425 Smoland Lane, Bainbridge Island WA 98110, or LeRoy Creswell (NSA President) at creswell@ufl.edu or UF Indian River Research and Education Center, 2199 So. Rock Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34945-3138.

104th Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, USA

March 24 – 29, 2012

Mark your calendar for an informative and enjoyable experience at the 104th Annual Meeting of the NSA at the Renaissance Hotel in Seattle, Washington, March 25 – 29, 2012. Seattle and the Renaissance combine for a great venue, the program will be diverse and of high scientific quality, and of course all of the social events, including the “one and only student auction”, are sure to be memorable. In addition, we will continue a wonderful NSA tradition with Ken Chew’s Chinese Banquet. See the enclosed flyer and visit the NSA website for all the up-to-date information about the 104th Annual Meeting.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE 104th NSA IN SEATTLE!!!

Workshop Highlights Offshore Mussel Culture

This summer news circulated about the continued increase in mussel (*Mytilus spp.*) imports to the U. S. market from Canada. According to 2010 National Marine Fisheries Service statistics, imports from Canada totaled more than \$80 million dollars, surpassing those from New Zealand for the first time. More Americans are discovering the delicious quality of fresh mussels. Now is the time to exercise the home-grown advantage of our local shellfish farming industry and help expand the growth of mussel farming in the waters offshore of the New England states. Southern New England, in particular, has many advantages including a shorter growing cycle of 10 to 12 months, no offshore closures to harmful algal blooms, and proximity to major markets. Permitting of new sites can be an arduous process and sizeable sites are only available offshore. Offshore longlines, however, have been working successfully without risk to marine mammals or commercial traffic for some time now in Maine and New Hampshire. They are adaptable to mechanical means of seeding and harvesting using idle fishing boats.

Scott Lindell (left) and seafood distributor-mussel grower Jared Auerbach (right) inspect newly seeded mussel droppers before they were deployed at an offshore longline mussel site last winter.



Last February, a workshop was held in conjunction with the Milford Aquaculture Symposium to highlight the opportunities for offshore mussel aquaculture. We were fortunate to have the support of the Northeast Sea Grant Consortium, Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center (NRAC) and the Canadian Embassy. Our speakers hailed from



Alec Gale, a fisherman from Martha's Vineyard turned mussel farmer, inspects his first crop last August.

two Canadian provinces, Iceland, Norway, and the U.S. and described the various challenges of and opportunities for mussel farming in the offshore environment. They also discussed some unique aspects of processing and marketing associated with offshore mussel culture. Audience members included a variety of prospective stakeholders, from resource managers to fishermen in six coastal New England States. Video of the workshop presentations is available on DVD (limited availability) or online at http://nrac.umd.edu/files/OtherPublications/Mussel_Workshop_2011/index.cfm or http://www.mbl.edu/mrc/research/aquaculture_conference.html.

Meanwhile, a few fishermen have completed the permitting process, put mussel longlines in the water, and are planning to expand operations in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. In Rhode Island, there are three permitted sites with four longlines, with plans to add at least three more in the next year. In Massachusetts, there are two sites permitted with a third site under review, one longline currently in the water, and plans to add at least five more in the next year. NRAC is funding a consortium of mussel farmers, researchers and a processor to investigate seed collection sites, means for controlling or eradicating tunicates, and different types of socking materials and stocking densities in southern New England. **A special session on mussel aquaculture and biology is planned for next year's Annual Meeting in Seattle.** We are currently looking for speakers for this session. Presenters and others interested in more information on this session should contact Scott Lindell at slindell@mbl.edu.

**Scott Lindell & Rick Karney
Industry Committee**

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Abstract submission for oral and poster presentations at the 104th Annual Meeting will open via the NSA website on September 15, 2011. **ALL ABSTRACTS ARE DUE DECEMBER 1, 2011** and must be submitted electronically through the website (www.shellfish.org). Abstracts will not be accepted after December 1. No abstracts will be accepted via fax transmission. If you are unable to submit an abstract using the NSA website or have any questions about abstract submission, please contact Dr. Sandy Shumway, NSA Conference Manager (sandra.shumway@uconn.edu).

Feds Betting on Bivalves

The federal government recently released two policies intended to facilitate increased marine aquaculture in U.S. waters. These complementary policies – issued by the Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – establish a broad national framework through which aquaculture can contribute to the U.S. seafood supply, support coastal communities and important commercial and recreational fisheries, and help to restore species and habitat. While not a replacement for regulation, the policies set forth goals and priorities for an increased focus on aquaculture.

In conjunction with the release of the policies, NOAA announced several initiatives to support sustainable marine aquaculture, including a ‘National Shellfish Initiative’ to increase wild shellfish populations and commercial shellfish production in U.S. coastal and marine waters. NOAA recognizes the clear benefits that shellfish can provide; from the habitat and water quality benefits of an oyster reef to the jobs, economic rewards, and local seafood from a shellfish farm, the suite of positive outcomes associated with shellfish make it a logical focus for federal efforts to advance marine aquaculture.

Recognizing this broad suite of benefits, NOAA plans to engage partners in the government, academic, and private sectors to focus on five critical areas:

- 1. Enhancing shellfish restoration and farming** by working to identify potential sites, build hatchery capacity, and develop innovative culture and processing methods.
- 2. Researching environmental effects** including interactions between shellfish and the environment in terms of climate change, ocean acidification, and pathogens.
- 3. Engaging in local and regional planning** efforts to site shellfish projects for both commercial and restoration purposes.

4. Improving coordination among federal agencies to facilitate timely decisions on federal permitting actions for shellfish farms and restoration projects.

5. Assessing the potential value of ecosystem services provided by shellfish aquaculture, such as nutrient reduction and carbon sequestration.

At this early stage of the National Shellfish Initiative, NOAA is working mainly within the agency to identify an approach that assures tangible outcomes. However, success of this initiative strongly depends on stakeholder input. We welcome the National Shellfisheries Association’s plan to issue a questionnaire to its membership in the near future. The feedback received will be critical to informing the further development and implementation of this initiative.

Promoting shellfish aquaculture serves many positive ends. Seafood demand worldwide continues to grow while the oceans face complex environmental challenges. NOAA is investing in bivalve aquaculture to help meet the growing demand for seafood while creating jobs, restoring depleted species, conserving habitat, improving water quality, and stabilizing and protecting coastlines.

For more information on the aquaculture policies and initiatives and to join the NOAA Aquaculture Office’s e-newsletter, visit <http://aquaculture.noaa.gov>.

Chris Botnick
Outreach Coordinator, NOAA Office of Aquaculture

Ken Chew’s Chinese Banquet

March 28, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.

Reserve your seat for this special event when registering for the 104th Annual Meeting

Student Research Grants Application Deadline: November 30th

The Melbourne R. Carriker Student Research Grant and the Michael Castagna Student Grant for Applied Research are two competitive grants awarded to students annually by the National Shellfisheries Association. Please note that the award of each of these grants is based upon different criteria. The Carriker Award recognizes excellence in scientific research in the area of shellfish biology, whereas the Castagna Award recognizes excellence in applied research in the area of shellfish science. An applicant for the Castagna Grant is required to focus on the applied aspects of his/her shellfish research. **The award amount for each grant is \$ 1,250.**

These awards are neither intended to support the purchase of general items, such as computers, nor to fund travel expenses associated with attending professional meetings. Students seeking travel support to attend NSA meetings should apply separately for money made available through the NSA Student Endowment Fund (see page 2). It is expected that Student Research Grant recipients will present the results of their research at an annual meeting of the Association and write a synopsis of their research for the NSA *Quarterly Newsletter*.

Applications for both grants will be reviewed by the NSA Awards Committee, a standing committee chaired by the Past President. Students who meet the criteria can apply for both awards. However, separate applications **ARE REQUIRED** for each grant and each application must be appropriately designated. Use of the same proposal to apply for both grants will not be accepted. The deadline for proposals is the close of business (5:00 pm CDT) on November 30, 2011. Successful recipients will be notified no later than January 31, 2012. Please follow the on-line instructions available through the NSA website under Student Research Grants www.shellfish.org/grants.htm, and send each application as a pdf attached to an email to Joth Davis, NSA Past-President at jdavis@bainbridge.net.

Nominations Sought for NSA Officers for 2012

The 2012 elections will fill vacancies for the NSA offices of Vice President, Secretary, and Member-at-Large. Nominations for these offices are welcomed from the membership. **NOMINATIONS ARE DUE DECEMBER 1, 2011.** Please send names of nominees to the Chairman of the NSA Elections Committee, current Past-President Joth Davis, at jdavis@bainbridge.net or 15425 Smoland Lane, Bainbridge Island WA 98110.

Upcoming Events

World Conference on Marine Biodiversity: September 26-30, 2011, Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Center, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK. For more information visit www.marine-biodiversity.org.

Aquaculture Europe 2011: October 18-21, 2011, Rhodes, Greece. For more information visit www.easonline.org.

GOAL 2011 - Aquaculture Production, Investment, Regulation and Market: November 6-9, 2011, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Santiago, Chile. For more information visit <http://www.gaalliance.org/GOAL2011>.

Virginia Aquaculture Conference: November 18-19, 2011, The Williamsburg Hospitality House, Williamsburg, VA, USA. For more information visit www.vaaquacultureconference.com.

Aquaculture America 2012: February 29-March 2, 2012, Paris Las Vegas Hotel, Las Vegas, NV, USA. For more information visit www.was.org.

National Shellfisheries Association, 104th Annual Meeting: March 25-29, 2012, Renaissance Seattle Hotel, Seattle, WA, USA. For more information visit www.shellfish.org.

Dynamic Deltas: Safety and Sustainability in Rural Delta Regions: April 17-20, 2012, Cinecity Theater and Conference Center, Vlissingen, The Netherlands. For more information visit www.dynamicdeltas.org.

Aqua 2012, Global Aquaculture - Securing Our Future: September 1-5, 2012, Prague, Czech Republic. For more information visit www.was.org.



If you would like to announce a meeting, conference, workshop or publication that might be of interest to NSA members, please contact the *QNL* Editor, Paul Rawson (prawson@maine.edu).

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