Shellfish growers, harvesters and managers in Maine mourn the passing of one of their own. Dana E. Wallace passed away on March 19th at the age of 89, though Dana’s legacy far surpassed the boundaries of the Downeast State.

Dana retired in 1983 after a 38-year career as Assistant Research Director and Director of Industry Services at Maine DMR. A hands-on guy, he initiated the Maine Clam Conferences, informal gatherings of those involved in industry, research and management which fostered communication among participants. The Beals Island Regional Shellfish Hatchery was named “The Dana E. Wallace Education Center” in 1991 as a way of recognizing his spirit of cooperation and grassroots effort to help increase clam harvests in Maine and improve the quality of life for those who depend on claming.

Mr. Wallace served as Chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, working extensively with the Fisheries Research Board of Canada to devise techniques for transplanting seed clams from areas of high to those of low productivity. He was instrumental in organizing meetings in Washington with Senator John F. Kennedy and Leverett Saltonstall which led to the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act that still supplies funds for fisheries research. Mr. Wallace also served as Treasurer and Secretary of NSA.

Active in aquaculture throughout his life, Dana raised quahogs and oysters, and served on the Board of Directors for the Maine Aquaculture Association. He performed clam flat surveys as a consultant to help communities manage their resources. A staunch advocate for clean water and habitat conservation, he shared his expertise and knowledge of marine resource issues with legislators.

Above all, Dana was an educator, mentor, and friend to all. As his business partner Peter Horne said, he was “a wonderful, generous man who would always find what is good in life no matter what his circumstances.” He will be sorely missed.

Sandy Macfarlane
Brian Beal
Peter Horne