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National Shellfisheries Association Quarterly Newsletter

2023(3)

President's Message



As the warm breezes of summer start fading into fall's crisper and cooler air, I encourage you to look back on your accomplishments so far this year and look forward to many exciting opportunities to share your achievements with colleagues in the National Shellfisheries Association. One of the cornerstones of our organization's mission is to foster the growth of knowledge in the field of shellfish research

by helping both veteran scientists and new researchers.

Investing in the Future: Support for Students

The NSA actively supports students who want to take the plunge into the world of shellfish research by offering several travel awards and research grants. These opportunities not only provide financial support, but also open doors to invaluable experiences and mentorship, inspiring young scientists to develop a deep passion for the oceans and their inhabitants. Research grant applications are due annually on November 1st and Travel Award applications are due December 15th. You can learn more about these awards and grants in this *Newsletter* and on our website at www.shellfish.org.

Celebrating Excellence: Recognizing Outstanding Shellfish Experts

Every breakthrough in shellfish research begins with individuals who have dedicated themselves to asking questions and searching for answers. The NSA honors these dedicated researchers by presenting annual awards that recognize their lifetime achievement in the field. The awards also honor the recipients' contributions to our organization and its many partners within the academic, business, civic, and environmental sectors. Your nominations play a pivotal role in celebrating the tireless efforts of your colleagues. Please make time this fall to submit your nominations by November 1st.

Marking the Tides of Time: Important Dates and Upcoming Events

It is not too early to mark your calendars for the 116th NSA Annual Meeting, March 17-21, 2024, in my home state of North Carolina. We are planning to meet in Charlotte, known as the Queen City, an exciting hub of business, history, and the arts. Stay connected through our *Newsletter*, website, and social media to ensure you don't miss out on these opportunities to increase your connections, expand your expertise, and contribute to the ongoing national dialogue about the importance of shellfish research, aquaculture, restoration, and conservation.

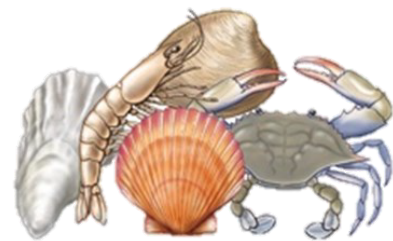
Yours in service,
Aswani K. Volety, President
UNCW Chancellor

Meeting Deadlines

Abstract Submission:
December 15, 2023

Early-bird Registration:
January 19, 2024

Hotel Registration:
February 16, 2024*
**prices will increase after this date*



In this issue:

- **Annual Meeting Update**
- **Music Among the Shellfish (Part 3)**
- **Student Research Grant & Presentation Awards**
- **The JSR wins two APEX Awards**
- **Clam Makes its Own Antibiotic**

Paul Galtsoff Industry Award *Leslie Sturmer, University of Florida*



At its 115th annual meeting in Baltimore, the National Shellfisheries Association recognized Leslie Sturmer (statewide Shellfish Aquaculture Extension Specialist at the University of Florida) for her outstanding research and outreach contributions to the U.S. aquaculture industry by awarding her the Paul Galtsoff Industry Award.

Few people in the field of fisheries and aquaculture can lay claim to fundamentally changing a community for the better the way that Leslie has in Cedar Key, Florida. In less than 20 years, a diverse team led by Leslie has saved the small fishing village of Cedar Key from the economic depression caused by the closure of the traditional gill net fishery by working with the community and government to develop the State's clam farming industry. Clam farming is now the most lucrative marine aquaculture industry in Florida, with a statewide economic impact of about \$53 million (USD). Cedar Key produces more than 90% of the total clam crop in Florida, with an annual farm gate value of \$17.8 million. The industry now grows about 175 million clams per year and provides the Cedar Key area with more than 550 jobs. The community has become an advocate for environmental protection of water resources in the region. This transformative shellfish aquaculture success story can be largely attributed

to Leslie's leadership in providing the science, technology transfer, and outreach that supported and continues to support the thriving clam culture industry of Florida.

Leslie has led the development of an applied research program driven by industry needs. She has brought together teams of scientists and external funds (nearly \$5 million) to tackle questions in the fields of shellfish physiology, genetics, breeding, soil science, aquatic health, water quality, product quality, seafood technology, economics, and business management. Hand-in-hand with industry partners, she has driven the industry forward and addressed challenges. This interaction has always been before, during, and after a research project, as a constant 'reality check' on research, and a guarantee that the research results got to those that needed them most. With the relatively recent interest in oyster aquaculture in Florida, Leslie has worked to answer the most pressing questions from the industry both through applied research and outreach efforts. She has not only led many research projects, including providing growers with quantitative data on survival and growth among different growing areas but also, critically testing different lines of oysters to help growers get past the episodic high mortality events observed in several locations. In addition to her research, Leslie has spearheaded several outreach efforts with the oyster industry. These include in-person and virtual workshops responding to 'triploid mortality events', development of a series of outreach handouts to help new oyster farmers prepare for tropical storms, and a very popular online course for new oyster growers.

Leslie has also been astute about the political landscape and proactively engaged politicians and regulators. She was the Vice-President of the Florida Aquaculture Association, developing and supporting major legislation for marine aquaculture. She was key in organizing receptions in Tallahassee, providing tours of the new shellfish aquaculture businesses in Cedar Key for Florida House Agriculture Committee members and staff, and setting up a legislative hearing in Cedar Key. These efforts led to sweeping legislative changes. In 1996, the Florida Aquaculture Policy Act, Chapter 597, F.S., "Aquaculture IS Agriculture", was passed with shellfish aquaculture declared to be in the public interest, a certification program replaced multiple permits, and all aquaculture authority was transferred to the state agriculture agency. She also has served on the Florida Farm Bureau since 2005, working on the aquaculture committee to promote shellfish aquaculture across the state.

Leslie's work with the bivalve shellfish industry began in 1988 at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution. She was engaged as the Project Manager for a federally-funded job retraining program for over 25 underemployed oyster harvesters in Apalachicola, Florida - the equivalent of being thrown into the deep end of the outreach and extension pool. In this program, she worked with the industry to train participants, gain oyster production data, and address permitting issues. The Apalachicola oystermen (and their families) became proficient and enthusiastic shellfish growers, and although the project ended without the appropriate state submerged land leases in place, it was not for lack of effort or expertise.

In her current role, Leslie routinely deals with a diverse industry (over 250 shellfish growers, over 10 seed suppliers, over 50 shellfish wholesalers, and numerous related businesses) in over 14 counties along the Florida coast. She works closely with the Cedar Key Aquaculture Association, the Statewide Clam Aquaculture Task Force, and several professional associations, including serving as an *ex officio* member of the Board of Directors of the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association and serving on the Advisory Committee to Oyster South.

As her colleagues and friends, we are thrilled to have Leslie recognized with this prestigious award for her contributions to the shellfish aquaculture industry and coastal communities.

Bill Walton
John Supan



Paul Galtsoff Industry Award *Don Webster, University of Maryland*

The Paul Galtsoff Industry Award is given to individuals who have made substantial contributions at regional, national, or global levels, notably linking science with industry needs, and substantial outreach efforts. Don Webster exemplifies what industry extension is meant to be. Don began working in Maryland in 1974 after graduating from the University of Rhode Island, which he attended after service in the US Army in Vietnam. He initially provided educational programs to watermen to organize their recordkeeping for income tax purposes. Don joined the World Aquaculture Society in 1980 and was a charter member of the U.S. Aquaculture Society. Over the last 45+ years, Don has worked his way up through the ranks of University of Maryland Extension to the highest rank of Principle Agent/Regional Specialist which is the equivalent rank of full Professor. He received his graduate degree in Agriculture and Extension Education in 2002 from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.



Don moved his programs heavily into aquaculture and has worked with numerous species and production systems. These include finfish in both pond and recirculating systems. He has worked tirelessly to help advance the aquaculture industry in Maryland and the rest of the United States, especially with shellfish. A great deal of his work has been applied to policy, regulations, and legislation because these so greatly affect development of the industry and its potential profitability. He has provided consultations for other states as well as being principally involved with Maryland and its long history of conflict between shellfish growers and commercial harvesters.

Since 2005, he has been a member of the Maryland Aquaculture Coordinating Council that advises the Governor and Legislature on the broad range of aquaculture issues and has been elected Chair several times. He was a member of the Maryland Oyster Advisory Commission for seven years and participated in developing several pieces of legislation. He aided in completely rewriting the century old Maryland shellfish leasing law, bringing years of analysis to the new version, which passed unanimously in the legislature and consulted in developing the new program that began in 2010, and currently has over 7000 acres in active production. In 2022, Don was awarded the U.S. Aquaculture Society Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes colleagues who have made contributions and broad impacts throughout their careers in aquaculture. He helped write at least five books and has given more extension talks and scientific presentations than we can count. He has been a chapter author in all editions of the *Recirculating Aquaculture Systems Handbook*, and wrote the “Education” chapter for *Shellfish Aquaculture and the Environment*. He aided in the development and teaching of RAS for the production of softshell crabs and has a long history of involvement with bivalve culture. During his career he has participated in contracts and grants totaling nearly \$2 million.



Always with a keen eye on the industry, Don was instrumental in helping bring remote setting technology to Maryland. He serves as the Maryland representative to the Technical Advisory Council of the USDA Northeastern Regional Aquaculture Center,

which funds multistate research and extension development projects. Always on the lookout for new technology that will help make shellfish culture more efficient and more profitable, Don played a key role in Maryland’s partnership with the Clark School of Engineering to pioneer robotics in shellfish aquaculture. “By working with people in the industry, we were able to determine where the biggest problems were and develop ways to address them using research and extension”, he said.

Reggie Harrell, Director of the Northeast Regional Aquaculture Center, said “Mr. Webster has been the driving force behind the advancement of the shellfish aquaculture industry in the Chesapeake Bay region. He had done more to educate the public, watermen, scientists, and politicians about the value aquaculture brings not only to Maryland and Virginia but to the nation as a whole. His affable, disarming nature affords him the ability to move protagonists and antagonists who stand ‘toe-to-toe’ defending their views about aquaculture to a point where common ground is established and meaningful, thoughtful advances and conversations take place.”

Don’s dedication to helping and doing what is best for the industry is evident by his programming and willingness to talk to anyone about oyster culture. Don is regularly called on by policymakers in Maryland, other states, and sometimes internationally, for advice on shellfish aquaculture topics. He always gives advice from the perspective of the grower and finds ways to communicate grower needs to those making the decision, whether it be governors, congressional members, or other US Cabinet members.

People often ask Don when he is going to retire. His response is “When Maryland aquaculture grows more oysters than the Virginia Aquaculture Industry.” We don’t want Don to retire anytime soon, so Bill Walton..... get busy down there in Virginia.

Matt Parker

Student Presenters! The Queen City (Charlotte, NC) Called... and it Wants to See You!

A call for action from the NSA Student Endowment Awards Committee

The NSA Student Endowment Awards Committee is presenting great opportunities for graduate student members that plan to present their original research at the 116th Annual Meeting of the National Shellfisheries Association, to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina on March 17-21, 2024.

Student travel awards

To assist with the costs of attending this meeting, the Student Endowment Awards Committee provides a lottery-based system that offers waivers for either registration costs or accommodation/lodging costs. The application deadline is **December 15, 2023** and the form can be found at: https://shellfish.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/2024sefapplication_word.pdf.

Student presentation awards

At the annual meeting, the NSA will be adjudicating competitions for both its Thurlow C. Nelson (outstanding talk) and Gordon Gunter (outstanding poster) Presentation Awards. The winners of these awards will receive membership for two years in the Association and a certificate of accomplishment. Graduate students wishing to participate in these competitions must do the follow:

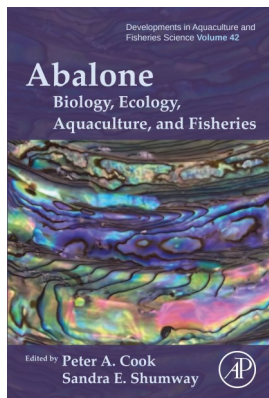
- Submit their abstracts by the conference deadline of **December 15, 2023**.
- Indicate that you wish your presentation to be judged.
- Ensure that you have signed up for or renewed your membership before the submission deadline.

Important: Please note that in order to be eligible for ANY of these awards, you must have paid your 2024 NSA membership dues in full by the conference deadline. For more information about these opportunities, visit:

<https://www.shellfish.org/sef-student-presentation-and-travel-awards>

Peter Kingsley-Smith
Missy Southworth

New Book Available



Abalone: Biology, Ecology, Aquaculture and Fisheries

1st Edition - July 2023

Editors: Peter A. Cook and
Sandra E. Shumway

To purchase a copy: <https://shop.elsevier.com/books/abalone/cook/978-0-12-814938-6>

Award Nominations

Deadline: November 1st

Nominations for:

- Honored Life Member Award
- David H. Wallace Award
- Neil Bourne - Ken Chew Award
- Paul Galtsoff Industry Award

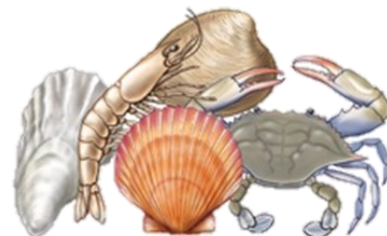
Student Research Grant Awards:

- Melbourne R. Carriker Award
- Michael Castagna Award
- George R. Abbe Award
- R. LeRoy Creswell Award

Visit www.shellfish.org for specific award descriptions and instructions

Send nominations to the
Chair, Past-Presidents Committee:
Lewis Deaton
lewis.deaton@lusfiber.net

Student Grant Award applications are
available at: www.shellfish.org



Music Among the Shellfish: Chuck Adams & John Ewart



I started messing with the guitar when I was about 8 years old. Got my first guitar, a brand new 1964 Gibson LGO, on my 10th birthday. Took a few lessons ... got bored ... shoved it under the bed until high school. The year 1968 was the perfect time to start trying to play again. This time I just started learning by ear. Couldn't read music, but I didn't need to in order to parrot what I was hearing on FM radio. Such great rock and blues back then.

My first paying gig was during the Summer of '73 with a rock band in Dallas. We played locally and made one road trip to Shreveport. The "big time". Played all during college years at Texas A&M doing local and campus gigs. Played with the stage band for Godspell with TAMU Theatre Arts Dept. Largest production of that play off of Broadway at the time. Also played the Basement Coffeehouse on the TAMU campus

many Friday nights ... sharing the evening billing with the undiscovered Lyle Lovett a few nights ... who was just a scrawny kid two years my junior. Yeah, you could tell it even back then. Grad school, marriage, work and family caused me to shove the guitar back under the bed. But started playing out in local venues again beginning in 2001. Played in several blues bands since then. But I am now a sideman guitarist with the Terraplane Blues Band in Gainesville, FL. Been with them for almost 10 years. Band has been around for over 35 years and opened for the likes of BB King, The Allman Brothers, Edgar Winter, Pat Travers, back in the early years. We now play B-side blues, shuffles, and swing tunes in several local venues in the North Central Florida area, where we have regular gigs. The cats I play with are incredible musicians...our 83-year old sax player toured with Dizzie Gillespie for 16 years. The keyboard player is another jazzier who played the Miami scene for many years. Taking the stage (riser, corner, whatever) with them is always an honor. We are a cover band (some originals)...but we cover blues, swing, and shuffle tunes most people don't know...but they move when they hear 'em!! Lots of fun. Come hear us if you are ever in the Gainesville, FL area on a Friday or Saturday night!



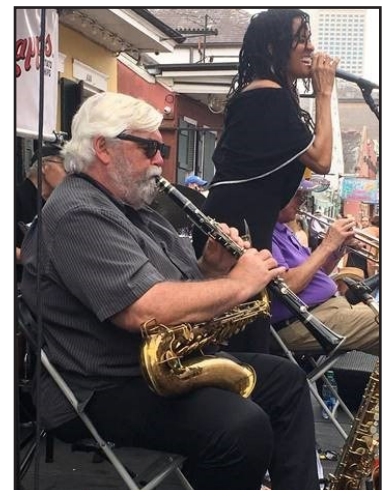
Chuck Adams



I started with music, like a lot of kids, in the 7th grade band program when I was 12. I came home with a list of instruments that were eligible for group lessons, and chose the saxophone because I liked the picture of it in the encyclopedia. I was clueless about how it sounded or anything else, but it turned out to be a lucky choice. I played in all the school bands through high school and was a fan of the big bands like Stan Kenton, Buddy Rich, Count Basie, and jazz. I didn't play the sax in college, but taught myself how to play the guitar and banjo, and became interested in folk music, blues, and bluegrass.

Everything musical came to a halt for about 22 years when marriage, kids, job sustainability, and fixing up handyman special houses became the top priorities. About the time the kids were finishing high school and were college bound, there was a local jazz scene in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware and I decided to try to get back into it, pretty much having to start all over from square one. The local players were very supportive and encouraging and 28 years later I'm still at it, playing professionally all around Delaware, the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and New Orleans. I've also had a lot of fun and many memorable experiences sitting in with different bands around the US and abroad during work related travel. Getting back into music after such a long layoff taking care of family business is one of the best decisions I've ever made.

We've all worked hard to make marine science and shellfish our enjoyable profession, career, and vocation. I believe that we all have within ourselves a natural creative talent in some form, perhaps not yet realized for some thus far. I encourage you to support your local school arts programs, encourage your kids and family to participate, enjoy, and perhaps give them a unique gift like my parents did that could turn into a lifelong passion as it did for me.



John Ewart

Springtime in Charlotte!!

Plans are shaping up nicely for the 116th Annual Meeting in Charlotte, NC, March 17-21, 2024 at the Sheraton - Le Meridien Charlotte Hotel (only 15 minutes from the airport). This is a new destination for the NSA and a perfect venue for all of our activities - and don't miss a pit stop at the NASCAR Museum. Come and enjoy an early spring in Charlotte!



The program is an exciting one, including new workshops on Lobster Genetics as a tool to study populations, disease, and environmental adaption, and Economic Evaluation of Shellfish to Determine Commercial Aquaculture Viability (see descriptions below). There will also be a full day devoted to Science and Public Engagement (David Shiffman returning to present his popular workshop), Art and Design of Scientific Presentations (Eric Heupel, our resident professional graphic designer), and a Communications session led by Brianna Shaughnessy of NOAA. In addition to the usual sessions, Phoebe Jekielek will be organizing a session on eDNA, and Tyler Griffin and Rachel Diner will be doing the same for Microbiomes. Dave Bushek is heading up a session to discuss the Regional Shellfish Seed Biosecurity Program (RSSBP). There will be a session devoted to undergraduate research – a great opportunity for students to present their work to a user-friendly audience. Check the web page for updates or to contact session chairs (www.shellfish.org).

The [Meeting Registration](#), [Abstract Submission](#), and [Hotel Reservation](#) links are all live – please make all of your reservations early. The conference rate for the hotel (\$203) is good until **FEBRUARY 16, 2024**. Please stay at the conference hotel, your bookings make all of the meeting space and amenities possible! Staying on site also gives you greater opportunities to interact with colleagues and take part in impromptu activities.

Don't forget the Film Festival. This was a very popular venue in Baltimore where students took advantage of this setting for a pizza party one evening. The films will show in a continuous loop throughout the conference – send your films or links to Eric Heupel (p. 8) to be included.

The Recruits are working on a full package of activities, and the Scallop Gallop is on the agenda, contact Lewis Deaton (Lewis.Deaton@lusfiber.net) with questions. The Auction goes on – time to clear out those shellfish trinkets, unwanted t-shirts, books, and other paraphernalia. If you can't make it to the meeting, you can send your auction items directly to Sandy Shumway to arrive no later than March 1, 2024.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Charlotte!
The Conference Management Team

NEW WORKSHOPS FOR NSA CONFERENCE

Lobster Genetics

The American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) supports one of the most valuable single-species fisheries in the United States and Atlantic Canada. Given its economic and cultural importance, *H. americanus* has been the target of numerous research efforts to better understand the ecology of the species and inform management decisions. Using molecular tools to better understand *H. americanus* biology has recently become more popular to fill critical data gaps. The assembly of the reference genome for the species represents an additional genomic resource that has the potential to advance molecular research applications in the fields of fisheries, ecology, and biomedicine. This genomic resource can allow researchers to explore high-resolution population structure, response and susceptibility to disease, and adaptation to a changing environment, among other genetic applications. In this session, we will explore the existing body of work using a variety of molecular tools and discuss how to better integrate these methods into existing research, conservation, and management efforts.

Session Chairs: Antoinette Clemetson (New York Sea Grant), and Dr. Amalia Harrington (Maine Sea Grant College Program, University of Maine)

Keynote: Tim O'Donnell and Jennifer Polinski (Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute)

Economic Evaluation of Shellfish to Determine Commercial Aquaculture Viability

Economic Evaluation of four shellfish species to determine aquaculture commercial variability, break-even values and risk assessment". Over the past year, several commercial farmers have worked with Marine Economist Brad Gentner to develop enterprise budget models for four species of clam production: *Mercenaria mercenaria*, *Mercenaria* hybrids, Sunray venus, and blood arks. The second step of this project is grounding these detailed economic models with industry surveys including accessing production variability and increasing production risks to commercial clam aquaculture. Finally, many states would like to promote shellfish farming both for its environmental and economic benefits, yet many government officials and NGO do not understand the production and financial stress these farms currently operate. This workshop will be critical in gaining enough data to ground the enterprise budgets, understand and quantify hazards to the industry, and to provide different risk mitigation strategies to insure against crop failure.

Session chairs: Nicole Kirchhoff (Live Advantage Bait), Brad Gentner (Gentner Group), Tom McCrudden (Great Florida Shellfish), and Angela Collins (Florida Sea Grant)

Abstract Formatting Details

The portal is open - submit your abstract today!
(www.shellfish.org)

Bold, left alignment, not capitalized

Management of biofouling in shellfish aquaculture

Sandra E. Shumway^{1*}, William C. Walton², Stephan Bullard³, Steven W. Fisher⁴, Charles Adams⁵, and Robert B. Whitlatch¹

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⁵Co-author affiliation address – full/complete mailing address

sandra.shumway@uconn.edu

Authors in **bold**,
* by the presenting author, numerical superscripts, single-spaced, presenting author's email only, left alignment

Single-spaced,
Justified alignment

Biofouling poses an ongoing problem for aquaculture operations and, in particular, for shellfish farmers. Fouling of the structures and the farmed organisms increase maintenance costs, slow growth, reduce marketability and, in extreme cases, cause mortality of the farmed animals. The goal of this session is to bring together industry members and researchers to share knowledge, exchange ideas and guide timely and targeted research. Industry members are strongly encouraged to participate in these discussions as an essential means of both focusing research efforts currently underway and of keeping shellfish farmers informed of new efforts to thwart biofouling.

To this end, the session will include: 1) a presentation of a national survey of shellfish farmers, identifying costs, problem species, current means of mitigation and control and areas of concern; 2) an update on the current status of development and field testing of environmentally friendly anti-fouling coatings for aquaculture gear, and; 3) a presentation on the problems posed by ascidians.

These brief presentations will lead into a cooperative discussion among audience and panel members, identification of problems, discussion of various management methods and assimilation of information for future research and mitigation strategies.

ENTIRE abstract single-spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12
NO figures or keywords
250 word limit

The file name of your uploaded abstract must be in the following format using the name of the PRESENTING AUTHOR: **first name.last name.doc** (e.g. thurlow.nelson.doc). If you are submitting more than one abstract, append a numeral after your last name for subsequent submissions (eg. thurlow.nelson2.doc).

If changes need to be made to your abstract after it has been submitted, contact the Secretariat (secretariat@shellfish.org).

DO NOT submit a revised version via the portal.

Clam Makes Its Own Antibiotic

Natural antibiotics typically come from bacteria or molds, and erythromycin had been thought to be made by only actinobacteria. Researchers at the Institute of Oceanology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IOCAS) claim to have found a clam that can produce erythromycin on its own. According to the study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the Asiatic clam

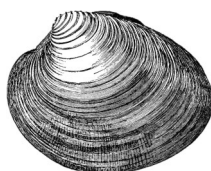


The Asiatic clam (*Meretrix petechialis*) on mudflats. Photo credit: Xin Yue

(*Meretrix petechialis*) has mucus-covered cells in their mantle epithelia that contain specialized antibiotic-producing cells. The mantle acts as a cloak that covers other soft body parts and is in direct contact with the environment. Erythromycin is likely secreted into the muddy, bacteria-rich habitat where the clam lives.

Prior to the study, scientists were unaware of how the clams resisted bacterial pathogens present in the mud flat environments they live in without lymphocyte-based immune systems. Using liquid chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry, immunocytochemistry, fluorescence in situ hybridization, RNA interference, and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, the researchers confirmed the antibacterial activity in the mucus of *M. petechialis*. They found that the clam DNA contained an erythromycin-making gene that resembled one used by bacteria, but differed enough that the invertebrate version might have evolved independently. The researchers found the gene in every life stage of the clam.

To find out more about this discovery: Yue, X., Zhang, S., Wang, H., and Liu, B. 2022. The mud-dwelling clam *Meretrix petechialis* secretes endogenously synthesized erythromycin. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119 (49): e2214150119. [doi/full/10.1073/pnas.2214150119](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2214150119)



NSA AT THE MOVIES



Do you have a shellfish-related video or movie you would like to share? Eric Heupel (eric@heupel.com)

Movies will be playing on a loop throughout the conference - pop in when you have time!

Jimmy Alcivar Arteaga Student Travel Award



Covers NSA membership, ESRAG membership (www.esrag.org), airfare, shared hotel room, meals, poster printing, and airport-Charlotte-airport transportation costs.
(12 awards available)

Students must present a poster at the NSA meeting and send an abstract (250 words), curriculum vitae, and copy of the visa page in your passport to fucobi@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Recruits Corner

Fellow Recruits,

Welcome back to the fall semester! We hope you have been enjoying the summer season. As we enter the beginning of the academic year we wanted to highlight some upcoming events and deadlines.

The 116th Annual Meeting will be held at the Sheraton-Le Meridien Hotel Complex in Charlotte, North Carolina, from March 17 - 21, 2024. **Submit your abstract now, the deadline is December 15, 2023.** Students presenting at the conference are also strongly encouraged to apply for Student Endowment Fund Travel Awards. Travel awards are given in the form of either shared lodging or registration waivers and awarded based on a lottery system. **The deadline to apply is December 15, 2023.** Please note - if you have not become an NSA member or updated your membership for the 2024 calendar year by this deadline your application will not be considered. For more information on the travel awards visit the NSA website: <https://www.shellfish.org/sef-student-presentation-and-travel-awards>.



International students are encouraged to apply for the FUCOBI Foundation Jimmy Alcivar Arteaga Student Travel Award, which covers NSA membership, ESRAG membership, airfare, shared lodging, airfare, meals, and more. To find out more on the FUCOBI award, visit: <https://shellfish.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/fucobi%20travel%20award%20info%20for%20Charlotte%202024.pdf>.

We also highly encourage you to apply for the student research grants, which provide \$1,250 to support student research. The Melbourne R. Carriker Student Research Grant supports a student research project in any area of shellfisheries. The Michael Castagna Student Grant for Applied Research supports a research project in the area of applied shellfisheries, and the George R. Abbe Student Research Grant supports a research project in crustacean biology and fisheries management. The R. LeRoy Creswell Award for Outreach and Education recognizes students who have shown exceptional merit in outreach activities. **Applications for all three awards are due November 1st annually and details can be found on the NSA website: <https://www.shellfish.org/student-research-grants>.**

Finally, make sure you join the NSA Student Recruits Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2216454881732029>), and follow the NSA on Instagram (@nationalshellfisheries) to stay up-to-date on all things NSA, including cool research, important deadlines, and information about Charlotte 2024.



Please reach out to Hannah (hannah.i.collins@uconn.edu) or Fiona (fcboard@uw.edu) with any questions, concerns, or comments, or just to say hi!

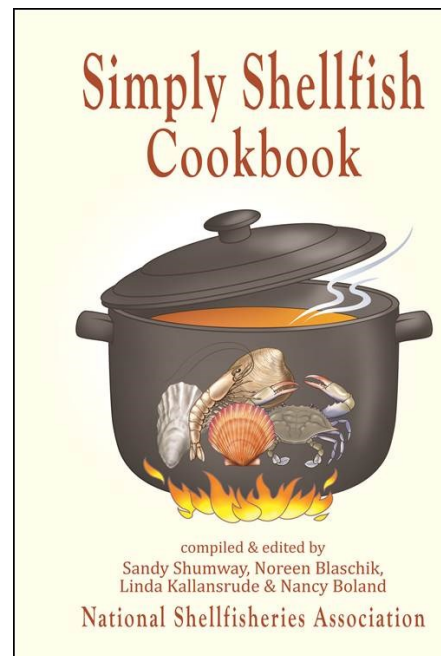
Also, this will be the last year that Fiona will be serving as Recruits Co-Chair, so the position is opening up soon. Please contact us if you are interested in this position. Our hope is that the incoming Co-Chair will be able to shadow us as we prepare for Charlotte 2024. **A minimum two year commitment and ability to attend future meetings is required.**

Hannah and Fiona

**Proud new owner of LeRoy Creswell's guitar
- high bidder, Kevin Stokesbury**



Over 650 shellfish recipes



All proceeds benefit the Student Endowment Fund

\$10 each or 3 for \$25

Makes a great gift for the upcoming holidays.

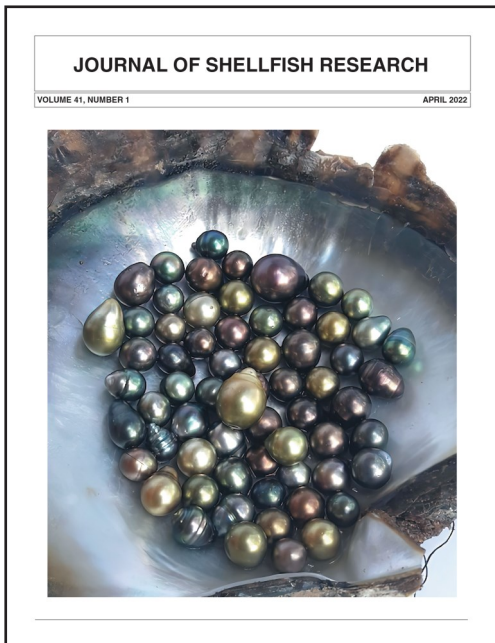
(Contact Sandra.shumway@uconn.edu to get a copy)

The *Journal of Shellfish Research* was awarded its 14th and 15th APEX Awards

Publication Excellence



**Cover - Design & Illustration
Volume 41, number 1**



*Thank you Claude Prevost of Civa Fiji Pearls
for submitting the photo.*



FIJI PEARLS

NSA Pacific Coast Section News

A quick reminder that the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association (PCSGA) and National Shellfisheries Association-Pacific Coast Section (NSA-PCS) Annual Conference and Tradeshow is being held at the Seaside Civic and Conference Center, Seaside, Oregon. The conference is scheduled for September 18-21, 2023.

The agenda is full of great presentations in exciting sessions such as Ocean Conditions, Genetics, Broodstock Development, and Down on the Farm. There will also be workshops like 'How social media can help your farm?', and 'Shellfish opportunities with The Nature Conservancy'. The keynote speaker this year is going to be a panel conversation of the importance and outcome of collaboration between researchers, growers, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO). The lunch speakers are Samantha Larson and MaryAnn Barron Wagner who are authors of "*Heaven on the Half Shell*" the story of the oyster in the Pacific Northwest. Some fun activities will include a pickleball tournament, student fundraising, silent and live auctions, and the annual grand awards banquet.

Check out the agenda and register now: <https://pcsga.org/events/annual-shellfish-conference-tradeshow/>. If you have questions or require more information, please contact NSA-PCS Chair Sandy Zeiner (szeiner@nwifc.org). Students, please reach out to Jodie Toft (jodie@restorationfund.org) and Laura Spencer (lhs3@uw.edu) with questions about student support.

The NSA-PCS Facebook page is your best resource for news and information about the Pacific Coast Section and events and annual meetings. Please join our community online. You can like NSA-PCS on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pacific-Coast-Section-of-the-National-Shellfisheries-Association/1438569826443936>.

Sandy Zeiner
Pacific Coast Section Chair



RENEW YOUR DUES

Reminder emails will begin
October 1st

Recruit 5 new members and earn
a free 2024 membership

Questions, contact
Secretariat@shellfish.org

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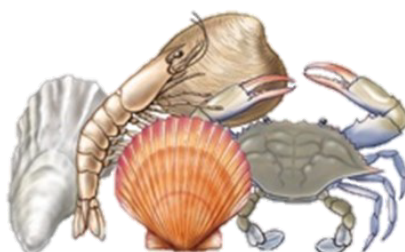
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Upcoming Events

77th Annual Shellfish Conference (NSA-PCS/PCSGA): Sept. 18-21, 2023. Seaside, Oregon. For more information: <https://pcsga.org/annual-conference>

Northeast Aquaculture Conference & Exposition/43rd Milford Aquaculture Seminar (NACE/MAS): Jan. 10-12, 2024, Providence, Rhode Island. For more information: <https://www.northeastaquaculture.org>

Aquaculture America 2024: Feb. 18-21, 2024. San Antonio, Texas. For more information: www.was.org

116th NSA Annual Meeting: Mar. 17-21, 2024. Charlotte, North Carolina. For more information: www.shellfish.org

23rd International Pectinid Workshop: Apr. 24-30, 2024. Douglas, Isle of Man. For more information: www.internationalpectinidworkshop.org

Aquaculture 2025 (Triennial): Mar. 6-10, 2025. New Orleans, Louisiana. For more information: www.was.org

118th NSA Annual Meeting: Mar. 22-26, 2026. Portland, Oregon. For more information: www.shellfish.org

If you would like to announce a meeting, conference, workshop, or publication of interest to NSA members, please contact the *QNL* Editor, Steven Allen (stevenmallen@gmail.com).

