

Wallace Award Presentation NSA Business Luncheon February 25, 2013

According to the NSA By-Laws,

“The Wallace Award is presented to an individual whose actions most demonstrate the principles and actions concerned with programs in shellfisheries, aquaculture and conservation as exemplified by Mr. David Wallace during his lifetime in promoting understanding, knowledge, and cooperation among industry members, the academic community and all levels of government (states, national, and international), and who has had outstanding success in bringing together shellfish scientists and industry officials for the benefit of shellfisheries.”

The newest awardee clearly represents the spirit and basis of this award. Kevin Stokesbury.

Kevin received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Acadia University in Nova Scotia and in 1994 received his Ph.D. from Université de Laval in Quebec. After 2 years at the Center for Marine Science Research at the University of North Carolina, and 2 years at the University of Alaska he joined the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth as an Associate Fellow and now serves as Professor and Chair of the Department of Fisheries Oceanography, School for Marine science and Technology (SMAST). He has done all of the usual academic things, published over 40 peer-reviewed papers, several book chapters, and supervised many graduate students, and secured millions of dollars in research funding.

Kevin has also worked closely with the commercial fishing industry for his entire career, and specifically the sea scallop industry for decades - as their scientific advisor, their advocate, their spokesman, and their friend. He has been employed by them as an expert witness and has also worked tirelessly *pro bono*. In 1999 he conceived a plan to videotape and map the seafloor; the resulting survey would actually count scallops with the intention of determining the size of the biomass. He engaged local fishermen and has since amassed a video library consisting of a quarter million video samples that have been used in every scallop fisheries management plan since that time. Today the work is acclaimed as some of the leading environmental work regarding sea floor habitat and the marine benthic community.

In 2004, he received the David L. Belding Award for marine resource conservation from the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission presented to the individual who has done the most to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the Commonwealth's marine resource. He also received the President's Award for Public Service from the University of Massachusetts for 'outreach and scientific work, involving both students and fishermen, that led to the

re-opening of the scallop beds on Georges Bank and enabled an additional \$55 million of catch in 1999-2000.’

I believe most telling of Kevin's efforts was in 2008 when he was recognized by the people in the fishing industry of New Bedford with the Friend of the Fisherman Award for 'his efforts on behalf of the fishing industry in New England, and for his role in the continued success of the scallop fishery.' He has been able to demonstrate that a thriving commercial fishery can be run in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner - a concept not always met with the same acclaim from many of his peers. Congressman Barney Frank was personally disappointed that he could not be present for the presentation of the award at the New Bedford Fishermen's Festival and formally commended Kevin in the Congressional Record. In his words, "One of the great successes - probably the greatest success - we have seen in regulation of the fishing industry in New England is with the scallop fishery, and no one is more responsible for this success than Kevin Stokesbury." Most recently, he was invited to chair the ICES Scallop Assessment Working Group.

A quote I have invoked frequently comes from Louis Pasteur: "To him who devotes his life to science, nothing can give more happiness than increasing the number of discoveries. But his cup of joy is full when the results of his studies find practical application. There are not two sciences. There is only one science and the application of science, and these two activities are linked as the fruit is to the tree."

The National Shellfisheries Association is honored to present the David Wallace Award to KEVIN STOKESBURY in recognition of his longstanding contributions to the commercial fishing industry as a science advisor, advocate, spokesman, and friend, and for his continuing efforts to invoke scientific discovery to shape policy and regulations at the highest levels.

Dr. Sandra E. Shumway
University of Connecticut



Sandy Shumway presents Kevin Stokesbury with the Association's David H. Wallace Award at the recent NSA Business Luncheon in Nashville, TN.