



In Memoriam

With deep regret we report the passing of longtime National Shellfisheries Association member Dr. Robert Winston Menzel Sr. who died at home in Tallahassee, Florida on Sunday June 11, 1989. He was 69 years old.

A native of Toano, Va., he had lived in Tallahassee for 35 years. He joined the faculty at Florida State University in the Department of Oceanography in 1954 after completing a Ph.D. in biology at Texas A&M University. He received a B.S. in Botany (1940) and an M.A. in Aquatic Biology (1943) from the College of William and Mary.

His research interests included biology and mariculture of shellfish, particularly oysters and clams and his research accomplishments include the clarification of the identities of the species of oysters world wide.

He was an active member of the National Shellfisheries Association. In addition to numerous committee assignments, he was a member of the Executive Committee from 1968 to 1974 serving as Member-at-Large (1968-71), Vice-President (1971-72) and President (1972-73). He was recipient of the National Shellfisheries Association's Honored Life Membership Award in 1981.

He is survived by two sons, Robert Menzel Jr. of Russell, Ky., and Gary P. Menzel of Pasadena, Texas; a daughter, Mary Linda Johnson of Bastrop, Texas; a brother, Emil Menzel of Toano, Va, and four grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to Menzel Scholarship Fund, in care of Patricia Kline, Department of Oceanography, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306-3048.

Pacific Coast Section of NSA

The Pacific Coast Section of NSA reports that the agenda is set for their upcoming annual meeting to be held jointly with the Pacific Coast Oyster Growers' Association (PCOGA) from September 21-23, 1989 at the Sea-Tac Radisson (formerly Hyatt) Hotel in Seattle, Washington. In addition to regularly scheduled technical sessions, a special session on Pacific Rim Shellfish Studies is scheduled along with industry contributed papers on Shellfish Cultivation Practices on the U.S. West Coast. Oil and the Environment will be the subject of the Keynote Address presented by Stephen McAlpine, Lt. Governor of Alaska and former mayor of Valdez, Alaska. For more information about the meeting, registration, etc., contact Tim Smith, 1023 S. Adams St. #129, Olympia, WA 98501 or Chris Langdon, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon State University, 2030 South Marine Science Drive, Newport, Oregon (503) 867-3011.

NOAA releases new study: The Quality of Shellfish Growing Waters on the East Coast of the United States

The Strategic Assessment Branch of NOAA has just released the second in a series of reports on the status of shellfishing waters in the United States. The first covered shellfishing waters in the Gulf of Mexico. The second, The Quality of Shellfish Growing Waters on the East Coast of the United States, examines the waters of 55 estuaries covering approximately 95 percent of the total estuarine area on the East Coast. Information was collected by site visits to 14 states, and through interviews with state and Federal officials, and industry.

Classification Status

The NOAA study results conclude that in 1985, 6.6 million acres of East Coast shellfish growing waters were approved for harvest (82 percent). Two-thirds of this approved area is found in the three largest East Coast estuaries: Chesapeake Bay (2.4 million acres approved shellfishing waters), Pamlico Sound (1.3 million acres), and Long Island Sound (0.7 million acres), estuaries in which almost 50 percent of classified acreage is not productive because of extreme salinities, or lack of suitable depth, substrate, or habitat for molluscan shellfish. Most waters, not meeting approved standards, were conditionally approved (waters are harvested only when they meet approved criteria) and less than one percent were restricted (must be subjected to a suitable purification process). The study also examined trends in classification from 1971 to 1985, concluding that most changes can be attributed to modifications in the administration of state shellfish programs, for example; addition of staff and increased monitoring efforts.

Shellfishing waters are classified for the commercial harvest of oysters, clams, and mussels based upon public health concerns. These molluscan shellfish are filter feeders,

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