David H. Wallace Award
Bestowed on Sandra Shumway

We chose to nominate Dr. Sandra Shumway for the National Shellfisheries Association’s David H. Wallace Award after reading a description of the award as one: “presented to those scientists who deserve to be recognized for their dedicated service in promoting research, understanding and cooperation among shellfish scientist, culturists, managers, producers and regulators”. We looked at the list of past winners of this prestigious award on the NSA website and found one name conspicuous in its absence, Sandra Shumway. There is little doubt that Sandy fits the criteria for the Wallace Award.

Sandy started her career in science about the age of 4 at her family’s summer home in Portsmouth, Rhode Island where she would explore the bay in her little motor boat and “test things”, all the while interacting with the fishermen and locals gaining what would become a life-long admiration and respect for “local knowledge”. She carried out a research project on shellfish and pollution that lasted 7 years, culminated with winning the Massachusetts State Science Fair, and set the course for a future in shellfish biology. At the age of 12 she asked for a filing cabinet for Christmas, no doubt in preparation to be a journal editor. She went on to receive her undergraduate degree in 1974 from the Southampton College of Long Island University where she graduated summa cum laude. From there, she attended the University College of North Wales (now University of Wales) as a Marshall Scholar and earned her Ph.D. in 1976. This was followed by post-graduate work in Wales, New Zealand, and New York. Sandy was awarded a Doctorate of Science (D.Sc.) degree from the University of Wales in 1992, and this year was honored with the distinction of Honorary Fellow from the same institution. As a researcher, professor, editor and advocate for shellfish and aquaculture, Sandy’s work has taken her around the world including stints in Connecticut, Georgia, New York, Maine, North Carolina, and Washington, as well as Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Brazil, Canada, China, Korea, Mexico, Norway and Spain, to name just a few.

Sandy Shumway has spent a lifetime (over 30 years and still going!) on research devoted to furthering a knowledge of shellfish and shellfisheries. Her professional life has been devoted simultaneously to basic research and the support and growth of aquaculture, worldwide. Sandy has performed physiological experiments on nearly every phyla of benthic organism and has tailored her research to benefit industry. From her early work with pandalid shrimp and sea scallops in Maine, to her work with harmful algal species (HABs) and their deleterious effects on commercially important shellfish species and human health, she has had a substantial impact on global legislation and policies.

Hers may not yet be a household name, but Sandy’s efforts have impacted families worldwide. She has been active in providing scientific expertise for the compilation of shellfish listings for the Seafood Watch cards which can be found in most any supermarket, and was instrumental in getting the northeast shellfish industry their own card. She regularly writes and speaks on behalf of the shellfish industry, not only in the U.S., but also abroad. She has made numerous invited trips, especially to developing countries, such as the Philippines, China, Mexico, and South America, to provide guidance on HABs and shellfish issues. Sandy has regularly participated in panels on aquaculture, fisheries and HABs to help the shellfish industries flourish in these parts of the world. Some of her works on HABs have been translated and published in Chinese.

Sandy Shumway was presented the David H. Wallace Award by past recipient Bill Dewey and NSA president Joth Davis at the NSA Pacific Coast Section Annual Meeting, last October.

Sandy is the editor of four international journals, Journal of Shellfish Research, Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology, Reviews in Fisheries Science, and Harmful Algae, the latter of which she co-founded. She has been an outspoken advocate for aquaculture and its benefits and has carried this message from small local newspapers to Congress. Most recently, she organized a workshop for NOAA on Shellfish Aquaculture and the Environment. Since her early start in science, Sandy has published over 150 articles, edited more than ten volumes on bivalves and aquaculture, and served on the committees of countless graduate students, worldwide. She is an Aldo Leopold Fellow, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and has received numerous honors and awards for teaching, science and advocacy.

In summary, Sandy has devoted the bulk of her professional career to the study and promotion of shellfisheries science both in the U.S. and abroad. She has worked tirelessly to coordinate industry and academia toward the betterment of shellfisheries worldwide. It is for these reasons that Sandy Shumway so richly deserved this year’s David H. Wallace Award.

Dane Frank and LeRoy Creswell