



Kenneth Kendall Chew
Honored Life Member

Dr. K. (Ken) K. Chew, is a recognised authority in the field of molluscan biology who has contributed extensively to invertebrate research and the continuing development of the shellfish industry on the west coast of North America. His contributions in the field of molluscan aquaculture are recognised world wide and his advice and consultation are frequently sought by industries in many countries.

Ken was born in Red Bluff, California in 1933 and received his elementary and secondary education there. While growing up, he worked in the family restaurant where he learned the fine art of Chinese cuisine. Those of us who have tasted Ken's cooking can attest to the fact that he mastered this fine art.

He obtained his B.A. from Chico State College in 1955 and then decided to attend the School of Fisheries of the University of Washington and become a fisheries biologist. Ken received a fellowship to begin graduate work on trout and salmon but Dr. Van Cleve sent him to the Washington State Department of Fisheries Shellfish Laboratory at Brinnon for the summer. He became involved in shellfish work at the lab and decided that his future lay with invertebrates, mainly molluscs, rather than fish and he entered the world of molluscan biology. He obtained his M.S. degree in 1958, studying the food preference of the Japanese oyster drill, and his PhD in 1962. The title of his PhD thesis was, "The growth of a population of Pacific oysters, *Crassostrea gigas*, when transplanted to three different areas in the state of Washington." His supervisor was Al Sparks, a former president of the National Shellfisheries Association.

After receiving his PhD, Ken joined the staff of the School of Fisheries at the University of Washington and has remained there since. He has held several positions at the School and has taught a variety of invertebrate courses. At present he is a Professor in the School of Fisheries. In 1989 he became the Director of the Western Regional Aquaculture Center (WRAC) which is one of five aquaculture centers designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to foster development of aquaculture in the United States. He resigned that position in 1996 to be the interim director of the School of Fisheries. He was then appointed Associate Dean, College of Ocean and Fisheries Sciences at the University of Washington in 1998, the position he holds presently. In addition to other duties, Ken is now busily engaged assisting with expansion of the College and seeking support for the College from industry.

Ken's research interests cover a wide spectrum that include shellfish biology and aquaculture, paralytic shellfish poisoning, and problems related to baseline ecological studies involving benthic intertidal and subtidal invertebrate communities. He has published over 100 papers on a wide range of shellfish subjects in scientific Journals, Technical Reports, Conference Proceedings, chapters of books and in columns of trade publications.

Teaching and maintaining a close rapport with students has been an important part of Ken's life and he has inspired many students to continue with studies in molluscan biology. During his career, about 100 students obtained graduate degrees under his supervision. In recognition of his outstanding teaching ability he received the 1993 Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award from the College of Oceans and Fisheries Sciences at the University of Washington.

Throughout his professional career, Ken maintained a close working relationship with the molluscan shellfish industry, particularly the industry in the Pacific Northwest. Much of his research and that of his graduate students focussed on finding solutions to problems to aid development of the industry. The present healthy state of the shellfish industry in the Pacific Northwest is due in a large measure to the efforts of Ken Chew and his co-workers. His talents and devotion to the shellfish industry were recognised when he was made Director of WRAC. In this position he devoted considerable time and energy testifying before Congressional Committees in Washington, DC on issues related to development of aquaculture.

Ken's influence in the shellfish industry has not been confined to the Pacific Northwest. He has provided advice and consultation to many countries throughout the world including; Australia, Canada, China, Chile, Japan, Thailand, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Philippines. He has lectured on molluscan biology and culture in many countries. He was an invited guest lecturer in China and in 1987 was appointed for life as a visiting professor at Shandong College of Oceanography.

Ken has been actively involved with the National Shellfisheries Association since he first joined in 1958. He served on the Board, was Vice President from 1970-71, President from 1971-72 and served as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Shellfish Research* from 1989-92. He has organized annual meetings held in Seattle. Another important function Ken has undertaken is to arrange Chinese Dinners at annual meetings. Many of us have enjoyed the fine cuisine and companionship that these evenings have afforded.

In addition to his involvement with the parent National Shellfisheries Association, Ken has played a major role to preserve and foster the association between the Pacific Coast Oyster Growers Association and the West Coast Section of the National Shellfisheries Association. From 1975-1990 Ken was the main reason this association survived and he devoted considerable time and energy into preserving this close association between industry and the scientific community of NSA. It is now a large and dynamic association and serves as an excellent forum for people from industry, government, and academia to come together and discuss shellfish work and problems. Many students have presented their first paper at these meetings. The present healthy state of this association is a monument to Ken's organisational skills and abilities.

As a result of his work and association with NSA, Ken was awarded the first David H. Wallace Award given by the Association in 1982 for his dedicated service in promoting research, understanding and co-operation among shellfisheries scientists, culturists, managers, producers and regulators. In further recognition of his contribution to NSA, he was elected to Honored Life Member in 1989.

Ken has been active in other organizations as well. He was a member of the Board of the World Aquaculture Society from 1973-76, President in 1977 and an associate editor of the Proceedings of the Society from 1985-89. He was editor for the North American Oyster Workshop that appeared as a special publication of the World Aquaculture Society in 1983. He received an Honorary Life Member award from the World Aquaculture Society in 1995. At present he is a columnist for Aquaculture Magazine.

Ken is an avid sportsman and, when time permits, relishes hunting and fishing. He is an excellent taxidermist and has mounted several species of birds he collected. He is a keen hand ball player and more than one meeting has been delayed so he could complete a game of hand ball.

Along with all his shellfish activities, Ken has found time to be an exemplary family man. He and his wife, Maegan, have raised four children and now have three grandchildren. They now have time to relax and enjoy their family and the view of Puget Sound from their wonderful house in Seattle. The shellfish world and NSA owe much to Ken Chew for his past contributions and his friends and co-workers know his influence will continue to be felt for many future years.

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