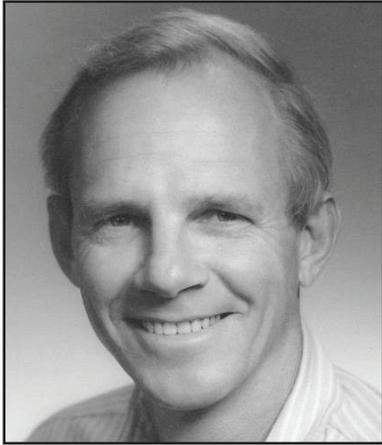


George Carey Matthiessen Aug. 15, 1928 - May 15, 2017



George Carey Matthiessen, shellfish biologist and pioneer in shellfish aquaculture died May 15, 2017 at his home in Chester, CT. Carey was born on August 15, 1928 on Fishers Island, N.Y., the son of Erard A. and Elizabeth Carey Matthiessen.

Carey was awarded the David H. Wallace Award in 1994 by the National Shellfisheries Association for his long service to the shellfish industry beginning in the 1960's. Carey's activities associated with the development and management of shellfisheries in New England, his pioneering work in developing practical hatchery techniques for rearing commercial quantities of oyster seed, and long-term service to the industry will be long remembered by older NSA membership. Matthiessen began his long career advocating for the conservation and beneficial utilization of marine resources soon after receiving his Ph.D. in Marine Biology from Harvard in 1959. His thesis focused on the ecology of soft shell clams. He entered the work force soon thereafter, working first as Assistant Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, and later establishing the Marine Research Foundation (MRF) on Martha's Vineyard in 1962. The MRF was a non-profit organization dedicated to the propagation and development of shellfish aquaculture on the Vineyard, utilizing south side salt ponds for cultivating seed oysters. Carey directed the activities of

the MRF until the late 1960's prior to establishing a marine consulting firm, Marine Research, Inc. (MRI) in response to the growing opportunities associated with ecological assessment work associated with electric utilities utilizing seawater for cooling and their effects on marine biota associated with warm water pumped into estuaries.

Carey resigned from MRI to focus his energy on developing a seed oyster production farm on a salt pond on the east end of Fishers Island, NY, starting Ocean Pond Corporation in 1978. There, his pioneering and deceptively simple approaches to rearing oyster larvae and seed took root and provided seed oysters for growers in southern New England. He worked tirelessly with researchers, including Susan Ford and Hal Haskins to bring in oyster brood stocks selectively bred for resistance to MSX, soon after MSX was discovered in southern New England.

Carey was intrigued by the potential to utilize the high nutrient seawater trapped by the thermocline in Ocean Pond to fertilize the surface waters during the summer months and stimulate primary production to provide more microalgae to feed seed oysters growing in tray culture on the pond's surface. He was also very interested in evaluating both selective breeding combined with triploidy in *C. virginica*, publishing results in the 1990's on the performance of triploid *C. virginica* in the face of MSX infections on Cape Cod.

Noting the decline in habitats suitable for raising shellfish on Long Island Sound, Carey later served as Director of the Sounds Conservancy and as a visiting Professor at the University of Connecticut, Groton during the 1980's. Together with his wife of 65 years, Cis, they traveled widely and often for the purpose of research on oysters. His long experience developing aquaculture techniques in New England combined with observations made all over the world, culminated in the publication of his book "Oyster Culture" published in 1991. He was also active in the conservation movement and served for years on the board of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation, publishing for them in 2005: Forage Fish - a booklet dedicated to increasing public awareness of the importance of forage fish to our marine ecosystems and the damage done to them by industrial fisheries.

Everyone who knew Carey knew of his humble, easy going demeanor, clever wit, and infectious smile. Many describe him as the nicest person they've ever known. Stimulated by both the natural beauty of Ocean Pond and his intellectual curiosity, Carey worked tirelessly, well into his 70s, to refine his oyster seed production techniques. During this time, he also served as mentor, imparting his wisdom, passion for the marine environment, expertise, friendship and love of striped bass fishing to a cadre of active oyster aquaculturists today – a list that includes, Joth Davis, Steve Malinowski, Bob Rheault, Seth Garfield and others who cut their teeth at Ocean Pond on Fishers Island. Today, Steve continues the tradition of utilizing the pond for seed oyster cultivation.

G. Carey Matthiessen left an indelible mark on the development of shellfish aquaculture, through his unique capacity to combine a deep love of the marine world that valued stewardship above all with the practical development and utilization of marine resources for the betterment of people. He was a pioneer in aquaculture recognizing decades ago that humanity would need to look to farming the sea to satisfy the growing demand for seafood. His recognition in 1994 by the NSA as a David H. Wallace Award recipient is a tribute to that legacy.

Joth Davis
Steve Malinowski

