

## ***Inaugural Recipient of the Paul Galtsoff Industry Award***

Daniel (Danny) Myer Cohen has been selected as the first recipient of the Galtsoff Industry Award. His accomplishments were unique. The Galtsoff Industry Award was established to recognize “individuals who have made substantial contributions at regional, national, or global levels, notably linking science with industry needs, and substantial outreach efforts”. Danny did all of that. Unfortunately, Danny passed before he could receive this award or even be notified of his selection. For that, we are deeply-saddened, but take solace knowing that his family, employees, industry colleagues, regulatory colleagues, and his scientific colleagues across the world will know that his work did not go unrecognized, nor unappreciated, by the National Shellfisheries Association.



*Photo courtesy of Barry Cohen*

Danny was President and CEO of Atlantic Capes Fisheries, Inc., a fully-integrated seafood producing conglomerate that he built from a few clam boats his father had owned. Danny was neither a fisherman nor an aquaculturist. He’s been described as the most successful fisherman that never caught a fish.

Danny’s parents passed in 1974 when he was an architecture student at Cornell University. He put his education on hold to help his family’s business and never went back, turning his father’s clam boats into a global seafood corporation employing nearly 500 people. He owned boats and managed the docks. He was a businessman. He saw how hard fishermen worked and recognized their integrity and desire to provide. He also saw the limitations of the environment, as well as the limitations of a slow and cumbersome regulatory system that often pitted regulators against the regulated even though the two were trying to achieve a common goal of sustainable fishing. Most importantly, he recognized the power of employing science to advance fisheries and aquaculture management for production and sustainability through an informed balance of conservation and exploitation.

Over four decades, Danny dedicated no less than one third of his time serving as a public advocate for fisheries and aquaculture, recognizing that sustainable harvests required responsible environmental and resource stewardship. He knew this required a solid understanding grounded in science and advocated, promoted, and even funded research in applied fisheries and aquaculture. Among his many activities Danny appeared before Congress, served in leadership roles in a variety of governmental agencies and advocacy organizations, and engaged industry members to join him in advocating for and financially supporting research to manage their fisheries sustainably.

Danny served as Chairman of the National Fisheries Institute (NFI) Scientific Monitoring Committee and on the NFI Clam Committee. He was the Principal and President of Fishermen’s Energy of New Jersey, LLC., a corporation created from an initial opposition to offshore wind development after recognizing the larger and broader scale of the world’s energy problem, an endeavor that ultimately featured him in a TEDx talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbkD-DOyv5w>). The NFI, the largest association of seafood harvesters, processors, marketers, and importers in the United States, recognized Danny’s environmental leadership role by awarding him the “FINese Award for Responsible Fisheries”. In 2009, Danny’s environmental leadership was recognized by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and named him New Jersey’s “Clean Energy Advocate of the Year”.

Danny’s role in aquaculture was equally significant. About 20 years ago, Danny was introduced to Stan Allen by NJ Sea Grant extension agent Stu Tweed who wanted Danny to learn about the potential of growing oysters using disease resistant stocks. Danny soon learned of Stan’s work with Ximing Guo on developing triploid oysters and helped fund their work to develop the tetraploid technology now used to produce triploid oysters around the world – a revolution in the industry. Danny continued investing in shellfish aquaculture operating scallop farms in British Columbia, developing triploid scallops in China, and working to resolve negative farm-wildlife interactions with scientists trying to develop innovative methods to reduce impacts on threatened and endangered species.

Working with Roger Mann, and Eric Powell, Danny helped create the Science Center for Marine Fisheries (SCeMFis) with a national footprint and an international roster of participating scientists. Atlantic Capes has been a financial supporter of SCeMFis since day one with Danny working as a quiet, but resolute, force in recruiting other industry members to this cooperative effort.

Roger Mann states, “*Danny is not a hands-on, go-to-sea or get-muddy guy (he leaves that to us), but his rare talent resides in his ability to see the larger challenge of resource management through economic development as a unified task, and to engage talent in a coordinated, rigorous effort to resolve problems in a proactive and mutually beneficial manner.*”

Danny worked to the end. In his last year, he was actively leading an effort to develop management alternatives in the offshore scallop industry with the goal of increasing safety at sea, decreasing overcapitalization in fleet resources, providing opportunity for development of young crew, and stabilization of product value on the competitive international market. The NSA honors and recognizes his contributions as the inaugural recipient of the Paul Galtsoff Industry Award.

**Congratulations Danny! We appreciate your work and will miss your insightfulness, persistence, and comradery.**

***David Bushek***