Paul Galtsoff Industry Award
Andrew Jeffs, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Andrew Jeffs was presented with the Paul Galtsoff Industry Award in recognition of his contributions to the knowledge of the life histories, ecology, biology, and husbandry of numerous species which have been key in the development of aquaculture of molluscs, crustaceans, and echinoderms in southeast Asia, the United States, the South Pacific, and Chile, as well as his native New Zealand.

Professor Jeffs' early work on the ecological role of underwater sound was ground breaking and inspired by his fascination with the crayfish lifecycle. During his postdoctoral time, the University of Auckland, the New Zealand National Institute of Weather and Atmosphere (NIWA) was interested in farming crayfish, which led to his position as General Manager of aquaculture and marine biotechnology. His work was instrumental in the development of aquaculture research capabilities for New Zealand, including the establishment Bream Bay Aquaculture Park, which remains the largest aquaculture research facility in New Zealand.

He was Chief Scientist for Darden Aquafarms for a decade where he was involved with the research and commercialization of spiny lobster aquaculture in Australia, Malaysia, and New Zealand. His research on the unusual larval biology of spiny lobsters not only helped to better understand the recruitment processes in these species, but also offered practical solutions for enhancing lobster farming efficiency. The success of this research initiative has resulted in the emergence of the first commercial-scale larval culture of spiny lobsters in the world.

Returning to the University of Auckland as a Professor, Andrew's collaborations used robust science to address the critical bottlenecks for the aquaculture and fishing industries. What began as a community-led idea in the Hauraki Gulf has now expanded across Aotearoa and even internationally. His extensive research on the biology of mussel spat has been a key driver in the New Zealand Greenshell mussel industry and a key architect of their R&D sector. Projects ranged from exploring the fundamental ecology of juvenile bivalves harvested for commercial ranching to novel husbandry systems. He helped initiate the largest mussel reef restoration program in the world, and continues to work with marine reserves around the New Zealand coast.

Over the last decade, Andrew has focused on working with local indigenous stakeholders (Māori tribes) in New Zealand restoring lost, or depleted shellfish programs in the Hauraki Gulf and Te Tau Ihu (Top of the South), with well over 300 tonnes of live mussels installed into coastal habitats for restoration and ecosystem health. Andrew was pivotal in bringing together tribes, industry, and government to collaborate in shellfish restoration that enhanced the vitality of those significant bodies of water. Andrew's aptitude for good communication stems from his formative years as an environmental journalist for the *New Zealand Herald*, where he reported extensively on marine and environmental science. His ability to communicate outcomes succinctly was instrumental in building and managing strong working relationships with the community. He recently co-led a research project with tribal partners to apply indigenous knowledge to the nursery rearing of juvenile mussels to supply tribally -owned commercial mussel farming operations.

Since 2020, Andrew has led high impact research for The Nature Conservancy investigating the habitat effects of kelp and mussel-kelp co-culture in New Zealand. It was established under this project that fish recruited into mussel and mussel–kelp co-culture systems and increased understanding of the ecosystem services associated with aquaculture and design a system that can be beneficial for nature.

During his tenure at the University of Auckland, Andrew has maintained his standing as an excellent educator and scientist. He has fostered extensive international collaborations, published over 300 scientific papers with more than 120 co-authors, has been cited over 11,500 times, and has supervised more than 50 Ph.D. students. Andrew has focused on bridging the disconnects between research providers and the 'real world' needs of marine farmers, fishers, and resource managers. He seeks input from industry members on research priorities and engages them in his research efforts.

Andrew is currently a Professor of Marine Science at Waipapa Taumata Rau, the University of Auckland, where he continues his research supporting aquaculture, fisheries, reef ecology, and student development.

Congratulations, Andrew!