



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Contact: Connie Barclay
301-713-2370

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NOAA FISHERIES HONORS EIGHT WHO HAVE ADVANCED FISH CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

NOAA's Fisheries Service announced today that it will honor eight individuals and organizations for their efforts to enhance the understanding, protection, and sustainable use of U.S. ocean resources. The recognition is part of the agency's second-annual Sustainable Fisheries Leadership Award that recognizes their individual achievements. NOAA leaders will present the awards at a dinner in Washington, D.C., on June 7.

"The health and sustainability of the planet's ocean resources is of paramount importance for the world's environmental, economic and human wellbeing," said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "The contributions from the award recipients inspire others and enhance NOAA's marine science and management programs each and every day."

"We received many deserving nominations this year, making these selections extremely difficult to make," said Bill Hogarth, director of NOAA Fisheries Service. "All of the nominees are an inspiration, and we thank each one for their role in helping us preserve our fishing heritage while conserving marine wildlife and ocean habitats."

Recipients were selected from 60 nominations in six categories of achievement. This year's recipients are:

Don Hansen will receive a Special Recognition Award for improving the management programs for West Coast marine fisheries fostering open dialogue and understanding between Pacific fishery scientists, managers, and fishing communities. He is a member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and a resident of Dana Point, Calif.

Brian Rothschild will receive a Special Recognition Award for his long and sustained contributions to marine science and education. He is widely recognized as one of the most cited fishery scientists in the world, publishing over 100 scientific papers and book chapters. He is a former dean of the School of Marine Science and Technology at the University of Massachusetts and a resident of New Bedford, Mass.

Don Kent will receive the Stewardship and Sustainability Award for furthering our understanding on minimizing the impacts of fishing operations on killer whales and for his pioneering research projects with marine finfish aquaculture and stock enhancement off the coast of California. He is president of Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, located in San Diego.

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The Coastal Conservation Association of Texas will receive the Conservation Partnership Award for promoting volunteerism through its Bay Debris Cleanup program that brought together a broad group of citizens, industry, and local, state and federal governments to clear tons of debris from the bay and beach in coastal Texas. The Association is based in Corpus Christi.

The World Wildlife Fund will receive the Science, Research, and Technology Award for inspiring innovation to reduce bycatch in the world's fisheries through its Smart Gear Competition. The organization is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Amigos de Bolsa Chica (Friends of Bolsa Chica) will receive the Coastal Habitat Restoration Award for preserving the 1,200 acre Bolsa Chica wetlands off the Calif. coast allowing fresh ocean water to enter the wetlands for the first time in over 90 years. The organization is based in Orange County, Calif.

The John G. Shedd Aquarium will receive the Public Education, Community Service, and Media Award for educating and equipping consumers to make good personal decisions about seafood consumption, and educating the public about Great Lakes fisheries. The Shedd Aquarium is in Chicago.

Nelson Beideman will be recognized posthumously for his lifetime contributions and tireless efforts to preserve the economic viability of the pelagic longline fleet through sustainable fishing practices, and through reduction of sea turtle and marine mammal bycatch in the fishery. He was co-founder and executive director of Blue Water Fishermen's Association based in Barnegat Light, N.J.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is celebrating 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Commission of Fish and Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

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NOAA Fisheries Service: www.nmfs.noaa.gov