



# New England Fishery Management Council

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## Council Presents 2018 Award for Excellence to Dr. Bill DuPaul

The New England Fishery Management Council today presented its 2018 Janice M. Plante Award for Excellence to Dr. Bill DuPaul, a highly respected scientist and pioneer of cooperative research in the Atlantic sea scallop fishery. His early work on scallop dredge ring size helped revolutionize the fishery's primary gear-type, leading to enhanced selectivity of large scallops and the release of smaller ones. He forged and nurtured partnerships with fishermen from the very start of his career, earning industry's trust and willingness to participate in a wide range of studies that greatly advanced management of the resource and the fishery.

Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn, who presented the award, said, "Dr. DuPaul is a man of great integrity. He intuitively knew that solutions to hard problems would come only when people on all sides worked together. He proved that cooperative research can break through seemingly insurmountable barriers and help resolve even the most challenging issues."

Dr. DuPaul is an emeritus professor at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William & Mary. His research included extensive work on the relationship between scallop meat weight and shell height, and he consistently strove to improve dredge efficiency, enhance scallop quality, and reduce bycatch, especially of yellowtail flounder.

He is a strong supporter of the industry-funded Scallop Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program. He has spent countless hours at sea with fishermen conducting gear research, biological studies, and annual surveys that have helped gauge abundance and distribution of scallops both on Georges Bank and throughout the Mid-Atlantic. The annual surveys also helped document incoming recruitment, enabling fishery managers to identify and close areas with large beds of seed scallops for additional grow-out. This practice is a bedrock of the current rotational area management program – and one that Dr. DuPaul was in on from the beginning. He is a staunch advocate of



2018 Award Recipient Dr. Bill DuPaul, left, with New England Council Chairman Dr. John Quinn – NEFMC photo



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Scallop RSA Share Days where industry members and scientists gather to openly discuss their research results and exchange ideas about emerging issues.

In 1991, the New England Council established the Scallop Plan Development Team (PDT). Dr. DuPaul was an inaugural member of the team and to this day continues to provide valuable guidance. He is the PDT's longest serving member. He also has been heavily involved with the Council's Research Steering Committee and, from 2007-2010, served on the former Scallop Survey Advisory Panel.

Dr. DuPaul remains active in the scientific world. He currently is a member of the Scallop Stock Assessment

Working Group, which is doing the legwork for the upcoming scallop benchmark stock assessment. As an esteemed veteran of the field, his voice is routinely sought after as wise counsel on a multitude of scallop issues.

Over the years, Dr. DuPaul has trained and mentored dozens of students who now are active contributors to fisheries research and management. Some work on the Council's own staff and serve on the Scallop PDT.

"Throughout his entire career, Bill DuPaul has remained a rigorous and objective scientist," said Chairman Quinn. "He recognized the importance of the scallop fishery and its impacts on businesses and communities throughout our region. He had a knack for breaking down complex problems and offering practical solutions that benefited us all."

In conclusion, Chairman Quinn said, "We appreciate and value his extensive contributions to the Council process. He has lived life large and created a legacy along the way."



*Dr. Bill DuPaul on deck. – Deirdre Boelke, NEFMC photo*