

## **Call for SNEC Professional Award Nominations**

**The Southern New England Chapter (SNEC)** of the American Fisheries society periodically makes awards to individuals and organizations it feels deserving of special recognition. We are currently seeking nominations for the awards described below (more information is available on the SNEC website at [http://www.sneec-fisheries.org/awards/prof\\_exec.html](http://www.sneec-fisheries.org/awards/prof_exec.html)).

Please submit your nominations by 15 April to Rodney Rountree, Professionalism Committee Chair, Phone: (508) 566-6586, Email: [rrountree@fishecology.org](mailto:rrountree@fishecology.org)

**Award of Excellence** (initiated circa 1987) - recognizes an SNEC member who has made exceptional contributions to the field(s) of fishery administration, education, management or research. Criteria for the Award can include significant publications, exceptional service, outstanding teaching or training of students, important discoveries or inventions, or other major contributions to the advancement of fishery science.

**Irwin Alperin Award** (initiated 1996) - recognizes a Chapter member who has made outstanding contributions to the Chapter and/or the Parent Society. Criteria for this Award include significant service to AFS through volunteerism, active participation in standing or ad-hoc committees, increasing public awareness of SNEC and AFS activities, encouraging student involvement/membership, membership recruiting, or other important contributions that advance Chapter and Profession goals.

**Outstanding Organization Award** (initiated 1996) - recognizes academic, governmental, private, or tribal organizations and units for their current or historic advances in the stewardship of aquatic ecosystems, advancement of fisheries science, or service to the profession. Criteria for this award include exemplary activities to 1) protect, conserve or restore aquatic ecosystems, 2) improve sustainable recreational and commercial fishery opportunities, 3) develop new scientific methods, equipment, computer software, etc., 4) improve interactions of their organizations with aquatic resource user groups and the general public, or 5) enhance the status and visibility of the fisheries.

**Lesia Meng Aquatic Conservation Award** (initiated 2006), (supercedes the Citizen's Aquatic Conservation Award initiated 1996). The Citizens Conservation Award was renamed the Lesia Meng Aquatic Conservation Award in 2006 in memory of SNEC member Lesia Meng. The award recognizes an individual or individuals from outside the fisheries profession that have made an outstanding contribution to conservation or the fisheries profession in Southern New England. Criteria for this award include activities that 1) protect, conserve or restore aquatic habitat and fisheries, 2) improve sustainable recreational and commercial fishery opportunities, 3) support federal, state, tribal, or private management and research agencies responsible aquatic resources, or 4) otherwise support the stewardship of aquatic resources or the enrichment of the fisheries profession.

*About Lesa Meng* – Lesa worked for U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in California from 1992-1995. She then came to Narragansett, RI where she worked at the US-EPA laboratory from September 1995 through June 2006. Lesa joined the American Fisheries Society in 1990. Once she came to work in RI, it took no time for her to join and get involved in the Southern New England Chapter. She took over as Program Development Chair in June 1997 and was a driving force in maintaining high quality Chapter meetings for almost 10 years. Lesa had developed the program for the June 14, 2006 meeting even though she was on medical leave at the time and could not attend. She earned the Southern New England's Special Achievement Award in 1999 for her design and her part in the sales of the official AFS '98 tee shirt. In 2001, she was awarded the Chapter's Irwin Alperin Outstanding Member Award for her continuing contributions as Program Chair. The Southern New England Chapter dedicated its January 2007 meeting to Lesa, at which time the society posthumously granted her the 2007 Award of Excellence.