

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kim Kosko at
732-872-1300 ext. 18 or
kkosko@njmsc.org

Cape May Salt Oysters Spices Up the Stew Tweed Scholarship Pot With Dollar for Dollar Challenge Match

(Sandy Hook, NJ) Dan Cohen, President of Atlantic Capes Fisheries, Inc. of Cape May NJ has announced that Cape May Salt Oysters will sponsor a matching funds challenge during the last quarter of 2008 to benefit the Stew Tweed Fisheries and Aquaculture Scholarship Fund. According to Cohen, Atlantic Cape's/Cape May Salt Oyster's will match one dollar for every dollar raised between now and December 2008 to the fund. Cohen is offering the challenge to encourage individuals and businesses from the Cape May and Delaware Bay commercial fishing and seafood industry communities to support the scholarship project. The New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium/New Jersey Sea Grant (NJMSC/NJSG) established the special scholarship fund last year to honor Stewart Tweed, a long-time Marine Extension Agent for New Jersey who passed away in February 2007. The scholarship commemorates Stew's twenty-seven years of service and commitment to New Jersey's commercial fishing industry and his valuable contributions toward revitalizing the State's oyster populations.

Two scholarships are awarded annually, one to a graduating high-school senior and one to an undergraduate or graduate student pursuing studies, careers or research focused on aquaculture and fisheries. The first two scholarships were awarded this year at the NJMSC/NJSG *State of the Shore* Annual Media Event when NJ Secretary of Agriculture Charles Kuperus presented

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**Building #22 Fort Hancock, NJ 07732 tel. 732-872-1300 fax: 732-291- 4483
www.njmsc.org email: general@njmsc.org**

scholarship checks to Kristen Gallagher, a graduating senior from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (MAST), and Christi Campbell, a New Jersey resident about to enter her sophomore year at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland.

Last year, Cohen presented a check for \$5,000 to the fund at *Coast Day NJ* in Cape May, when Stew was honored and the scholarship project was officially announced by Secretary Kuperus and 1st District Senator Jeff Van Drew.

Stew Tweed was a fixture at *Coast Day NJ*, educating thousands of visitors every year about commercial fishing and shellfish farming and treating them to samples of the Cape May Salt Oyster. “Cape May Salts” as they are now commonly known, are cultivated oysters Stew was instrumental in developing from an oyster seed project which have since evolved into a viable, commercially successful New Jersey seafood product shipped nationally and globally.

Commemorative T-shirts, a souvenir oyster photo-op area, and a special raffle will be part of the fundraising activities at the Stew Tweed Scholarship booth at this year’s *Coast Day NJ* event in Cape May on October 12th at the Lobster House Restaurant and Dock area. All money raised through these Coast Day NJ activities, as well as individual or corporate donations to the scholarship fund between now and the end of 2008, will be eligible for the Cape May Salt Oyster Challenge Match. The scholarship committee is hoping to raise sufficient funding by the end of 2008 to perpetuate the awards for a full decade. This goal is already well within reach and Cohen’s ACF/Cape May Salt Challenge is expected to help the project reach its target.

For more information and downloadable donation brochures or applications for the Stew Tweed Scholarship Fund, visit njmsc.org/Scholarships/Stew_Tweed.html

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