

Nomination for 2011 Rich Cailteux Award

We the former colleagues of L. Alan Collins (retired) wish to nominate him for the 2011 Rich Cailteux Award. Alan began his career with the newly named National Marine Fisheries Service in St. Petersburg, Florida in 1971. His first project was the Everglades faunal survey. After the closure of the St. Petersburg laboratory in 1973, he transferred to the Panama City, FL laboratory. Over the next thirty-two-plus years Alan worked on the early life history of fish and on the reproductive biology of reef fish, publishing in the peer-reviewed literature and contributing to stock assessments. Alan retired from federal service in January 2006.

We believe that Alan would be a worthy recipient of this award given his career-long work on the life history of fish and his selfless contributions to others in the field and to the local community. Alan always took time to pass on his knowledge to students, interns and junior biologists, and has had a positive impact on the careers of countless biologists, as well as aspiring biologists. His involvement with our local community increased the profile of our agency and our profession. He has been regularly involved in educational outreach activities such as kids' fishing clinics and field trips for school and scout groups. Alan has pulled countless beach seines in St. Andrew's Bay to introduce the diversity of species and explain the role of estuarine and seagrass habitats to school children who otherwise may have never been exposed to how our local Bay contributes to sustainable fisheries. For many years Alan has volunteered his time (and continues to do so) and resources to participate in a monthly sampling program, run by a local conservation group, that monitors long-term trends in water quality and aquatic resources in the St. Andrew Bay watershed.

Alan has been an active member of the American Fisheries Society-Florida Chapter for many years and has remained active with the organization into his retirement. He is one of the main reasons the Florida Chapter has had a successful raffle for so many years. Every year he has solicited donations of merchandise and fishing trips from local vendors, even after his recent cancer diagnosis and treatment.

In summary, we believe that Alan reflects what the Rich Cailteux Award represents: a long successful career contributing to fisheries science, mentoring and inspiring others in the field, educating the community, and contributing to the success of the Florida Chapter.

Sincerely,

Robert Allman
Beverly Barnett
Doug DeVries
Gary Fitzhugh
Linda Lombardi