

# National Shellfisheries Association

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2004, WINTER ISSUE

WALDOBORO, MAINE

## President's Message

It is with deep personal sorrow that I tell you Mike Castagna passed away on Sunday, January 18th. Word was received just as we went to press and a tribute will be forthcoming in the next newsletter and in *JSR*. We have lost an icon.

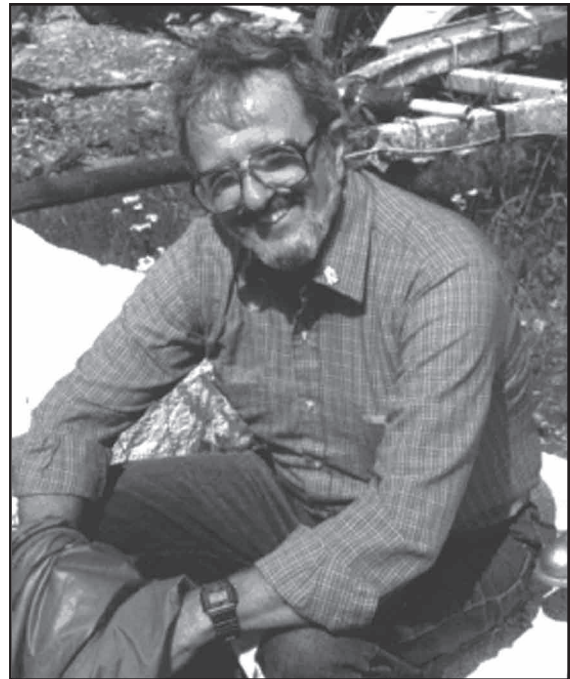
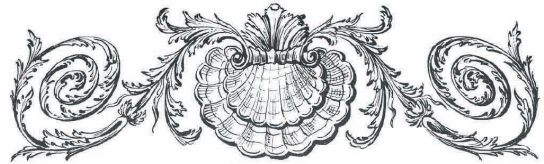
The last quarter of 2003 was a very busy and productive time for NSA. AQ '04 is now just around the corner (see summary on p. 3), our history, *Taming the Oyster*, by Mel Carriker is at the binder and will be unveiled in Honolulu (see p. 4 for pre-publication pricing and ordering information), *JSR* is now being published three times per year, The Longsight Group has been officially hired to program and host our WEB site and database, and we are already getting ready for Philadelphia in 2005!

In the last newsletter, you received a questionnaire asking for your input regarding our publications and their availability via the WEB. If you have not yet responded, please take a minute to send your comments to either Jay Parsons or John Kraeuter (contact information on back page). The Publications Committee and EXCOM are discussing ways to make the publications more readily available and there's always room for improvement. Now is your chance to be heard.

Membership has increased slightly, but we can do better. Ask your office mates if they are members, recommend us to your colleagues, or take some journals, newsletters and membership forms to conferences. Remember, if each member brought in just one new member, we would double in size. More members means more possibilities for our future!

Future meetings are in the queue. The contract has been signed with the Doubletree in Philadelphia. Be sure to mark April 10-14, 2005 for Philly; Dee Kreeger is the contact person. Paul Olin and Susan McBride are busy making plans for 2006 in the Monterey area of California, 2007 will be another triennial, and our Centennial meeting will be held in 2008. Discussions are still underway regarding possible venues and this promises to be a shellfish extravaganza. A committee is slowly

continued on page 4.



**MICHAEL CASTAGNA**  
*October 21, 1927 - January 18, 2004*

*A tribute is being prepared for Mike's family from NSA. If you would like to contribute, please send your comments, photographs or favorite 'Mike' stories to Sandy. Hand-written or typed please (email if you must, I'll take care of it). Mike gave us much over the past 45 years, please take a few minutes out of your hectic schedules to do*

## Treasurer's Update

It's tax season again and that means we've wrapped up another fiscal year at NSA. Actually, our fiscal year ended September 30, but it always takes a while for the dust to settle. NSA's assets were more or less stable last year with a final balance of \$112,330.39. This was down slightly (\$2,747.25) from the previous year as expenses (\$271,578.85) were slightly more than income (\$268,831.60), but this is only about 1% of annual operating costs. These numbers give you a sense of what it costs to operate the Association and the goal set by the EXCOM of trying to maintain a year's worth of operating funds in reserve. We seem to be hovering between a third and a half of that goal. I am happy to report, however, that we have not had to touch the money in our CD. Those funds continue to grow (albeit slowly in the current economy) and total value is now \$36,099.90. Unfortunately, the outlook for the current year is pretty tough as several expenses continue to increase and we will have the additional expenses of producing the NSA history and have contracted with the Longsight Group to create a web portal that will replace our outdated database and accounting system. Some of those funds will, however, be recovered in the sales of the NSA history (be sure to buy your copy once it comes out!). Establishment of the web portal will also make managing the association more efficient, allow better access to their membership, and provide us all with a variety of new benefits.

A number of members continue to donate generously to the Student Endowment Fund (SEF) with their dues. Contributions were \$1,790, the SEF auction in New Orleans provided \$1,934 and the SEF sales booth took in \$1991.85. That's the highest total (\$5,926.63) since at least 1999! We  
continued on page 6.

## Welcome Aboard To Our New Web Assistants

Maille Lyons (University of Connecticut) and Steven Roberts (Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole) have been chosen to work with the WEB Committee to develop and improve our WEB page. Suggestions for additions (or subtractions) to the WEB page are welcome and should be sent to Molly, Steven or Karolyn Hansen.

This is an exciting opportunity for NSA to upgrade our presence on the WEB and your input is encouraged. Please make a point of introducing yourselves to these folks at the meeting and take a little time to send them your ideas.

Welcome Molly (mmmylions@hotmail.com) and Steven (sroberts@mbl.edu)!

## Recruits Corner

Good news for students still thinking about joining us for Aquaculture '04 in Hawaii: one low registration rate right up until the meeting. For this Triennial meeting, the organizers have arranged for student registration to stay at \$125 – no cut-off dates, no high late registration fees. So, if you did not register by the early deadline, no worries. This also applies to student non-members (\$175 fee), so if you have friends that might be interested in attending, pass this info along. The meeting in Hawaii will have plenty to offer, even for those of us not presenting this time around. There are student activities, the famous Auction, and an extensive trade show. Student attendees should plan to go to the Student Orientation on Monday, March 1 from 3:30-4:00 to hear about all that the meeting has to offer and then join us for a Student Reception just before the Auction on Tuesday night. The Reception will be an excellent place to mingle with students from USAS, WAS, and AFS and participate in optimal foraging. In addition, there will be a special session on how to give an award winning presentation on Tuesday afternoon. Of course, anyone that has attended an NSA meeting before will tell you that there are always plenty of unscheduled good times, nights on the town (I've already gotten the low-down on local hotspots from some Waikiki natives), and fun at the sales booth. Also, the Trade Show is always one of my favorite parts of a Triennial meeting. There are great displays, raffles to enter, plenty of free swag (I scored some great aquarium plants in Orlando), and you might just learn something or find just what you were looking for. Anyone looking for a job in the near future might find the right fit on the job board or at the Student Reception where potential employers will be encouraged to make a plea for applicants.

If you are coming to Hawaii and you would like to find a roommate to share the costs of the extremely reasonable rooms, please contact me ASAP. You will find my contact info on the back cover. As always, we can use help at the sales booth – remember that all proceeds go back to the students – so please let me know if you have some time to volunteer. And remember when you register to check the NSA member box.

If you will not be joining us on the sunny shores of Waikiki this year, I want to hear from you anyway. We got a lot of good suggestions from students at the meeting last year and I want to keep the lines of communication open. If you have any suggestions at all about NSA student activities, please drop me a line. Suggestions for student activities at upcoming meetings, items for the Recruits newsletter articles, or just about anything else studenty and very welcome. Hope to see you in Hawaii. The white, black and green sand beaches are calling.

Nature McGinn

## AQ '04 in Hawaii is just one month away...

It's not too late to make plans to escape your winter doldrums and snow shovels and head to Hawaii for AQ '04! You should have received a meeting brochure and registration form, but if you didn't, they are readily available at the NSA Web page ([www.shellfish.org](http://www.shellfish.org)), or by emailing me directly. The Program is now complete and should be posted on the Web shortly. There will be a record 1370+ papers spread over 100+ sessions and poster displays. Shellfish are featured prominently on each day of the meeting (BMPs, ECSGA/PCSGA, Gastropod Cultivation, Scallops, Shellfish Disease and Genetics, Clams, Offshore Aquaculture, Abalone, Pearl Oysters, Mussels). As always, the Trade Show will be a featured attraction (time to stock up on those key chains, pens and luggage tags). There will be two dedicated poster sessions (with beer!!) and posters will be displayed throughout the entire meeting. We can always accept another poster.

The actual meeting will take place at the Hawaii Convention Center, a new and beautiful piece of architecture with outstanding facilities. All sessions, posters and the trade show will take place there. There's also a lot to explore - volcanoes, nightlife, beaches, forests, surfing, parasailing, historic sites and tiki bars. Did I forget to mention beaches?! There are also pre- and post-conference tours of the Oceanic Institute, a submarine tour of open ocean aquaculture cages,

and a Circle Island Aquaculture tour featuring fish, shrimp and prawn growout ponds.

We are especially excited to be unveiling *Taming the Oyster*, Mel Carriker's history of the industry and the NSA. (See p. 4 for special pre-publication order form and pricing).

### **SPECIAL REMINDER FOR NSA MEMBERS:**

**AUCTION:** Tuesday evening, 7 p.m. Sheraton Hotel

**BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCH:** (included in your registration, but we need to know how many are coming!!) Thursday 12:00. TBA

We are expecting record attendance and we hope that NSA will be strongly represented. Remember, our profits from this meeting depend on not only your attendance, but making sure that you check the box on the registration form that says National Shellfisheries Association MEMBER.

See you on the beach,

Aloha,  
Sandy



*Just imagine yourself on this beach at AQ '04 in Hawaii.*

## In Memoriam

The shellfish world lost a friend and dedicated scientist on November 18, 2003. K. Sundraj (Sam) Naidu passed away suddenly in St. John's, Newfoundland. Sam was a long-time researcher with the Canadian DFO and had a passion for scallops, fisheries and fishermen. He spent a considerable amount of his time at sea and interacting with the fishing community, activities that gave him an uncanny insight into the needs and expectations of the fishermen. Sam was a great and cultured character who brought a wealth of experience and common sense to debates on stock management issues – often serving as the intermediary on the most difficult management issues. He was, in all things, a gentleman with a gentle and friendly manner and an eye for natural beauty, fine art and good wine. Sam was a regular at the International Pectinid Workshops and his good humor and common sense will be missed by many.



## President's Message... Continued from page 1.

forming, let me know if you have thoughts on sites or would like to participate in the planning.

Much of our work is the result of Committees and we can always use more help, hint, hint! Future and on-going efforts will be focusing on membership, institutional subscriptions to JSR, WEB and electronic access to our publications, and long-term programmatic planning. Contact me or any member of the EXCOM if you would like to volunteer. Finally, the ballot has been mailed out, so please take the time to vote.

The agenda is being put together for the EXCOM meeting in Hawaii. If you have anything that you think needs to be addressed, please let us know immediately. The simple cost of doing business continues to increase; however, membership costs have not increased for several years and this topic will surely be discussed at the EXCOM meeting. If you have thoughts on this, pro or con, please let one of us know before the meeting!

I look forward to seeing you in Honolulu and wish you all good things for 2004!

Sandy Shumway

### ***Taming of the Oyster*** ***A History of Evolving Shellfisheries and*** ***the National Shellfisheries Association by*** ***Dr. Melborne Carriker***

**is nearly available!**

Send your orders to:

Dr. Sandra E. Shumway  
Department of Marine Sciences  
University of Connecticut  
1080 Shennecossett Road  
Groton, CT 06340

Books ordered by March 31, 2004 are available at the pre-publication price of \$20.00 after which the price will be \$25.00

Make checks payable to the NSA.

**Taming of the Oyster**  
A History of Evolving Shellfisheries  
and the National Shellfisheries Association



## **Deliberate Introductions Of Exotic Shellfish Species: The Benefits Can Be Great But The Consequences Are Difficult To Predict**

As the debate rages as to the best strategy for revitalizing the ailing oyster industry in Chesapeake Bay, there are strong pressures by the states of Virginia and Maryland to introduce the non-native Asian Suminoe oyster *Crassostrea ariakensis*. Indeed, oysters have been transported within and across ocean basins by humans for at least three centuries and the U.S. west coast industry is almost solely dependent on the culture of non-native oyster species. Other countries in the world also rely heavily on the use of non-native oysters and much of the food that we eat comes from non-native terrestrial plants and animals.

Initial field trials using triploid *C. ariakensis* in the lower Bay show great promise; the species seems relatively immune to MSX and Dermo (the two principal parasites that are having devastating impacts on the Eastern oyster) and grows much faster than the native species. In Virginian waters, there is currently underway an economic feasibility study in which a total of about 800,000 triploids are being grown at 8 different sites in the lower Bay. Triploids have also been used for the past several years in field trials in North Carolina. Maryland, while initially opposed to using the exotic, has reversed its position and is strongly pushing to conduct an environmental impact assessment for the eventual introduction of diploids into its waters within the next several years. Motivation for the aggressive time-line for the introduction into the Bay usually centers on maintaining a portion of the Bay's cultural and economic heritage as well as viewing the filtration potential of oysters as a means of helping to reduce some of the Bay's water quality problems. The oft-mentioned figure that Eastern oysters were abundant enough in the last portion of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that they could filter the entire volume of the Bay every 3+ days is repeatedly cited as justification as a means for 'saving' the Bay and restoring its water quality to pre-World War I conditions.

All this activity is going on in spite of the recent National Academy of Sciences' report which was commissioned to assess the environmental risks associated with the proposed introduction of the non-native oyster (an on-line version is available at [and](#) hard copies of the report should be available around mid-February). One of the recommendations of the report is to proceed with caution until sufficient biological and ecological information has been acquired on the species. For example, virtually nothing is known about how the alien will interact with other species in the Bay or whether it will necessarily provide the same ecosystem services as the native oyster. While the ICES Code of Practice on Introductions and Transfers will be used to minimize the unintentional introductions of 'hitchhiking' species (e.g., snails, crabs,

macroalgae) and diseases, it is presently unclear whether these measures will be totally effective. The recent finding of *Bonamia*-like infections of *C. ariakensis* deployed in North Carolina waters also point to the current lack of understanding whether the non-native oyster will act as a reservoir for other types of native and non-native oyster pathogens.

Of equal concern is the argument used by some that the introduction represents an environmentally sound means of 'cleaning the Bay'. Admittedly, there are some striking examples in the U.S. of how non-native bivalves have enhanced water clarity of lakes and coastal waters; however, most would argue that the negative economic impacts associated with introduction of Zebra mussels and *Corbicula* far exceed the environmental benefits gained from their filtration activities. Restoring the Bay's water quality to conditions experienced 120+ year ago is a lofty goal, but it seems more prudent to address these problems at their sources rather than assuming that an alien biological "filter" is the panacea. The search of short-term solutions to long-term and often complex environmental issues and phrases like 'saving the environment' are sometimes a guise for other motivations. The expectation that introducing the new species into the Bay will result in its immediate and rapid proliferation seems unrealistic given the Bay's complex environmental problems and that the organism will be experiencing intense fishing pressure. Considerable hyperbole and mis-information seems to be surrounding the issue and a well formulated and carefully constructed research agenda focused on obtaining critical biological and ecological information needs to be completed and reviewed by the scientific community before the introduction is sanctioned.

While we currently lack the ability to predict which marine species are good invaders or pests, it is well recognized that once a species is introduced into a new area it is virtually impossible to control or remove them. Hence, the proposed introduction should not simply be viewed as of concern only to Chesapeake Bay. If *C. ariakensis* is able to establish self-sustaining populations, it is highly likely it will eventually spread outside the Bay and could potentially impact coastal ecosystems and native oyster populations along a significant portion of the U.S. eastern seaboard.

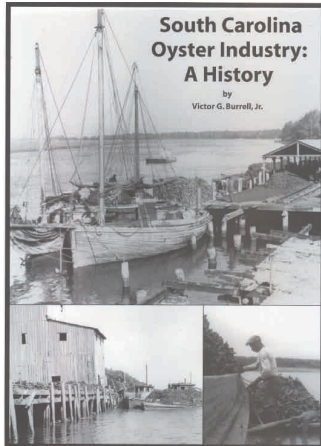
Robert B. Whitlatch  
Department of Marine Sciences  
University of Connecticut

*The author was one of 11 members of the NAS Committee on Non-Native Oysters in the Chesapeake Bay; however, his comments are not meant to necessarily reflect those of NAS or the Committee.*

**Don't forget to vote by February 26 for Executive Committee candidates in the 2004 NSA Election!**

Send your ballots to Lou D'Abramo (Contact information is on the back page)

# ***South Carolina Oyster Industry: A History*** by Victor G. Burrell, Jr.



**is now available!**

To order a copy, contact the author at:

Dr. Victor G. Burrell, Jr.  
South Carolina Wildlife  
and Marine Resources  
Department  
P.O. Box 12559  
Charleston, SC 29412

## **Treasurer's Report...**Continued from page 2.

stocked up on pins and cookbooks – items that sell well at the triennials – and hope to beef up the SEF fund even more in Hawaii. All NSA items sold benefit the SEF fund and don't forget the auction at the meeting!

Page charges. I debated writing anything about this, as it is my least favorite item to deal with as Treasurer. Most authors promptly pay page charge invoices once they are received. Nonetheless, there are a number of you that simply ignore these notices. Your names and address are listed elsewhere in this newsletter for your colleagues to see who is getting a free ride off of their dues (just kidding). But seriously, if you don't pay your invoices, those costs are spread to your colleagues as increases in dues and increases in page charges. One reason page charges are as high as they are is to help cover costs that we can't recover when authors don't pay. Please plan on these costs when you submit a manuscript to *JSR*.

In line with the theme of financial stability, you should have received your annual dues invoice by now. If you haven't paid it, please take a moment to do so now. As you do so, consider recruiting your friends, colleagues and students that may benefit from being a member. The health of NSA depends on its membership and more members means a stronger society. You can print out a membership form at [www.shellfish.org](http://www.shellfish.org).

Dave Bushek, Treasurer

## **Making the Link To NSA**

The number of NSA members has grown over the past few years, and we are approaching the 1000 member milestone! This year the membership committee has reviewed some strategies and tactics for professional societies to increase and retain members. In this day and age, information that used to be distributed almost exclusively on paper is now increasingly available over the Internet. One of our best ways to increase membership is to increase our visibility on the web, since getting prospective members to access our website might convince them of the benefits of joining NSA. To that end, we are checking out some of the websites of other societies, organizations, businesses, and marine or shellfish related careers to see if NSA is linked to those websites. We have already identified 15 potential websites for linking with NSA. As you all surf the information super highway, please keep your eyes out for websites that it would be beneficial for NSA to have its name added to their list of web links. If you have suggestions for sites for us to contact to get NSA linked, please contact Marty Chintala (contact information is on the back of the newsletter). Likewise, if you have any further ideas on ways to increase membership, please pass them along as well.

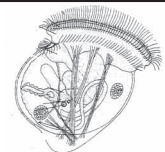
On another note, the membership directory is being updated and will be reprinted in late 2004. We will also have a copy of the directory at the Aquaculture '04 meeting for people to correct, and you should have received a request in your dues notice to please correct the information that we have for you. Any updates to the directory can be submitted via email to Nancy Lewis (contact information is on the back of the newsletter). Thanks and see you in Hawaii!

Marty Chintala  
Membership Committee Co-Chair

### **Bivalve Culture Methods**

May 17-21, 2004

Darling Marine Center  
Walpole, Maine



A one week hand-on residential course exploring the theory and practice of marine bivalve aquaculture. Bivalve taxonomy, anatomy, reproductive biology and genetics; algal culture; larval and juvenile rearing techniques, site selection, water quality and human health issues are among the topics to be covered. College credit available through the University of Maine. For more information, contact Linda Healy, Course Coordinator, Darling Marine Center, 193 Clark's Cove Road, Walpole, Maine 04573; phone: (207) 563-3126 ext 200, email: [lhealy@maine.edu](mailto:lhealy@maine.edu), or visit: <http://server.dmc.maine.edu/>, or contact Dr. Chris Davis, course instructor (contact information can be found on the back page).

## Upcoming Meetings

**24<sup>th</sup> Milford Aquaculture Seminar:** February 23-25, 2004, Quality Inn, New Haven, CT. For agenda information or registration materials, contact Walter Blogoslawski at phone (203) 882-6535, email: walter.blogoslawski@noaa.gov or visit <http://mi.nefsc.noaa.gov/seminarworkshop.html>.

**Annual Meeting of the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association:** February 24, 2004, Quality Inn, New Haven, CT in conjunction with the Milford Aquaculture Seminar. For more information, contact Robert Rheault at phone (401) 783-3360 or email: oysters@ids.net.

**Aquaculture 2004:** March 1-5, 2004, Hawaii Conference Center, Honolulu, Hawaii. International Triennial Conference and Exposition of the National Shellfisheries Association, American Fisheries Society Fish Culture Section and the World Aquaculture Society. For more information, contact the conference manager at phone (760) 432-4270 or email: worldaqua@aol.com.

**International Boston Seafood Show:** March 14-16, 2004, Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA. For more information, visit <http://www.bostonseafood.com>.

**Atlantic Estuarine Research Society Spring Meeting:** March 24-27, 2004, Salisbury State University, Salisbury, MD. Feature Topic: The Condition of Chesapeake Bay: Past, Present and Future. The first day will feature a Special Session on Introduced Oyster Species. For more information, contact the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society by visiting: <http://www.aers.info>.

**5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Recirculation Aquaculture:** July 22-25, 2004, Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, Roanoke, VA. For more information, email: aqua@vt.edu, phone (540) 231-6805 or visit <http://www.contend.vt.edu/aquaculture/r-aqua/index.html>.

**19<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Zoology:** August 23-27, 2004, Beijing, China. There will be a session on "Molluscan Systematics, Evolution and Population Genetics". For more information, contact Dr. Ximing Guo at email: xguo@hsrl.

[rutgers.edu](http://rutgers.edu) or visit <http://www.icz.ioz.ac.cn>.

**2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration:** September 12-15, Washington State Conference and Trade Center and the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Seattle, WA. Sponsored by Restore America's Estuaries. For more information, contact Steve Emmett-Mattox at phone (703) 524-0248, email: sem@estuaries.org or visit <http://www.estuaries.org/2ndnationalconference.php>.

**Littoral 2004:** September 20-22, 2004, Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Center, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK. This year's theme will be "Delivering Sustainable Coasts: Connecting Science and Policy." For more information on the conference program and venue, or to register and submit abstracts, contact the conference office at phone +44 (0) 1223 333438, email: enquires@littoral2004.org or visit <http://www.littoral2004.org>.

**Annual Meeting of the NSA Pacific Coast Section:** October 12-14, 2004, Sheraton Hotel, Tacoma, WA. For details about this meeting, contact Rich Childers (contact information on back page).

**11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Harmful Algae:** November 15-19, 2004, Cape Town, South Africa. For more information on the conference program and venue, or to register and submit abstracts, contact the conference office at phone +27 21 683 5522, email: aecon.e@mweb.co.za or visit <http://www.botany.uwc.ac.za/pssa>.

**4<sup>th</sup> Northeast Aquaculture Conference & Exposition:** December 3-4, 2004, Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn, Manchester, New Hampshire. For more information, visit <http://www.northeastaquaculture.com> or contact JJ Newman-Rode, NACE 2004 Conference Coordinator, c/o UNH Cooperative Extension, Durham, NH 03824-3515. Phone (603) 749-1565 or email: jj.newman@unh.edu.

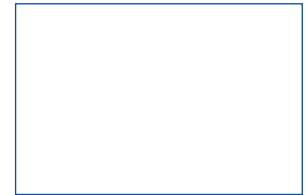
If you would like to announce a meeting, conference or workshop that might be of interest to NSA members, please contact Chris Davis (see back page for contact information).

### **Tenure Track Faculty Positions - Marine Fisheries Biologist**

The Marine Sciences Research Center (MSRC) at Stony Brook University seeks applicants for two tenure-track positions in fisheries science to complement the existing expertise at MSRC. Both positions will involve applying basic research to problems of living marine resources, including resources of importance to New York State. We seek candidates who utilize innovative approaches in areas such as finfish/shellfish ecology, population dynamics and modeling, larval ecology, population genetics, food web and ecosystem modeling, habitat restoration, and/or marine conservation. The positions will be filled at the Assistant Professor level. Ph.D. or equivalent and evidence of excellence in research and teaching required. Application review will begin February 1, 2004 and will continue until the positions are filled. MSRC offers the benefits of a strong interdisciplinary faculty at a leading research university, an excellent student population, ready access to diverse coastal environments, and close ties to funding organizations and agencies. Send statement of interests, CV, and four reference letters to Prof. Robert M. Cerrato, Search Committee Chair, MSRC, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-5000. See <http://www.msrc.sunysb.edu> for more information. Minority and female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply. *Stony Brook University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action educator and employer.*

**Ms. Nancy Lewis**  
**NSA Bookkeeper**  
**VIMS Eastern Shore Lab**  
**P. O. Box 350**  
**Wachapreague, VA 23480**

Forwarding Service Requested



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