



To Whom it May Concern-

Each year, the officers and members of the National Shellfisheries Association/Pacific Coast Section request donations of items or services from the community to support its activities. The goal of this letter is to describe for you what we do and how your donation will be used to promote stewardship and scientific investigation of shellfish along the Pacific Coast.

Founded in 1908, The National Shellfisheries Association is an international organization of scientists, management officials and members of industry, all deeply concerned with the biology, ecology, production, economics and management of shellfish resources - clams, oysters, mussels, scallops, snails, shrimp, lobsters, crabs, among many other species of commercial importance. The National Shellfisheries Association is organized as a non-profit society (our taxpayer identification number is 91-1223719) and any donation you make is tax-deductible. The objectives and the purposes of the Association are:

- To encourage research on molluscs, crustaceans, and associated organisms with emphasis on species of economic importance known as "shellfish".
- To gather and disseminate scientific and technical information on shellfish.
- To promote and advance shellfisheries research and the application of results to the shellfish industry.
- To hold annual meetings for presentation, exchange, and discussion of information on scientific and professional aspects of shellfish research and management.

The Pacific Coast Section represents a group of NSA members whose primary focus is the shellfish of the Pacific Ocean. Each year NSA-PCS organizes a conference (in cooperation with the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association) to bring together scientists, officials, resource managers, aquaculturists, and students to focus on the objectives listed above.

The donation you make will be sold at auction and used to offset the costs for college students to attend and present their research at this professional conference and publish their abstracts in the Journal of Shellfish Research. All donors are given proper credit and identified by name on the forms used during the silent auction. Many college students can not afford these expenses, and the financial assistance provided by your donation enables them to attend and present despite these costs. Each year from 6 to 10 student presenters have been able to participate because of donations such as yours.

Thank you for your time and please contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Donald Velasquez – 2006 Chair
National Shellfisheries Association / Pacific Coast Section
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