



# James A. Ruhle Cooperative Research Award Guidelines

## **Purpose of the Award**

The James A. Ruhle Cooperative Research Award was established by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to recognize individuals or groups of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to fisheries science and management in the Mid-Atlantic region through their participation in cooperative research projects.<sup>1</sup> The award was established in memory of Captain James “Jimmy” Ruhle (1948-2023), a commercial fisherman, former Council member, and cooperative research pioneer.

## **Eligibility**

- Nominees for this award must have participated in a research project that involves collaboration or cooperation among fishermen (commercial or recreational) and scientists.
- The award may be given to individuals or to groups of collaborators.
- Nominees should have demonstrated exceptional collaboration, dedication, and/or innovation in their research efforts. The award may also be given in recognition of cooperative research projects that have significantly contributed to the understanding or management of Mid-Atlantic fisheries.

## **Nomination and Selection Process**

- The award is not an annual award and will be given only when the Executive Committee deems there to be a deserving recipient.
- Nominations can be made by any Council member or the Executive Director. SSC members and Council staff can suggest candidates for consideration through the Executive Director.
- Written nominations may be sent to the Executive Director at any time during the year. Nominations should include a description of the nominee’s achievements, qualifications, and any relevant projects.
- The Executive Director will present nominations to the Executive Committee as they are received.
- The Executive Committee will discuss each nominee’s qualifications and achievements relative to the criteria for this award and select the recipient by consensus.
- The award presentation will occur at an award ceremony in association with a Mid-Atlantic Council meeting. The recipient will receive an award trophy at the ceremony.
- Recipients will be reimbursed for travel expenses to receive the award.

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<sup>1</sup> “Cooperative research” refers to the partnering of fishermen and scientists to collect fisheries information.