

Two “Petes” Award

Honoring Pete Peterson and Pete Hagen

Two leaders in understanding and advancing recovery of injured resources from the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill (EVOS) passed away in 2020. Both contributed to the evolution of EVOS studies, from assessing the damages caused to developing a legacy program of marine science across the Gulf of Alaska. Charles “Pete” Peterson was instrumental in shifting the paradigm of looking at the recovery of individual species to examining the recovery of spill-affected communities and ecosystems. Pete P. was fundamentally a nearshore ecologist who conducted seminal work on the physical and ecological processes driving coastal biological communities. He was a long-serving member of the EVOS Trustee Council Science Panel where he was able to guide the development of long-term monitoring efforts designed to promote collaboration among researchers of many disciplines and aspects of the Gulf of Alaska ecosystem, ranging from ocean physics to birds, whales, and intertidal organisms. As the NOAA liaison to the EVOS Trustee Council, Pete Hagen was a strong proponent for research to understand recovery from oil spills. His tireless efforts guided the development of multi-disciplinary research programs supported by the EVOS Trustee Council and advocated for science that addressed ecological and societal needs, as well as those specific to agency mandates. He played a critical role in the administration of funding to allow research activities to succeed.

In the honor of Pete Peterson and Pete Hagen, a scholarship has been established to support students that demonstrate excellence in improving our understanding of factors important to recovery from oil spills in Alaskan waters. A one-thousand-dollar scholarship will be awarded to a graduate-level student and a five-hundred-dollar scholarship to an undergraduate or high school student that demonstrates excellence in studies related to oil spill recovery, ecosystem science, or connecting environmental research to societal benefit within Alaskan waters.

We seek applications for these awards. The application must include a five hundred to one thousand word essay from the student describing how their research interests and activities address the themes above and a nomination letter from a researcher or teacher supporting the student’s application.

Complete applications must be received by March 26, 2021. Applications and questions should be sent electronically to Scott Pegau at wsppegau@pwssc.org. The applications will be evaluated, and awards provided directly to the student.