

**Resolution  
Subject:**

Resolution in Honor of Walter J. Canzonier

**Text of Resolution:** *Whereas*, Walter J. Canzonier was a son of New Jersey; born of Italian-Irish-Scottish heritage in which he took great pride. He attended St. Peter's College and later did graduate work at Rutgers University, both in New Jersey. Walter recently suffered an illness that makes it impossible for him to continue to participate with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference.

*Whereas*, Walter Canzonier devoted his life to the study of marine life. He then spent a decade working at and later attaining the position of director of the Coastal Resources Applied Research Laboratory in Chioggia, Italy. He served as a consultant to UNESCO and traveled to many locations in Europe and the Middle East to design marine laboratories.

*Whereas*, on Walter's return to the United States he returned also to New Jersey and resumed research at Rutgers where he helped to design the Haskins Shellfish Laboratory. Later, working with local growers, he founded a non-profit organization to assist New Jersey shellfishermen.

*Whereas*, Walter believed himself to be a science generalist. He believed that applied research was of paramount importance and that modern scientists were too narrowly focused and often missed the big picture.

*Whereas*, Walter did not seek out awards or positions of acclaim. He preferred to work in support of those leading the charge.

*Whereas*, Walter had an abundant, yet quirky, sense of humor. He often greeted others with his trademark greeting, "How's the Garugala?" - a question to which there is no answer. He commonly introduced himself when calling on the telephone or when writing his return address on an envelope as the "Short, fat, red-headed guy from the banks of the Maurice River." Occasionally he would use the acronym SFRGBMR.

*Whereas*, Walter worked on issues pertaining to phytoplankton, oyster meat quality, diseases of oysters, depuration, remote setting, shellfish culture techniques, water quality, shellfish safety and more. He kept meticulous records of the cost of oyster culture methods. He authored scholarly articles in both English and Italian and also wrote articles intended for a less lofty and more applied audience; his beloved oystermen. He served on countless boards and organizations supporting the shellfish industry and was an engaged member of the ISSC for more than 30 years.

*Whereas*, Walter was nothing if not passionate. He recognized that he occasionally carried his passion a bit beyond social norms. He was known to give a draft of a letter speaking on an issue to others and ask the recipient to "read and sanitize the letter".

*Whereas*, Walter was a fair man. His home contained a rental unit where rather than charging a set rental fee; he divided the common expenses even though he could have charged much more. This generous attitude suffused his work with the shellfish industry.

*Whereas*, Walt always had time to help the industry. If a grower ever experienced a perplexing problem involving tanks or pumps or if the oysterman observed an unusual phenomena with oysters, the industry member could be assured of receiving scholarly articles, photos, bibliographies, and hand drawn pictures explaining the issue. Only in the last few years did Walter ever use a fax machine or email- so these arrived in manila

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envelopes, bearing the SFRGBMR return address acronym.

*Be it Therefore Resolved*, that the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference extends its gratitude for Walter's lasting contributions to the organization, and

*Be it Further Resolved*, that the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference acknowledges Walter's contributions by the presentation of this Resolution and sending a plaque commemorating his dedication and service to the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference.

**Action by 2013  
Resolutions  
Committee**

Recommended adoption of Resolution 13-004 as submitted.

**Action by 2013  
General Assembly**

Adopted Resolution 13-004.