

Kenneth K. Chew Student Research Grant

The National Shellfisheries Association - Pacific Coast Section (NSA-PCS) and Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association (PCSGA) are pleased to jointly offer the Kenneth K. Chew Student Research Grant, which is an annual, competitive grant that provides \$1,200 to a student to support their research. Additionally, NSA-PCS will provide one free year of student membership to the National Shellfisheries Association, Pacific Coast Section.

During his lifetime Dr. Chew made monumental contributions to the field of molluscan biology and the shellfish aquaculture industry, particularly in the Pacific Northwest, but globally as well. Ken and his wife Maegan raised a beautiful family of four children and eleven grandchildren. His loss in 2022 has been greatly felt in our community, but his legacy lives on in his family and the relationships he cultivated throughout his career as a professor at the University of Washington. Ken maintained a close working relationship with the shellfish industry. Much of his research and that of his graduate students focused on finding solutions to problems that would further the development of the industry. The importance of the shellfish industry as an economic and sustainable force is largely due to the efforts of Ken Chew and the students who work in the industry. Read more about [Ken's accomplishments](#), including about [the conservation hatchery that bears his name](#) at NOAA's Manchester Research Station, and [remembrances from colleagues](#).



Throughout Ken's life in a thousand different ways, he endeavored, mightily and joyfully, to shine a light on the growing body of shellfish research occurring here on his beloved Pacific Coast. Much of this research was carried forward by the legions of students he launched into the shellfish world. Our collective hope in presenting this award is that student research should continue to contribute to the field Ken Chew pioneered.

The award is intended to support a student-directed project, or extension of a project, that is associated with their studies (capstone, thesis, or dissertation). The work should clearly be original and developed and conducted by the student. Funds can be put towards research expenses (e.g. supplies, sample processing, cost of travel to/from research site). Funds may not support the purchase of general items (e.g. computers), travel expenses associated with attending professional meetings, or publication fees. The funds should be designed to be used within the academic year following the award. No institutional overhead may be charged on these funds.

The applicant must be currently enrolled as a Bachelor's, Master's, or Ph.D. student in a recognized degree granting institution in the United States and proposing research that is highly relevant to Pacific Coast shellfish species, with special consideration for projects relevant to shellfish farming practices. Students may only receive the Ken Chew grant once per degree. Applications will be reviewed by an awards committee consisting of NSA-PCS and PCSGA board members. The successful applicant will be announced at the [2026 NSA-PCS/PCSGA meeting](#) and provided the award in the form of a check made

personally payable to the recipient. It is not necessary to be present at the 2026 meeting to receive the award. It is expected that students who receive the 2026 Ken Chew Research Grant will present results of their research at the 2027 NSA-PCS/PCSGA meeting (September 13-16, 2027). Students can request funding from NSA-PCS to support travel to this meeting separately during conference registration.

Application

Applications for the 2026-2027 award year are due **May 29th, 2026**. When applying, send required materials in a single PDF file to nsapcs@gmail.com.

Required content

- **Cover sheet.** Thesis/dissertation title, your name, email address, university and department name and address, degree being sought (Bachelor's, Master's, or Ph.D.), date you entered the graduate program, anticipated graduation date.
- **Proposal** (1 page): The proposal should describe your research in the context of the broader shellfish community (e.g. what research are you advancing, problem are you seeking to solve?), context within your thesis/dissertation (why is this funding critical to the completion of your project?), your methods/approach, a simple timeline for the proposed work/use of funds, and potential applications of your research findings. Proposal format must be a maximum of one page with single-spaced 11-pt font. Figures (if needed) and literature cited are not included in the page limit.
- **Budget, budget justification** (1 page): Briefly itemize how the requested funds will be spent, including why each item is needed.
- **Resume** (maximum 2 pages): List educational and professional background, awards/honors, presentations at meetings, and publications.
- **Letter of support** (1 page): Your capstone/thesis/dissertation advisor must provide a brief letter of support commenting on the student's research and confirming that the funds are necessary.