

2008 NOAA Fisheries Team Member of the Year Nomination Narrative

Nominee's Name: Last, First, Middle:

____Goldfinger, Chris

Nomination Category:

GS11-15 Programmatic Science/Technical

Contributions to NOAA and NOAA Fisheries programs that resulted in:

Dr. Goldfinger has provided his expertise and initiative to enhancing the science that is available to provide stewardship for NOAA Fisheries managed species and associated habitats. He has stepped out of his usual academic field of interest, tectonics, to provide information needed for critical management decisions. He has been the key collaborator and invaluable contributor of geological information that is being integrated with fisheries and other biological information to assist in management decisions. Without his efforts the integration of geophysical information to determine habitats that are in need of special protection as part of the West Coast Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Environmental Impact Statement process would not have been possible. More importantly he has continued his interest and has been a key contributor to a project that has allowed this information about west coast fish habitats to remain current. This project, the habitat data server (<http://pacoos.coas.oregonstate.edu>), integrates data from fish surveys, fisheries observers, and oceanographic cruises with geological and benthic habitat information. This portal makes data available to a broad audience and range of constituents in a variety of formats. He and the tremendously talented group that he has assembled at Oregon State University have not only contributed their expertise in geology, but have extended themselves to employ innovative techniques and mapping tools to make the data even more useful to the public. This website has not only enhanced the information available to state and federal managers, but by making the data publicly accessible, this project has enhanced public appreciation for the research and data collection mission of the agency. His enthusiasm and commitment to this project has weathered reductions in resources available to continue this work. He also has been a tireless advocate for the need to complete a comprehensive lithologic map of the entire west coast EEZ. His work with NOAA has allowed him to highlight NOAA's need for this mapping. His commitment to make his research results and expertise available for use outside of his primary field of academic interest should be rewarded. It is attitudes like Dr. Goldfinger's with regard to the importance of using science for the broader public interest that makes collaborations with the academic community so fruitful for NOAA and the National Marine Fisheries Service. He is continuing this legacy by instilling this attitude in his students and technical staff who are also becoming valuable collaborators.