

# 2007 NOAA Fisheries Employee of the Year Nomination Narrative

**Nominee's Name: Last, First, Middle:**  
**McDonald, Barry C.**

**Nomination Category:**  
- Enhanced Safety of NOAA Fisheries Workforce  
- Inspired Excellence among NOAA Fisheries workforce colleagues  
- Increased efficiency & reduced operating costs at Montlake Lab.

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**Address at Least One of the Following Factors in the Justification Below.**  
**Contributions to NOAA and NOAA Fisheries programs that resulted in:**

**For Non-Management:**

- Enhanced economic viability of commercial and/or recreational fishing;
- Enhanced public appreciation for the mission of the agency;
- Enhanced safety or health of NOAA Fisheries workforce;
- Enhanced morale of the NOAA Fisheries workforce or inspired excellence in its members;
- Enhanced stewardship of NOAA Fisheries protected/managed species/associated habitats;
- Improved accuracy, reliability, or reproducibility of scientific results;
- Improved customer service;
- Increased efficiency and/or reduced cost of operations;
- Improved equal employment opportunity or diversity in NOAA Fisheries;
- Strengthened ties to other NOAA elements or NOAA Fisheries constituents; and/or
- Brought unusual credit to NOAA Fisheries or members of its workforce.

**For Management:**

- Demonstrated exceptional leadership, development of the workforce, and/or program management.

Barry McDonald has been an inspiration to others with his work ethic, his positive attitude, and his overall performance during the past 31 years working for the Montlake Laboratory. This past year was no exception, as Barry performed exceptional work while mentoring 2 new maintenance employees at the Montlake Laboratory. Barry's passion for producing an excellent product and his patience to teach others, were prominent this year during a number of projects he took on 'over and above' his normal work assignments.

Barry helped plan and design, build, and installed numerous efficient and safe work stations and support structures throughout the Laboratory. This was very critical for the safety and morale of many Center staff, forced to leave their offices because of mold and then re-occupied a new building later during the year. Barry additionally designed and built support apparatus for laboratory equipment, helped design and remodels several administrative work rooms, and helped plan and implement energy savings at the site through replacement of fluorescent light fixtures.

With recent changes within the maintenance personnel workforce this past year; Barry was particularly effective in preparing/coaching two new maintenance team members, as they learned their assigned maintenance duties at the Montlake Laboratory. Barry's techniques (developed and honed over his long tenure at the Montlake Laboratory) contributed to the quality of training for these new employees. Although hearing disabled, Barry's diligence in observing and reporting problems encountered during his work day have also paid dividends during 2007. He discovered a scientific walk-in freezer malfunction, saving tens of thousands of dollars in stored research specimens. Barry also identified problems within the laboratory building's air handling system, avoiding costly repair should that system fail.

Barry improved the drinking fountain filtration systems throughout the Montlake Laboratory by designing and installing an improved filtration system in these units. This new filter and clear housing system has been installed in all drinking fountains throughout the Laboratory. By standardizing this improved filter system, Barry has created a much more efficient and cost effective system. Cost savings resulting in this effort are estimated at \$ 400.00 per year.

In summary, Barry McDonald has served as a model for professional excellence within the scope of his assignments, and has been an inspiration to all fellow employees who have had the privilege of working with him at the Center.