# 2008 NOAA Fisheries Employee of the Year Nomination
## Narrative

| **Nominee's Name: Last, First, Middle:** | **Nomination Category:** |
|---|---|
| Rhodes, Linda D. | Program Employees –Scientific (GS 11-15 Pay Band Equivalents) |


| **Nominee's Name: Last, First, Middle:** | **Nomination Category:** |
|---|---|
| Rhodes, Linda D. | Program Employees –Scientific (GS 11-15 Pay Band Equivalents) |


**Reliability and reproducibility of scientific results**

- Through her actions with regards to data collection, interpretation of results, and dissemination of findings, she
  - continuously demonstrates the highest ethical standards
  - experiments are properly controlled
  - ensures appropriate statistical methodologies are applied
- Lead author on two peer-reviewed publications and contributed to a third in 2008
- Presented three invited talks at international and national meetings in 2008
- Developed, wrote, and submitted research proposal for FCRPS Biological Opinion Implementation FY08 funding titled "Estimating the impact of bacterial kidney disease on spring Chinook salmon adult returns" (funded).
- Developed, wrote, and submitted preproposal for National Marine Aquaculture Initiative FY08-09 funding titled "Developing marine fish health assessments based on cellular immunology criteria" (full proposal was invited).

**Building collaborations**

- Continued a collaboration with NWFSC and ODFW scientists on long-term survival of experimentally vaccinated Chinook salmon (using a combinatorial whole cell vaccine she characterized in previous years)
- Continued a collaboration with NWFSC EC staff on the ecology and transmission of *R. salmoninarum* in the marine environment
- Developed and leads a NOAA-funded research project to estimate impact of bacterial kidney disease on smolt-to-adult returns in Chinook salmon, including sampling design, establishing collaborations with Yakama Nation fisheries, Skagit Research Cooperative, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish & Game, and other researchers at the Center, and supervision of staff (contractor).
- Provided technical research guidance to EC Division researchers (Immunology team).
- Provided technical research guidance to U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Fish Health Lab in Olympia.
- Provided technical research guidance to FE Division researchers (Ocean Ecology team).
- Initiated new collaboration with multiple researchers within and outside NWFSC on the microbiology associated with marine mammals.

In closing, Linda carries out her work in the absence of the need for personal recognition. Her goals are to carry out the best science possible, and to provide the best service to the Center and agency. I can think of no one more deserving of recognition as Employee of the Year for 2008.