**From:** Barbara Vickery [mailto:bvickery@TNC.ORG]   
**Sent:** Thursday, April 03, 2014 9:27 AM  
**To:** jleblanc@gulfofmaine.org  
**Cc:** jed\_wright@fws.gov; Kate Dempsey  
**Subject:** a hearty endorsement of nomination of Stew Fefer for GoM award

I only recently learned that Stew Fefer was retiring this year. I immediately thought that he would be a hugely deserving of a Visionary or Life Time Achievement award from the Gulf of Maine Council. I only just now learned that Jed Wright had submitted such a nomination. I want to here add my hearty endorsement of that nomination.

I have known Stew since the early 1980s. When I started work in the conservation field in Maine, Stew Fefer’s Ecological Characterization of the Gulf of Maine coast was already legendary and a constant reference for me and so many others, amazing in its comprehensiveness and detail. There has been nothing even remotely like it since from any other source but the steadily growing web based data bases of the USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program under Stew’s direction.

It was Stew’s passion and ability to marshal resources and partnerships that got the USFWS Gulf of Maine Coastal Program off the ground  in 1991and kept it going and growing in impact in the two decades since. The Nature Conservancy in Maine has relied on the information and the partnership of the program in pursuing our work on coastal protection and diadromous fish restoration. His influence in channeling federal funds to important efforts in the Gulf of Maine watershed has been essential in the progress made on so many fronts.

There is a quotation from Stew on the Gulf of Maine Coastal Program web site that perfectly summarizes why he so deserves this recognition and our collective appreciation:

“We’ve made an impact by focusing collective efforts on highest priority habitats and species across the landscape, while leveraging capabilities and funds of many diverse organizations.”

Such a statement might be adopted by many individuals as an *aspiration*. For Stew Fefer it is a true description of what he has accomplished.

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