Policy 4390: Fellows and Awards

Purpose

This policy applies to and provides guidance on the Fellows and Awards process for the Marine Technology Society (MTS)

Fellows

Background

The designation of MTS Fellow was established in 1975, to recognize long-time members who have served MTS with distinction and who have made significant contributions to the advancement of marine policy, education, science, and technology.

Qualification Criteria

The designation of Fellow is limited to MTS members who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the MTS objectives and who have made distinguished accomplishments in their professional fields. No more than 0.2% of the current MTS membership, commensurate with the date nominations are due, rounded down, may be conferred the Fellows designation in any year. Specific factors for qualification include:

- Nominee must hold current membership (in any membership category; if the membership is Corporate type, the nominee must be a named member under the Corporate membership).
- Nominee must be sponsored by at least 3 MTS members in good standing, one of which shall be a Fellow.
- Nomination must be supported by documentation that justifies selection, including a citation that highlights the nominee's substantive volunteer contributions to MTS over a period of at least five years as well as their impact on the marine profession.

Selection Committee

The Fellows Committee is a Standing Committee and will be appointed per the MTS policy 4300 – Standing Committees.

The committee shall:

- Review data submitted in support of candidates, ensuring service to MTS is considered evenly with professional accomplishments.
- Recommend to the MTS Board of Directors candidates for receipt of the Fellow designation
- Agree unanimously on each candidate recommended for advancement.
- If no nominations meet the criteria, recommend to the MTS Board of Directors that no advancements be made.

Approval

The MTS Board of Directors will review the recommendations made by the Fellows Committee and vote to approve conferring the Fellow designation to candidates.

AWARDS

Background

MTS recognizes annually individual and organizational contributions to the understanding, awareness, advancement, and application of marine technology, and MTS leadership. All recipients are asked to attend or send a representative to the MTS/IEEE-OES OCEANS20XX North American conference to receive the award. MTS has two categories of awards: MTS Administered and Co-Administered. All awards are open to those from any country or territory. It is intended that recipients of awards be a living person. However, the death of a nominee after his/her selection does not render that nominee ineligible during the year. In this case, the presentation will be made posthumously.

Board Members Eligibility

Members of the Board of Directors may be eligible to receive MTS awards during their term of office, unless otherwise stipulated by the Award Sponsor. The nomination of a Board member must include justification of duties above and beyond what is expected by the member of the Board in the execution of their regular duties. Anyone who has been nominated for an award must recuse him/herself from the discussion and vote regarding the award in question.

MTS Administered Awards

Qualification Criteria

Compass Distinguished Achievement Award. (MTS membership not required)

This award is co-sponsored by Compass Publications, Inc. and is presented to an individual who has demonstrated a sustained career marked by achievements that have had a significant impact on the fields of marine science and technology. A complete set of eligibility criteria and nomination requirements are included in the nomination form for this award.

The recipient of the Compass Distinguished Achievement Award shall receive a token of recognition, and a Life Membership in MTS.

Compass Organizational Excellence Award. (MTS membership not required)

This award is co-sponsored by Compass Publications, Inc. and is presented to a company, government agency, program, or non-profit organization for outstanding contributions to the advancement of marine science and technology. A complete set of eligibility criteria and nomination requirements are included with the application for this award.

The recipient of the Compass Industrial Award shall receive a token of recognition.

John P. Craven Mentor Award. (MTS membership required)

This award honors the legacy of MTS Fellow and Past President, John Craven who served as a mentor to many during his storied career. Presented to an MTS member who has demonstrated outstanding and sustained service to the field of marine technology through mentoring. After the selection of the individual, the MTS President notifies the John P. Craven family of the award recipient.

The nomination package for this award requires three letters of support, at least two from past mentees, providing testimonials as to the impact the mentor has made on their careers. A complete set of eligibility criteria and nomination requirements are included with the application for this award.

The recipient of the John P. Craven Mentorship Award shall receive a token of recognition and a Life Membership in MTS.

Ocean News and Technology Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP) Award (MTS membership required)

This award is co-sponsored by TSC Strategic, Inc. and is presented to an individual within 10 years of their last degree or designation, who is an MTS member in good standing, who has shown leadership in MTS, and who works in a professional capacity in management, engineering or research and development in a marine technology field. A complete set of eligibility criteria and nomination requirements are included with the application for this award. After selection, the MTS President notifies TSC Strategic, Inc. of the award recipient.

The recipient of the Ocean News and Technology ECOP Award shall receive a token of recognition, an honorarium, and a complimentary two-year membership in MTS.

MTS Special Commendation and Award. (MTS membership required)

This award is presented to an individual, group, or organization in recognition of outstanding accomplishments leading to significant advances in marine affairs and/or fulfilling the objectives and missions of MTS. Special MTS commendations may include outstanding individual, section, committee, and student section contributions to the Society.

Recipients will receive a plaque recognition piece.

Selection Committee

The MTS Awards Committee is a Standing Committee and will be appointed per the MTS policy 4300 – Standing Committees. The committee shall:

- Review nominations and supporting information submitted in support of candidates.
- Recommend nominations to the MTS Board of Directors.
- Retain in the pool for only one additional year, any/all candidates not selected. Those not meeting the minimum requirement for awards shall not be retained. Retained candidates passed over a second year may only be considered again upon receipt of a new nomination.
- If no nominee meets the award criteria, recommend to the MTS Board of Directors that no award will be made.
- Pay special attention to the sensitivity of the number of active members of the MTS Board of Directors receiving awards.

Timeline:

- The nomination period is announced no later than 31 March
- The MTS Awards Committee is appointed no later than 1 May
- Nominations are due by 31 May
- Nominations are reviewed no later than 30 June
- Recommendation to the Board is due no later than 15 July

Approval

The MTS Board of Directors reviews the recommendations made by the MTS Awards Committee and votes to approve the award winners.

Co-Administered Awards

Walter Munk Scholar Award and Commemorative Lecture Series. (MTS membership not required)

This award honors the legacy of oceanographer and educator Walter Munk. The Walter Munk Foundation for the Oceans (WMFO) co-sponsors this award with MTS. This award is extended to all scholars worldwide from undergraduates through post-graduate fellows in the fields of ocean science, technology, or policy who are currently enrolled in an accredited program. A complete set of eligibility criteria and nomination requirements are included with the application for this award.

The recipient of the Walter Munk Scholar Award shall receive a token of recognition, a Life Membership in MTS, and an invitation to present the Walter Munk Commemorative Lecture.

Selection Committee

An MTS-WMFO Joint Selection Committee is appointed annually, comprised of two MTS members, two WMFO members, and the previous year's Award recipient. The MTS President appoints the two MTS members to the Selection Committee. The Joint Selection Committee selects the winner. If no nominee meets the criteria, no award will be given.

Timeline

- The nomination period is announced no later than 31 March
- The MTS-WMFO Joint Selection Committee is appointed no later than 1 May
- Nominations are due by 31 May
- Nominations must be reviewed no later than 30 June

Notification

The MTS-WMFO Joint Selection Committee notifies the MTS President and Mary Munk, founder of the WMFO. The MTS President notifies the MTS Board of Directors of the Committee's selection.

Captain Don Walsh Award for Ocean Exploration. (MTS and/or SUT Membership not required)

This award honors the legacy of ocean explorer and MTS Fellow Don Walsh. It is co-sponsored by the Society for Underwater Technology (SUT). The award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding, sustained, international contribution to the development, application, or propagation of marine / underwater technology toward the advancement of ocean exploration. This award is not intended to be a lifetime achievement award but rather reflect current efforts in ocean exploration. Currently serving MTS and SUT Board/Council members are not eligible to receive the award.

The recipient of the Captain Don Walsh Award for Ocean Exploration shall receive a token of recognition, and a Life Membership in the societies (MTS and SUT). The award is presented at an event where both Societies are present and is given widespread publicity. Awardees will receive a free 1-day registration to the event at which the award will be presented.

Selection Committee

An MTS-SUT Joint Selection Committee is appointed annually, comprised of the President of each society, three additional members of each society reflecting diversity of gender and discipline, and the previous year's recipient of the award. The MTS President will appoint the MTS society members. The Joint Selection Committee selects the winner. If no nominee meets the criteria, no award will be given.

Timeline

- The nomination period is announced no later than 31 March
- The MTS members of the joint selection committee are appointed no later than 15 April
- The MTS-SUT Joint Committee is appointed no later than 1 May

- Nominations are due by 31 May
- Nominations will be reviewed no later than 30 June

Notification

The MTS President notifies the MTS Board of Directors of the Joint Committee's selection.

Staff Support

Chief Executive Officer shall:

- Ensure the Awards SOP is enacted as prescribed.
- Monitor staff progress and status of the candidate pool for Awards and Fellows monthly, starting six months prior to the annual OCEANS meeting.

Headquarters staff shall:

- Support the Committees as needed.
- Maintain a historical record of MTS Fellows and Award recipients.
- Solicit Fellow and Award nominations by posting appropriate notices in MTS publications and contacting Section and Committee chairs for such nominations.
- Ensure that solicitation notices are consistent with MTS Policies and Bylaws. Such notices should contain language that emphasizes the importance of nomination form completeness and timely submittal.
- Collect, review, and forward nomination forms to the chair of the Fellows and Awards Committees for further distribution among Committee members. Prior to forwarding, ensure that all submissions are complete and comply with published instructions. Return insufficient submissions to originators for correction.
- Prepare all assets and language for the Fellows and Awards Ceremonies in advance of the MTS Annual Meeting.