

ANS Conference a Success



Photos courtesy of Minnesota Sea Grant

With a backdrop of Lake Superior, the 9th International Zebra Mussel and Aquatic Nuisance Species Conference was held in April in Duluth, Minnesota and hosted by Minnesota Sea Grant. New York Sea Grant specialist **Chuck O'Neill** was a featured presenter. During his presentation, "The National Aquatic Nuisance Species Clearinghouse: A New Vision for the New Millennium," O'Neill addressed the history and successes of the Clearinghouse, as well as the directions the aquatic nuisance species library project is expected to take in the coming years. The conference was also the venue for the official "roll out" of Sea Grant's National Aquatic Nuisance Species Clearinghouse's new searchable bibliographic database on the Clearinghouse's World Wide Web site, <www.cce.cornell.edu/seagrant/nansc>.

In a presentation entitled "The Impact of Nationwide Zebra Mussel Outreach Programming," O'Neill outlined the activities and accomplishments of the four-year project which saw Sea Grant educators from six programs (NY, MN, NC, CT, LA and IL-IN) plan and implement zebra mussel outreach programs. The varied programs ranged from satellite teleconferences to multiday, multistate workshops across the US and from the production of information bulletins on zebra mussel impacts and control to public service TV commercials. This nationwide initiative, the brainchild of NYSG specialist O'Neill, is credited with the start-up of the Western Zebra Mussel Task Force, 17 state and provincial zebra mussel task forces and work groups, and helped in the development of the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species.

In a related presentation, NYSG specialist **Helen Domske** recounted the successes of the award-winning Great Lakes Sea Grant Network Exotic Species Day Camp Teacher Training Initiative that

introduced more than 125 teachers from throughout the Great Lakes Basin to an array of educational resources on exotic aquatic species, much of it developed by Sea Grant programs.

New York Sea Grant researchers **Marc Frischer** of the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography, and **Sandra Nierzwicki-Bauer** of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, presented their research on zebra mussels as possible biomonitors or filters of the protozoan pathogens *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*. They also presented research on the differential survival of zebra mussel veligers and

juveniles in Lake George. **Daniel Molloy**, of the Biological Survey of the New York State Museum, presented his research on the natural enemies of zebra mussels and the use of bacteria for zebra mussel control. Molloy is soon to be engaged in a NYSG-funded research project.

A high point of the conference came when the Federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force presented long-time NYSG supporter **Dr. James Carlton** of the Williams College, Mystic Seaport Maritime Studies Program with an award for his ceaseless efforts to combat the serious global problem of nonindigenous organism introduction.

In addition to presenting at the conference, O'Neill's coastal resource expertise was also recently showcased on "Aquatic Invaders," a 30-minute television special that premeired on CNBC in August. See NYSG's website for more details.

—**Chuck O'Neill**
Coastal Resources Specialist



Dr. James Carlton (center), who received an award from the ANS Task Force, is flanked by (left to right) Minnesota Sea Grant's **Jeff Gunderson**, Congressman **James Oberstar** and **Gary Edwards**, co-chair of the ANS Task Force.