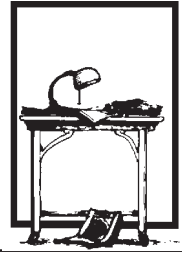

EDITOR'S COLUMN



Dr. Robert Price

The seafood industry lost a good friend and seafood safety expert last week. Dr. Robert Price from the University of California-Davis passed away after a long bout with lung cancer. He was a Sea Grant Extension specialist and, in a quiet but profound way, had an enormous impact on seafood safety and the smooth implementation of HACCP in the United States and around the world. I got to know him on a more personal basis when he did a 6-month sabbatical at the OSU Seafood Lab back in 1995. His calm exterior and gentle manner contrasted nicely with the chaos of my laboratory at that time, and I often found myself having a beer with him after work and peppering him with questions about the West Coast seafood industry and the oncoming HACCP program. Bob realized that for HACCP to succeed, it needed to be science based and that all the research that was gathering dust in journals and reports or in file cabinets over the years needed to be organized, reviewed and accessible to both industry and the FDA. He spent that 6-month sabbatical quietly going about his business and developing the Seafood HACCP Alliance Compendium, a collection of seafood safety research, which has become invaluable to both industry and the FDA, and is still used today. Steve Otwell, his Sea Grant colleague from University of Florida who helped lead the charge on HACCP, said, "Bob Price made a tremendous difference and

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contribution from his understanding of basic seafood systems and seafood safety. His work was invaluable . . . he was a giver, a contributor, a genuine caring person and we were all better scientists as well as persons for having known Bob Price.”

Bob was a long-range thinker and a real-time doer. He went on to develop the Seafood Network Information Center Web site at UC-Davis that has grown to be the key “go-to” place at both the national and international level for both scientists and industry. Bob saw the power of the Internet long before most of us, and his colleague Pam Tom at UC Davis reminds us that “Bob Price was an exceptional professional, and through his vision and the founder of the Web site and the listserv, he has brought the global seafood community together.” I especially enjoy the listserv where scientists and industry folks from around the world could ask questions and get real answers often within hours of posting on the site. This was one of the first scientific “chat rooms” that I think existed and it was an immediate success. Now a question about *Listeria* from a researcher in Indonesia can be answered by a scientist from England, usually on the same day, and the world of seafood science has become a bit easier. So Bob, again, was way ahead of the curve.

Bob was also a very effective speaker and educator as well. When Bob spoke, we all listened because he had the knowledge to back up what he was talking about. Robert Collette from the National Fisheries Institute says, “He was equally effective in educating consumers, industry professionals and government officials about seafood processing, quality and safety. . . .” I would add that he was equally effective in educating his fellow scientists as well. Although many remember Bob as soft-spoken, he had a certain presence when he was in front of a classroom or a conference hall. He radiated knowledge and dignity during his presentations and I’ll always remember at one Pacific Fisheries Technology meeting, one crusty old seafood processor turned to me while Bob was speaking and said, “Now that s.o.b. knows what he is talking about.” High praise from the industry and I think we can all nod our heads and agree on that one. Bob was an exceptional educator and outreach professional and one that we all could emulate. As Jon Bell, now a professor at Louisiana State University and one of Bob’s first graduate students told me, “Bob effortlessly combined ‘grace’ and ‘expertise’ in a manner that few achieve and [was] one that the world could use much more of.” Those of us who were fortunate enough to know Bob and work with him all echo that sentiment.

Michael Morrissey
Co-Editor