

NO LOGO
AVAILABLE

The
Sailfish
Marina

Palm Beach Shores, Florida

March 23, 1998

Dear Legislator,

Here is a direct quote from a recent study done by the Florida Marine Research Inst. "because the continental shelf adjacent to Palm Beach County is relatively narrow, most of the fishing grounds there have been eliminated." Our bait fishery has been stopped not because of over harvest and waste, but because Palm Beach County is close to the continental shelf.

We, as long time users and distributors of locally caught bait, are concerned about its continued availability. Palm Beach County's small boat bait fishery is one of the oldest in South Florida and has virtually been closed down.

The Supreme Court of Florida in D.E.P. vs. Bruce Millender No 85,880 said that evidence of commercial viability of nets is relevant. The people voted to limit not eliminate. Our bait fishery has been eliminated.

The one-mile line that stops us from getting locally caught bait is vague and does not appear on charts. To date not one case has been won by the state. The line is unenforceable.

We would like to see bait permits issued to the traditional producers of ballyhoo. If tarp nets 600 yards long and 70 feet deep are issued permits in specified places, why can't lampara nets one third the size be treated the same? Please help us.

Sincerely,

Marjorie L. Murray
General Manager