

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT Page 6/Tuesday, June 27, 1995  
*EDITORIALS & LETTERS*

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**Editorial wrongs fishermen as well as their families**

Why did you use the word "mutinous" in your editorial-page headline Monday? Why do you look at words contained in the Constitution, i.e. "(d) This section shall not apply to nets used for scientific research or governmental purposes.," as a loophole? The fishing industry didn't write the language but these words are just as important as any other words in the document. You act as judge and jury on a legal question, and it seems you usually publish your editorials at a time just preceding a Cabinet meeting or legal complaint. I guess this is your way of lobbying your, point of view. Too bad you don't allow for opposing views at the same time.

The coastal counties you mentioned in your article did not vote for the net ban. As a matter of fact it wasn't even close. It was close in Leon County, thanks to the Democrat for publishing a fraudulent photo classified as a gillnet boat in its endorsement editorial.

Majority rules, but minorities have rights. If our country was operated on a popularity contest basis, we would not have survived the first 100 years, let alone this era. Broward County, for instance, had 300,000 votes against gillnets, yet there hasn't been a gillnet in Broward County since 1949.

Doesn't that cause you some concern about reality? South Florida has totally destroyed its estuaries and coastal shores, while we in the Panhandle have been good stewards of our waters and fisheries. Why don't you think and write about this aspect of what is happening?

Finally, you say that the governor has alerted the National Guard. I wonder if this is so. He wasn't even in the country, I understand, when his aide, Danny Fuchs, made the threat of military force. We don't think the governor needs the military and we don't think he even knew that one of his aides was taking him down that path. I don't think the military has ever been called out to stop the murders and drug cartel here in Florida and find it ludicrous that tanks, planes, machine guns, flamethrowers and helicopters would be called out to stop a mullet fisherman in Panacea.

In my opinion your editorial was poor journalism. We are not "enraged fishing entrepreneurs trying to squiggle through a loophole," we are God-fearing people trying to maintain food, shelter and clothing for our families, within the legal system.

**Robert P. Jones**  
**Executive director**  
**Southeastern Fisheries Association**