

July 1998

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This newsletter is published by Southeastern Fisheries Association. Please pass it along and encourage others to be added to our mailing list. If you want to be removed from the list, please contact us.

SFA is a non-profit association founded in 1952, charged with maintaining a viable seafood industry in the Southeast.

Robert P. Jones, Editor

## **SFA's 46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL Convention Outstanding**

Over 100 convention participants took advantage of the world class hospitality of Orlando and The Mouse during SFA's annual meeting June 18-20, 1998. President **Steve Cox's** Annual Report was one of the highlights of this informative and interesting meeting.

**Joe Versaggi** was installed as SFA's 47<sup>th</sup> president, **Dennis Henderson** was elected Vice-President (President-elect), **Joe Villers** was elected Secretary and **Eva Berman** was elected as Treasurer.

**Sal Versaggi** was selected as the SFA Man of the Year for all his work on Saving the Manatees and his willingness to speak out at public hearings on behalf of the industry. **Dr. Steve Otwell** received the Aylesworth Award for the Outstanding Public Employee for all his efforts to make the HACCP Program work.

Outstanding Speakers were: **Captain Dave Harrington**, on the latest technology for BRD's and video showing porpoises and other big fish enjoying the bycatch from shrimp trawlers.

**Dr. Steve Otwell**, bringing out the nitty-gritty's of the HACCP Regulations and asking for help in solving the perceived problems of the industry.

**Mrs. Joanne McNeely**, DACS spokesperson showing the ever increasing use of the internet and videos being shown as public service announcements on the importance of fish harvesters.

**Dr. Chuck Adams**, re-capping all the economics work being done at the University of Florida affecting the environment and fisheries. **Dr. Karen Steidinger**, a world renowned expert on Harmful Algal Blooms, giving expert witness to what is happening in Florida and the southeast concerning red tides and Pfiesteria. **Capt. Rob Buckles**, reporting on the USCG Vessel inspection Program and taking questions from the floor on the regulations and safety requirements. **Doug Tolen**, FDA and **Wayne Derstine**, DACS, who are in charge of all the people who inspect seafood facilities giving very informative and enlightening accounts of what has happened during the first 6 months of HACCP.

Next years meeting will be at the Mission Inn Golf and Tennis Resort in Howey-In-The Hills, FL about 20 minutes from the Belz Mall and Disney in Orlando, but away from the hustle and bustle of the Mouse. The year 2000 Convention will be held in Key West and **Chairman Gary Graves** has promised an outstanding event. We will get the dates settled early so all can make plans to attend and celebrate the millennium.

SFA will be holding Area Meetings this year and the Board encourages its members to consider the Workers Compensation SFA offers. The Board heard from several of the participants who are expecting **significant** refunds based on their safety records. **Support**

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

**the SFA Plan.** It will save you money and help the Association at the same time. Call Bob Jones at 850 224-0612 for details.

**FDA WILL USE 3 STRIKES AND YOU ARE OUT** in their approach to HACCP compliance. After the first inspection if there are violations, FDA will send out an UNTITLED LETTER listing what has to be fixed and gives the owner 30 days to comply. If there is no compliance after re-inspection, a FORMAL LETTER WILL BE SENT LISTING THE VIOLATIONS. If they are not fixed and the establishment brought into compliance, legal action may commence at that time. Remember, if you are in violation of the HACCP regulations your product may be deemed adulterated and it cannot be sold. Any member of SFA can ask for help by calling 850/224-0612.

**HACCP IS HERE TO STAY.**

# Floatsam

**Bottom Trawling Ban.** On June 15, 1998, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council voted 10-1 to prohibit bottom trawling gear for pollock harvesting in the Bering Sea to reduce by-catch of halibut, crab, and other marine life. [Assoc. Press]

**Reefs at Risk Report.** On June 23, 1998, the World Resources Institute released a study "Reefs at Risk" presenting results of a global assessment indicating 58% of the world's coral reefs are threatened by human activity. [Assoc. Press]

**Seafood Marketing Overcharges.** On June 25, 1998, MA Consumer Affairs officials reported that 18 of 28 eastern

MA seafood retailers tested were overcharging customers by as much as a dollar per transaction, by not having drains in scales to eliminate weighing of sea water or by not compensating correctly for seafood packaging. [Assoc. Press]

**Coral Reef Protection.** On June 11, 1998, President Clinton issued an executive order on coral reef protection, detailing additional measures to protect U.S. coral reefs and to develop a strategy for restoring degraded reefs. A special interagency Coral Reef Task Force was created to coordinate this effort. Specific proposals announced on June 12, 1998, include allocating \$6 million to increase federal efforts to address concerns at 18 damaged reefs, nine of which are in the FL Keys National Marine Sanctuary, two elsewhere in FL, three in Puerto Rico, two in the Virgin Islands, one in Guam, and one in HI. [Assoc. Press, White House press release]

**1997 Shark Attacks.** On June 10, 1998, Univ. of FL scientists released statistics on worldwide shark attacks in 1997. Of a world total of 56 reported incidents, 32 occurred in the United States, of which 25 were in FL. However, none of the 11 reported fatalities occurred in the United States. [Assoc. Press]

**Oyster Contamination.** On June 10, 1998, CA Dept. of Health Services concluded that the still-undetermined contaminant of oysters originated in the outer bay, and partially lifted the ban on harvesting CA's Tomales Bay oysters. (On June 25, 1998, Food and

 <p><b>Specialty Foods</b> - Wholesale -</p>	 <p><b>Fresh Fish &amp; Seafood</b> Gourmet Marketplace</p>
<p><b>Carlo Sartelli</b> President</p>	
<p>306 West Mango Street Lantana, FL 33462 National WATS (800) 628-9887</p>	<p>(561) 585-2110 Florida WATS (800) 544-0534 Fax (561) 585-3607</p>

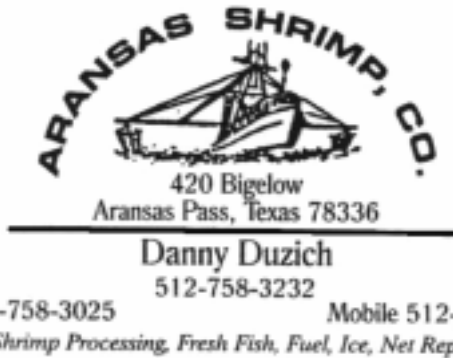
Drug Administration officials warned consumers nationwide to avoid eating raw oysters from Galveston Bay, TX, after the TX Dept. of Health reported at least 34 individuals became ill after eating oysters harvested from the Bay). [Assoc. Press]

**Red Snapper Prison Sentence.** On June 8, 1998, an LA seafood company owner was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison and ordered to pay a fine of more than \$27,000 for 1995 Lacey Act violations involving interstate commerce in out-of-season red snapper. [Assoc. Press]

**Sea Turtle Arrests.** On May 29, 1998, FL Marine Patrol officers arrested a man near Riviera Beach, FL, and confiscated a bag containing 388 sea turtle eggs. This same individual had been charged six times in the past for sea turtle egg theft, and could receive a maximum penalty of several years in prison and a civil penalty of \$100 per egg. On June 1, 1998, Mexican police announced the arrest of two men stopped on a highway between Oaxaca and Guerrero states, who were discovered to be transporting 14,000 sea turtle eggs to Acapulco. [Assoc. Press]

**National Standard Guidelines.** On May 29, 1998, the Ocean Law Project, on behalf of a coalition of 7 environ-

(Continued on page 3)



29, 1998, the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture has scheduled a shrimp virus management workshop in New Orleans, LA, to develop options for managing the threat of shrimp viruses to cultured and wild

ported into the United States from China, but not from Singapore. [Assoc. Press]

**Fire Ants Kill Trout.** On June 2, 1998, the TX Parks and Wildlife Dept. concluded that the consumption of toxic, dead male fire ants was responsible for killing at least 23,000 rainbow trout planted in the Guadeloupe River. Some of the trout had as many as 500 ants in their stomachs. [Assoc. Press, Houston Chronicle]

**Congressman Callahan of Mississippi** has inserted a rider on the House Appropriations Bill that would extend state jurisdiction in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana out to 9 miles in order to be the same as Florida and Texas

**President Clinton** signed a bill greatly enhancing the standing of aquaculture in the US. SB 1150 was signed this week, giving USDA tremendous power and authority in the enhancement of aquaculture.

(Continued from page 2)

mental groups, filed suit in U.S. District Court (Seattle, WA), contending that new NMFS guidelines on national standards to control overfishing and by-catch were insufficient and should be revised. [Reuters, Fed. Register]

**VA Turtle Strandings.** Between May 18 and late June 1998, more than 120 loggerhead sea turtles have been found dead on VA beaches. The turtles do not appear diseased and the cause of death is unknown. In the same area, 115 dead turtles were found in all of 1997.

[Assoc. Press]

**Shrimp Virus Workshop.** On July 28-

stocks of shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico and Southeastern U.S. Atlantic Waters. [Personal communication]

**Chinese Crawfish?** On June 4, 1998, a division of a GA-based food distributor asked a federal judge to review a January 1998 ruling by the LA Weights and Measures Commission ordering 43 LA restaurants and 121 grocery stores to stop selling certain crawfish marked as a product of Singapore. The Commission alleges that no crawfish are produced in Singapore and that China had not exported enough crawfish to Singapore to produce the amount exported by Singapore. Anti-dumping tariffs are levied against crawfish im-

**Many thanks to our sponsors. They helped make the annual meeting possible.**

**Delaware Chicken & Seafood Market** - Richard Polvinale/  
Doug Carter - Hollywood, FL

**Captain Mike's Seafood** - Mike Abrams - Davie, FL

**Versaggi Shrimp Corp.** - Joe & Sal Versaggi - Tampa, FL

**Standard Marine Supply Corp.** - Jim Hardee - Tampa, FL

**Key Largo Fisheries, Inc.** - Jack Hill - Key Largo, FL

**Keys Fisheries, Inc.** - Gary Graves - Marathon, FL

**Harry Bell & Sons/American Freezer** - Robert Bell - St. Petersburg, FL

**Admiralty Insurance** - G. Allan Heyn - Jacksonville, FL

**Raffield Fisheries** - Gene Raffield - Port St. Joe, FL

**Bowditch Insurance Corp** - Jim Clary - Jacksonville, FL

**Villers Seafoods Co., Inc.** - Bob & Joe Villers - Ft. Myers Beach, FL

**Hudgins Fish Co., Inc.** - Cecil Lane/Lewis Hudgins - Ft. Pierce, FL

**Aylesworth Foundation** - Robert & Dawn Aylesworth - St. Petersburg, FL

**Trico Shrimp Company** - George Gala, Jr./Dennis Henderson - Ft. Myers Beach, FL

**Marine Fisherman's Supply Inc.** - David Boddison - Ft. Myers Beach, FL

**T.R. Jones & Company** - Naomi Dominick - Homestead, FL

**Wilson Seafresh, Inc.** - Donnie Wilson - Apalachicola, FL

**Cox's Wholesale Seafoods, Inc.** - Steve Cox - Tampa, FL

**Safe Harbor Seafood** - Gerald Pack - Mayport, FL

**Patti Shipyard, Inc.** - Frank Patti - Pensacola, FL

**Southland Container, Inc.** - Dean Salter - Orlando, FL

**Florida Offshore, Inc.** - Carl Anderson - Panama City Beach, FL

**Half Hitch Bait & Tackle** - Tom Putnam - Panama City, FL

**Stokes Fish Company** - Sonny Stokes - Leesburg, FL



**Welcome to SFA New Members:** SFA is proud to welcome the following new members into its growing family of successful seafood companies. We encourage each member to support one another for the overall good of maintaining an economic and cultural presence for commercial fishing in America as well as providing marine protein to the people.

**FULL CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP:  
\$800.00**

**Lombardi Seafoods, Inc.** - Orlando, FL -  
*Tony Lombardi, Jr.*

**Stone Crabs, Inc.** - Miami Beach, FL -  
*James McClendon*

**NEW UPGRADE MEMBERS: \$200  
membership to \$800.00 Full Corporate  
Membership:**

**Bluepoints International Fisheries, Inc.**  
(Formerly known as Lambert International

Fisheries, Inc.) - Cape Canaveral, FL -  
*Keith Smith, General Manager*

**Fish Peddler** - Sunrise, FL - *Joey Gelsino*

**NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:  
\$500.00**

**Marine Underwriters, Inc.** - Orlando, FL -  
*C. Ronald (Ron) Raby, Pres.*

**Sunderland Marine Mutual Insurance Co.  
Limited** - Sunderland, England - *Geoffrey  
Parkinson - Gen. Manager*

**Sunwell Technologies, Inc.** - Pinehurst, NC -  
*Roger W. Cooper*

**NEW RETAIL MARKET/RESTAURANT  
MEMBERSHIP: \$200.00**

**Variety Foods Corp.** - Fort Lauderdale, FL -  
*Scott Gardner*

**Equatorial Seafoods Inc.** - Stuart, FL -  
*Nelson Parrett*



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- IN THIS ISSUE**
- ☛ Successful 46th Annual Convention held in Orlando
  - ☛ FDA's Three Strikes and You're Out Rule
  - ☛ Floatsam