

Hot Lines

Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.

Online Edition



April 1998

1997-98 OFFICERS

- Steve Cox, President
- Joe Versaggi, Vice President
- Joe Villers, Secretary
- Dennis Henderson, Treasurer
- Cecil Lane, Chairman of the Board

DIRECTORS

- Carl Anderson
- Gary Graves
- Richard Polvinale
- Eva Berman
- Donny Wilson
- Mike Abrams
- Gerald Pack
- Cecil Goodrich
- Sonny Stokes
- Bob Starr
- Freeman Bateman
- Robert Aylesworth
- Gib Migliano
- Steve Cox
- Rick Viele
- Gene Raffield
- Dewey Destin
- Sam Farrell
- John Andrew Nelson
- Jack Amason

Executive Director

Robert P. Jones

Office Administrator

Malinda Usina

Publications & Membership

Marie Mills

Webmaster

Mike Jones

Gulf Red Snapper Fishery and Magnuson Act Headed for Showdown

Under the recent reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, (MSFCMA) all Regional Fishery Management Councils are required to develop a list of fisheries that are overfished in their geographical area for submission to the Secretary of Commerce who will determine which fisheries are overfished. This means the Gulf Council will have to present their list by October 1998. Red Snapper, according to most scientific reports is overfished. Therefore, under the provisions of the MSFCMA, the Gulf Council must prepare an amendment to their Reef Fish Management Plan that will restore Red Snapper to its Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) within a 10 year time frame or by October 2008. The only possible way this could be accomplished is through a total prohibition of ALL Red Snapper harvest for an extended period of time. Such a draconian regulation would have social, economic and environmental consequences so massive that Congress would be inundated by thousands and thousands of angry complaints from the citizens. It was not the intent of Congress to totally close down fish-

eries but to restore them over time to a sustainable fisheries status. The NMFS proposed regulation concerning overfishing, was named the *Matlock Doctrine* by SFA because of the way it was written. SFA is pleased that other, more gentle and caring political leaders have realized that the *Matlock Doctrine* should not be the keystone of national fishery policy.

New Shrimp/Red Snapper Rules

NMFS will implement Amendment 9 to the Gulf Shrimp FMP requiring Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRD's) in all shrimp nets in federal waters from Cape San Blas, Florida, to the Mexican/Texas border. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, in preparing this amendment assumed BRD's would reduce Red Snapper mortality by 60% by the year 2001. Using this anticipated reduction figure, the Council set a Red Snapper Total Allowable Catch (TAC) at 9.12 million pounds for the current fishing year. This is 3 million pounds in excess of what NMFS science says is needed if the Council is going to reach its goal of a 20% Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) by

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

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

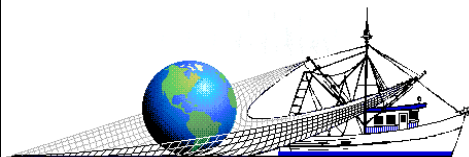
the year 2019. NMFS authorized a total harvest of 6 million pounds from January 1998 to September 1998. If it is subsequently determined BRD's reduce Red Snapper bycatch by 60%, the remaining 3.12 million pounds of the Gulf Council TAC will be released. Under this plan the recreational bag limit will drop from 5 fish to 4 fish. per person per day. With a 4 fish bag limit under a 6 million-pound TAC, the recreational quota could be reached in late November. (Rec season closed last year from 11/27/97 until January 1, 1998) With this 6 million pound TAC, the commercial sector was closed on April 13, 1998. If the BRD's are not able to reduce bycatch by at least 50%, there would be no Fall season for commercial Red Snapper. If the BRD's are successful, the commercial sector would get another 1.5 million pounds or so from the 3.1 million pound balance of the 9.12 million pound TAC.

FLORIDA NET BAN

On Mar. 24, 1998, FL Governor Chiles and his Cabinet approved regulations prohibiting small (less than 500 square feet) seine nets with mesh larger than 2 inches, in an attempt to settle confusion over what gear is legal under FL's July 1995 net ban law. [Assoc. Press]

SHRIMP EMBARGO AND THE WTO

On Mar. 13, 1998, a consumer group reported that a three-member dispute panel of the World Trade Organization (WTO) had issued a



preliminary (draft) ruling that a U.S. measure protective of sea turtles is inconsistent with global trade policy. U.S. law imposes shrimp import sanctions against nations not requiring shrimp trawlers to use turtle excluder devices. U.S. officials are likely to challenge the decision. [Personal communication, Assoc. Press]

SHARK CARTILAGE AND LUNG CANCER

On Mar. 30, 1998, at the 89th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research in New Orleans, LA, the Canadian Biotechnology Company AEterna Laboratories announced encourag-



ing results from a three-month clinical trial using liquid shark cartilage extract to treat lung cancer tumors

in humans. The shark cartilage product, AE-941, was reported to show a trend of efficacy without serious side effects related to its oral administration in treating patients with refractory metastatic lung cancer. [AEterna Laboratories press release]

AMERICAN FISHERIES ACT HEARING

On Mar. 26, 1998, the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries held a hearing on S.1221, the American Fisheries Act, proposing to alter the foreign ownership requirements for U.S.-flag fishing vessels. SFA endorses this Act.

NO FISHING ZONE, COMMERCIAL OR SPORT, benefits New England Fisheries. Responding to new evidence that cod in the Gulf of Maine have declined to the lowest level ever observed, the New England Fishery Management Council approved tighter fishing restrictions to rebuild these cod stocks. Despite opposition from segments of the fishing industry and some elected officials, the Council voted to create the first significant year-round "no-take" marine protected area in the Gulf; to establish a series of one-month large-area closures to protect spawning fish as they move up the coast; and to cut back the allowed daily catch of cod. EDF attorney Doug Hopkins, the only

(Continued on page 3)



420 Bigelow
Aransas Pass, Texas 78336

Danny Duzich
512-758-3232

Fax 512-758-3025 Mobile 512-319-4519
Shrimp Processing, Fresh Fish, Fuel, Ice, Net Repair

eries. The Council accuses NMFS of emphasizing short-term harvest goals in the North Pacific ahead of long-term conservation goals. The Council is

particularly concerned with possible interactions between fishery harvest and Steller sea lions. [Assoc. Press]

(Continued from page 2)
environmental group representative on the Council, praised the action as a clear victory for the cod. "This decision," he said, "should keep the Council's regional plan to rebuild depleted stocks of groundfish--cod, had-dock, and flounder--on track."

INVESTIGATION OF NMFS

On Mar. 31, 1998, the Alaska Marine Conservation Council wrote a letter asking the U.S. Dept. of Commerce's Inspector General to investigate NMFS for alleged mismanagement of fish-

EMERGENCY CLOSURE of two areas off the mid-Atlantic coast to scallop harvest beginning Apr. 3, 1998, due to low sea scallop populations. These closures, one area offshore of VA and the second offshore of NJ, were requested by the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. [NOAA press release].

SOFT TED APPROVED

After extensive testing and evaluation, the National Marine Fisheries Service approved the use of the Parker Soft Ted, according to the *Federal Register* Notice. The criteria established by the government,



(Continued on page 4)

Those who have responded thus far to our Legislative Fund Appeal:

Ballard, Inc., Gold Coast Lobster, McRoberts Sales, M.J. Costello, Kalamar Seafood, American Freezer/Harry H. Bell & Sons

Thanks for your support!

In the absence of an organized PAC, we have traditionally relied upon contributions from members to fund our legislative efforts. This is a voluntary assessment and is considered as an extra dues payment for the year. We have enclosed a form for your use.

SEND IN YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TODAY!

YES, my company is happy to support SFA's legislative efforts on behalf of the seafood business in Florida. Enclosed is our contribution.

Company Name _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

\$2500 _____ \$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$ _____

You may use enclosed return envelope for your convenience.



(Continued from page 3)

stated the soft TED had to pass stringent turtle releaser tests (97% exclusion rate) and also prevent high losses of shrimp. If the bycatch results are similar to the Andrew soft TED, the newly approved soft TED will also reduce bycatch in excess of 50%. SFA's Domestic Shrimp Industry Section pushed for the testing of new soft TEDS and is pleased that NMFS was able to approve the Parker Soft TED. SFA previously testified before the FMFC that a soft TED would be approved by NMFS.

PFEISTERIA?

On Mar. 12, 1998, scientists with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection announced that microscopic organisms, capable of causing lesions on fish, had been found in Florida's Indian and St. John's Rivers, drainages in the Chesapeake Bay region, and in North Carolina, and were identified as *Cryptoperidiniopsis* sp. In mid-March 1998, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the awarding of FY1998 funds for cooperative agreements relating to *Pfeisteria*-related illness surveillance and prevention research. Approximately \$3.5 million was awarded, with Maryland receiving more than \$1 million. Other state programs receiving funds included Delaware, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia (Assoc. Press)

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM IN OYSTERS



The March 1998 issue of the Journal of Applied and Environmental Microbiology contained a report of a study of Chesapeake Bay oysters, wherein the parasite *Cryptosporidium* was found in oysters growing in areas close to sources of sewage or agricultural runoff (where harvest for human consumption is usually restricted). Although no human cases of cryptosporidiosis have yet been linked to consumption of raw shellfish, the discovery was considered to indicate a potential public health risk. [Assoc. Press]

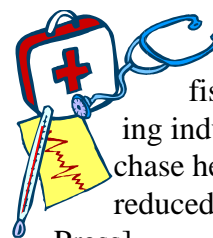
ATLANTIC BILLFISH MINIMUM SIZES

On Mar. 24, 1998, NMFS published an interim rule in the Federal Register increasing the minimum size for Atlantic blue marlin and Atlantic white marlin, effective Mar. 27, 1998. This action fulfills the U.S. commitment to ICCAT to reduce marlin landings by at least 25%. Minimum size (length) for blue marlin was set at 96 inches, while the minimum size (length) for white marlin was set at 66 inches. Both species

were identified in September 1997 by NMFS as overfished. [NOAA press release, Fed. Register]

HEALTH CARE FOR FISHERMEN

On Mar. 17, 1998, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston announced that the Dept. of Commerce had released about \$2 million in funds to assist New England fishermen and fishing industry workers purchase health insurance at reduced rates. [Assoc. Press]



CHOLERA FROM SEAFOOD?

On Mar. 16, 1998, Hong Kong health officials announced increased monitoring of imported seafood to combat an outbreak of cholera. Imported seafood from Thailand was alleged to have caused some of the cases, while Thai health officials claimed the mal-

(Continued on page 5)



STORE HOURS
MON. - SAT. 9am - 6:30pm
OPEN SUN. 10am - 5pm

FRESH FISH AND SEAFOOD

4963 S. STATE ROAD 7
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. 33314
441 & GRIFFIN RD. WINN DIXIE PLAZA
(954) 791-2955

1103 S. FEDERAL HWY
DANIA, FL. 33004
(954) 925-0093



I N V E S T I N T H E S E A F O O D I N D U S T R Y

Southeastern Fisheries Association has been publishing their "Hotlines" newsletter monthly for 32 years. We are expanding the format of the newsletter to include photos, guest editorials, technical information, marketing trends, member information and many articles each month pertinent to the seafood industry both in the southeast and around the world. Our readership consists of members, government agencies, elected officials, prospective members and anyone who requests such publication.

Complete the form below and return to the SFA office with your black and white business card and a check for \$200 and we will give you an ad spot in 4 issues of the "Hotlines"



Company Name _____

Contact person _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

COUNT ME IN AS A SUPPORTER OF THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY IN FLORIDA

Enclosed is our check for \$200 payable to Southeastern Fisheries Association

Enclosed is our business card - to be duplicated in the next 4 issues of "Hotlines".

(Continued from page 4)

ady was severe diarrhea, not cholera. On Mar. 25, 1998, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization released a statement to the effect that banning fish imports from nations affected by cholera is an inappropriate response, since the World Health Organization has not documented a significant outbreak of cholera resulting from commercially imported food. [Assoc. Press, Dow Jones News, FAO press release]

DRUG PATROLS AND MEXICAN FISHERMEN

On Mar. 12, 1998, Mexican media reported that Mazatlan fishermen were complaining of being stopped and searched about 40 times in recent months by U.S. drug patrol vessels operating in Mexican wa-

ters. [Assoc. Press]

UNDERWATER CAMERA BAN

On Mar. 11, 1998, the Minnesota Senate voted 51-9 to approve an amendment banning the use of underwater video cameras for fishing, during debate prior to passing an omnibus hunting and fishing bill. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources urged approval of the underwater camera ban, fearing anglers would use such equipment to selectively target trophy fish. [Assoc. Press]



GULF STURGEON CRITICAL HABITAT

On Feb. 27, 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NMFS jointly announced that designation of critical habitat for threatened Gulf sturgeon would not increase protection for the species and was not necessary. The agencies were under court order to consider this designation. [Dow Jones News]

Congratulations and thanks are in order to **Floribbean Wholesale, Inc.**, who made a corporate decision to upgrade their introductory membership to a Full corporate Member. SFA Board of Directors salutes you!



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.

Special Discounted Membership - HACCP trainees

Anderson Seafood Market
Panama City, FL

Canteen of FL Commissary/Compass Grp-
Orlando, FL
Shrimpers Seafood Market
Destin, FL

Southern Fish and Oyster Company
Mobile, AL
Texas Shrimp Association
Aransas Pass, TX

Kudo's and Thank You's

Ten sponsors have already signed up for the 46th Annual Meeting in Disney World this coming June. They are:

- Captain Mike's Seafood**
- Delaware Chicken Farm & Seafood**
- Florida Offshore, Inc.**
- Key Largo Fisheries**
- Standard Marine Supply**
- Versaggi Shrimp Co.**
- Admiralty Insurance**
- American Freezer/Harry H. Bell & Sons**
- Keys Fisheries, Inc.**
- Raffield Fisheries, Inc.**



**Many thanks to our sponsors.
They help make the meeting possible.
Sign up now!!**

Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.
 1118 B Thomasville Rd.
 Mt. Vernon Square
 Tallahassee, FL 32301
 Phone - 850/224-0612 FAX - 850/222-3663
 Web Address - www.southeasternfish.org
 Email - bobfish@southeasternfish.org



- ☞ Gulf red snapper fishery and Magnuson Act headed for showdown
- ☞ Shrimp embargo and the World Trade Organization
- ☞ Annual Meeting and Registration forms

