

Hot Lines

**Southeastern Fisheries
Association, Inc.**



Online Edition

May 1998

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**SFA Annual Meeting
Deadlines Approaching**

May 18, 1998 is the deadline for the reduced SFA registration fee and the room block being held at the Grosvenor Hotel at the \$89.00 convention rate.

All those planning to attend are urged to make your room reservations directly to the Grosvenor Hotel at 407/828-4444. Be sure to mention Southeastern Fisheries Association to receive the reduced rate. Members may FAX their SFA registration to the office at 850/222-3663 and we will bill you.

We have a very informative group of speakers who will bring us current on HACCP, FISH LESIONS, BYCATCH REDUCTION DEVICES, LEGISLATIVE CHANGES, UNIFICATION OF MFC & GAFWFC, MARKETING ACTIVITIES AND VESSEL INSPECTIONS. This is a good chance to take some time off and learn at the same time. Register NOW!!!

**Magic Of Disney
Extends To
Grosvenor Resort**

(reprinted from The Southeast Association Executive)

Guests who stay at the Grosvenor Resort in the Walt Disney World Resort enjoy the best of two very different worlds because it's

a place where the majesty of a first-class resort meets the magic of Disney's Kingdom. In fact, the surprises you'll discover at the Grosvenor may well include an encounter with Goofy or Donald or Chip 'n' Dale, since a number of Disney characters show up regularly for breakfast at the Grosvenor's Baskerville's Restaurant. But that's not the only pleasant experience you'll have at the Grosvenor; the resort includes 13 landscaped, lakeside acres that feature two heated swimming pools, hot tub, lighted private tennis courts, shuffleboard, volleyball and basketball courts, a children's pool and playground, and an adult fitness center. Guests may also take advantage of the resort's preferred tee times at any of the five Walt Disney World Resort championship golf courses nearby. The facility is located within walking distance of the Downtown Disney Marketplace, Pleasure Island's nighttime entertainment complex, Planet Hollywood, and Disney's West Side. Whether your fa-

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Its unique combination of lush surroundings, elegant accommodations, and location in Downtown Disney make the Grosvenor Resort a favorite meeting spot with executives.

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



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favorite diversion is shopping or sampling the nightlife, Grosvenor Resort offers a myriad of choices.

No matter how active and involved your schedule is, though, expect to be pampered a bit at the resort because the Grosvenor staff is big on hospitality and service.

Complimentary in-room, freshly brewed coffee and/or tea is provided daily for guests' convenience, and the daily paper will be brought to you upon request as well. Each tastefully decorated room at the Grosvenor also includes a video cassette player, a remote-controlled color TV with cable, and telephones with guestroom voice mail. The hotel also includes five eateries and lounge including Baskerville's Restaurant, which offers a lake view and is decorated as an authentic "Sherlock Holmes" museum with Victorian artifacts; Moriarty's Pub, a quiet niche to unwind and relax; Cricket's Lounge, a sports bar atmosphere that features espresso, cappuccino, and other beverages; Crumpet's Cafe, a self-serve food court that offers light fare; and the poolside Barnacles, which offers snacks, light meals, and refreshments.

For more information, call Grosvenor Resort at (800) 624-4109 or (407) 828-4444.

Hearings Set On Closure Of Atlantic Ocean To Night Shrimping

The NMFS has scheduled four public hearings in southeastern United States to discuss possible nighttime closures of shrimp fishing in the Atlantic Ocean. NMFS says in their News Release that "No new rule is proposed, and the four

hearings are strictly to gather information". NMFS wants quantitative information on the extent of fishery effort reduction under various closure schemes. They want information on the impacts,

positive and negative on the fishermen and the conservation of marine turtles. It sounds like a "Fox in the Henhouse in DC". If you are interested in saving the Atlantic Ocean shrimp fisheries you should attend and be heard at one of the following meetings. May 11, Bolivia, NC, Gov't. Center Ag Bldg., May 12, Charleston, SC, Marine Research Institute, 217 Fort Johnson Road, May 13, Brunswick, Ga. Marine Extension Service 715 Bay Street, May 14, Atlantic Beach, Mayport Elem. School, 2753 Shangri-La Drive. All meetings start at 7:00 PM. Be there. Be Heard. Or Be Sorry.

Fresh Domestic Baitfish Scarce at Marinas and Bait Shops

With the full impact of the net ban still coming, the need for fresh, locally caught baitfish reached a new plateau, especially in Palm Beach County. The SAILFISH MARINA, one of the swankiest yacht and sportfishing facilities in the country sent a letter to the Florida legislature on March 23, 1998 asking that Lampara nets be allowed for use to catch bait in Palm Beach County. The General Manager of the Sailfish Marina, Marjorie L. Murray, said in her letter, "The Supreme Court of Florida in D.E.P. vs. Bruce Millen-

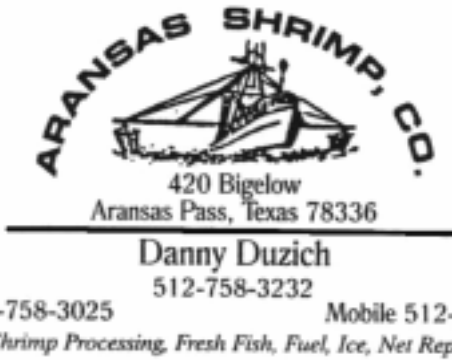
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der, No 85,880 said that evidence of commercial viability of nets is relevant. The people voted to limit not eliminate. Our bait fishery has been eliminated." The letter further states that their bait fishery was stopped, not because of waste or over harvest, but because Palm Beach county is close to the continental shelf. With cigar minnows selling for more than \$20 per 5# box and will probably double in the next five years, the anglers are getting a little restless with how the net ban is affecting their livelihood and pleasure. The MFC and the State legislature should look again at the tarp seines, which have almost a zero bycatch advantage. These clean, environmentally friendly nets could save jobs and provide a steady, sustainable flow of baitfish for the Florida bait houses and marinas who so desperately need local bait.

Floatsam

Invasive Species Regulations. On Apr. 16, 1998, the U.S. Coast Guard proposed regulations and voluntary guidelines to better control invasive aquatic nuisance species spread through ballast water transfer. The proposed regulations would require reporting and ballast sampling for most vessels entering U.S. waters from foreign ports or nearshore waters. Comments on the proposed rules will be ac-

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(TED) for use in shrimp trawls for an 18-month trial period. Previously approved soft TEDs were disallowed early in 1997 after increased sea turtle strandings were believed attributable in part to soft TED use. [NMFS press release]

[Assoc Press]

El Nino and Fishmeal Production. On Mar. 26, 1998, Peruvian officials announced that, due to El Nino conditions, fishmeal production for the first two months of 1998 was almost 81% lower than for the same period in 1997 (72,400 metric tons vs. 376,200 metric tons), while fish oil production had fallen more than 87% for the same period of comparison (6,200 metric tons vs. 48,700 metric tons). [Dow Jones News]

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cepted through June 9, 1998. [Assoc Press, U.S. Coast Guard press release]

First IFQ Prosecution. On Apr. 13, 1998, a southeast AK fisherman was convicted by a federal jury of falsifying his IFQ harvest record - -harvesting his blackcod catch in an area where he did not have a quota share. [Assoc Press]

Chinese Fishing Ban. On Apr. 12, 1998, Chinese fishery officials announced that China will ban fishing in its coastal waters from June 15, 1998, to Sept. 15, 1998, to protect declining fish stocks. This is longer than the two-month annual closure imposed from 1995-1997. [Dow Jones News]

Parker Soft TED Approval. On Apr. 9, 1998, NMFS announced the approval of the Parker soft turtle excluder device

Cuban Oil Spill. On Mar. 26, 1998, two foreign-registered oil tankers collided in Matanzas Bay, 60 miles east of Havana, on Cuba's north coast. A spill of heavy crude oil of undetermined severity reportedly has affected coastal resources. [Reuters]

And in Louisiana: Louisiana Natural Resources personnel were scheduled to meet with commercial and sport fishermen in Grand Isle, LA, to initiate a program to identify and remove underwater obstructions. While some compensation for damage from underwater obstructions has been paid regularly, this is the first LA program to remove obstructions, with one-year funding of \$1.6 million from federal Hurricane Andrew disaster relief. If an owner can be identified, the owner will be required to remove the obstruction. Obstructions too large to remove will be marked.

Cholera from Seafood? 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, outbreak of cholera resulting from commercially imported food. [FAO press release]

On Apr. 13, 1998, the MD General Assembly approved legislation to combat Pfiesteria. The measure would require farmers to limit nitrogen runoff by 2003 and phosphorus runoff by mid-2005. Violators could be fined as much as \$2,000 per year. AssocPress

Sierra Club targets opponents in political ads. The Sierra Club began airing political advertisements on radio and television Monday in an effort to influence vot-

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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 _____ \$ _____

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!



(Continued from page 3)

ers ahead of the November mid-term elections. Daniel Weiss, political director of the environmental group, told a news conference the Sierra Club will focus its spending on close races where there is a clear difference between the candidates' stance on environmental issues and where the group's money can make the most difference. "We're going to be spending about \$6 million on voter education and issue advocacy in this election cycle," Weiss said. He said about \$1 million would be spent on media and the rest on voter outreach and education efforts.

Association Membership Opportunities

SFA will extend the benefit of complimentary HACCP training to all Full Corporate Members. In other words, if you are a full corporate member, you can continue to have your employees trained for just the cost of the Training material. This is an incentive and smart business decision for all companies who joined during the past year at the special discounted rate to upgrade their membership when their renewal date rolls around. Also any existing companies that are currently not in the Full corporate category can upgrade at any time. This is an extremely good financial decision for companies as HACCP is here to stay and so is the training requirement. There is no other trade association offering a deal like this to its members. HACCP training will continue at the regular rates for those who do not hold a Full Corporate membership.

Southeastern Fisheries Association Florida Legislative Bulletin

Memo to: Persons interested in Florida Legislative action
From: Bob Jones, Executive Director
Subject: Florida Legislative Session

The Florida Legislative session is over. As the smoke and dust clears and the final draft of the bills start to come forth in the next few weeks we will know for sure what happened and what didn't happen. A detailed report will be given at the annual SFA meeting in Orlando, Fl., on June 19.



1. We were able to save the fuel tax exemption for commercial fishing vessels that fish in interstate commerce. (SB 1694) Many years ago Southeastern Fisheries Association was able to obtain the same pro-rata sales tax exemption on diesel fuel consumed outside Florida waters as cruise ships. Bob Rhodes was general counsel at the time and prevailed in our litigation with the Florida Department of Revenue. Over the years SFA has protected that exemption when several attempts were made to take it away. SFA was contacted by the Department of Revenue prior to the 1998 session for input as to how much fuel a shrimp boat for example burned while shrimping outside Florida waters. Working with the state officials enough info was given in order for the Department of Revenue to put the proper language in a proposed statute as the present rule would have expired on July 1, 1998 and the cost of diesel fuel would have gone up 6 or 7 cents per gallon. SFA salutes Senator Ostalkiewicz, Chairman of the Subcommittee authorizing this bill as well

as all the Senators and House Members who supported it. This is a very fair and much appreciated sales tax exemption utilized by an industry in the production of food. SFA continues to provide tangible help to the industry. This effort helps not only SFA members but also all commercial fishing industry vessel owners who fish in interstate commerce.

- 2. The House killed then reconsidered, amended and passed Senator Latvala's bill (SB 152) that will prohibit the Governor from nominating anyone who is paid for lobbying to a federal fisheries management council. The bill is aimed at John Sanchez, Executive Director of the Monroe County Fishermen's Association and was being touted by Karl Wickstrom, Florida Sportsman, Ted Forsgren, Texas based CCA and Frank Sergeant of the Tampa Tribune. The bill seems to be unconstitutional on its face in that it denies a federal civil right to a Florida citizen. It will probably be challenged in federal court in Miami the day after it becomes law. It passed the Senate by a great majority but failed in the House on a 66 NO to 43 Yes vote. It was then reconsidered and passed on a 115 YES to 0 No.
- 3. The Omnibus Fisheries legislation agenda was contained in (SB 1506) by Senator Latvala et al and does the following:
 - a. Prohibits public shellfish harvesting within 25 feet of a marked lease or within setback areas in high-density aquaculture operations.
 - b. Adds black drum and jack crevalle under the definition of "food fish" as was already contained in a DEP rule.
 - c. Sets certain criteria for a Marine life endorsement and directs the MFC to

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

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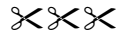
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- prepare a limited entry report for marine life harvesters by July 1, 2000.
- d. Increased funds for MFC from 2.5% to 5% relating to license fees they currently receive.
- e. Reduced funds for research from 30% to 27.5 % to give the MFC more money.
- f. Prohibits gillnets or nets greater than 500 square feet aboard boats less than 22 feet in length and on any vessel less than 25 feet if the primary power of the vessel is mounted forward of the vessel center point. The MFC must initiate rule making before July 1, 1998 to implement this action.
- g. Authorized the MFC to adopt rules prohibiting the possession and sale of mullet taken in illegal gill or entangling nets. Violations are major offenses and carry heavy fines and penalties.
- h. Prohibites multistrand monofilament in nets.
- i. Authorized MFC to adopt rules implementing this section (370.093)
- j. DEP shall receive a surcharge of \$5 per crawfish certificate transferred or 25% of the actual market value, whichever is greater.
- k. Beginning July 1, 2003, and applicable to the 2003-2004 season and thereafter, it is unlawful for any person to lease lobster trap tags or certificates.
- l. DEP shall assess additional penalties who violate the provisions of the trap tag program.
- m. Did away with the sundown provision for the MFC and authorized it to continue in full force and effect. (This would disappear if Unification Constitution Amendment passes)
- n. Extends to July 1, 2000, provisions for no new stone crab numbers to be issued.
- o. No person may harvest stone crabs with more than 5 traps unless such person hold valid saltwater products license with a restricted species endorsement.
- p. Same prohibition for harvesting blue crabs.
- q. Buying any saltwater products from an unlicensed person, firm or corporation shall be a major violation. 1st violation \$2,500, 2nd violation \$5,000 and may suspend wholesale or retail license for

INVEST IN THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

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 _____ Phone _____

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".**

- 180 days, 3rd violation with 24 months, \$5,000 fine and suspension of wholesale or retail license for 24 months. Proceeds from these fines are divided 40% for administration and processing fees and 60% for law enforcement.
- r. DEP can share landing date and other information with Interstate Compacts if confidentiality of statistics can be assured.
- s. Major penalties for not keeping required records for the DEP.
- t. Crawfish Reports by dealers during closed season; The DEP is authorized to adopt rules incorporating by reference such forms as are necessary to implement the provisions of this section. (This solves the Crawfish Reporting Forms Problem during the closed season)
- u. Repealed 370.1127 Mullet; regulation. In the region west of the Ochlockonee River mullet will

- be declared a restricted species only in October and November. (The MFC is already working on a rule to make mullet a restricted species statewide.)
- v. It is unlawful for any licensed retail dealer or any restaurant licensed by the Division of Hotels and Restaurants of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to buy saltwater products from any person other than a licensed wholesale or retail dealer.

THIS SHOULD STOP OR CURTAIL THE UNSAFE, ILLEGAL BACKDOOR SALES OF SEAFOOD BY ANGLER POACHERS WHO KEEP NO RECORDS OF THESE TRANSACTIONS.



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Kudo's and Thank You's

Fourteen 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.
Bowditch Insurance Company
Aylesworth Foundation
Villers Seafood
Safe Harbor Seafood



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

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**IN
THIS
ISSUE**

☛ 1998 Florida Legislative Action - Included in this Hotlines is a recap of the most important happenings of the 1998 Florida legislature. The industry did real well under President Toni Jennings and Speaker Daniel Webster's leadership.