

**Southeastern Fisheries
Association, Inc.**

Hotlines



Web Edition

October 1998

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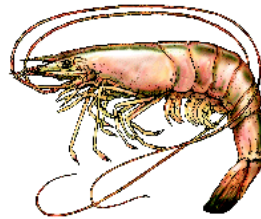
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**FMFC REJECTS PROPOSAL
FOR AN EMERGENCY RULE TO
CLOSE SHRIMP GROUNDS IN
SW FLORIDA FOR 3 EXTRA
MONTHS**

Honoring a request by Southeastern Fisheries Association, The Florida Marine Fisheries Commission (MFC)



rejected a proposal for an Emergency Rule closing an historic and valuable shrimping area in SW Florida for an additional 3 months.. During 1997 a glitch was discovered that an area shrimpers/crabbers thought had been closed to shrimping since 1979 was actually open. Many out of state shrimp boats and Florida boats went into the area and destroyed up to 25,000 stone crab traps according to testimony given during the September MFC Meeting. The SFA shrimp members endorsed closing the area from January to March and supported the lines for defining the area that had been proposed. But efforts were made to close the shrimp grounds starting in October instead of January and this was not acceptable to the shrimp industry. It would have been impossible to notify, in a timely manner, all the shrimpers on their way back to Florida from other states, the law had changed. Consequently, the MFC rejected the proposal for an Emergency Rule. The MFC did accept SFA's offer to form a shrimp/crab committee to discuss a variety of enforcement situations.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE TORTUGAS CLOSED AREA TO BE ENHANCED

Shrimpers violating the closed nursery area and stealing shrimp from Tortugas should take note they are facing a series of heavy fines for this infraction. In addition to the normal state fines, which unfortunately are extremely low, shrimping in a closed area is now a MAJOR VIOLATION under Chapter 370, Florida Statutes. In addition to all other fines and forfeitures, the law requires the court to assess an additional penalty of \$10 per pound for all shrimp on board the vessel violating the law. In addition, stealing shrimp from the closed area and taking them across any state or federal line is a violation of the FEDERAL LACEY ACT which imposes criminal fines and penalties that can reach up to \$1.21 million dollars. Additionally, any dealer, processor or retail establishment in POSSESSION of illegally caught shrimp is also in violation of the LACEY ACT and subject to criminal prosecution, penalties and fines. Retailers are urged to take whatever steps necessary in order to make sure they are buying legally caught shrimp. Some retailers have already indicated they will require a certification from their suppliers that the shrimp were legally harvested. Any legitimate shrimp packer, who has taken the HACCP course, should feel comfortable in supplying a certification that the product he sells is legal and han-

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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dled under their HACCP Plan.

MFC ADOPTS CALICO SCALLOP RULE

The Florida Marine Fisheries Commission agreed to resubmit a Calico Scallop rule to the Governor & Cabinet regulating gear, areas and establishing a 250 count for harvesting calico scallops. This compromise was worked out between opposing sides prior to the MFC meeting. All those in attendance supported this effort to better conserve and manage the last major fishery in the state having virtually no regulations. Southeastern Fisheries Association and Organized Fishermen of Florida helped facilitate this compromise position based on fairness and historical preferences.

CAVEAT EMPTOR (LET THE BUYER BEWARE)

It is now 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. 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 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. **Florida Statutes Chapter 370 enacted April 1998.**

RED SNAPPER BYCATCH

A decision by NMFS on whether to allow red snapper harvest after Sept. 1 was anticipated on Aug. 15, 1998. Pre-

liminary reports indicated that sport fishermen had exceeded their 3 million pound red snapper quota by early August 1998. The announcement of whether the red snapper sport fishery would remain open after Sept. 1st was delayed until Aug. 17, 1998. On Aug. 21, 1998, NMFS announced the release of 3.12 million pounds of red snapper quota for harvest after Sept. 1, 1998. NMFS determined that bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) installed in shrimp trawls would be effective in reducing red snapper bycatch. NMFS also announced that underwater videos of BRDs in shrimp trawls revealed a

correctable design flaw, in how BRDs are attached to the shrimp trawls, that has reduced BRD efficiency. [Assoc. Press]

SHRIMPERS MEETING

On Aug. 12, 1998, about 300 shrimpers gathered in Chauvin, LA, to discuss options and develop a strategy for dealing with government regulations, foreign shrimp imports, low domestic shrimp prices, and smaller size shrimp in this year's catch. [Assoc. Press]

F L O A T S A M

SEA TURTLE PROTECTION

On Sept. 7, 1998, Mexican officials announced the arrest of 5 individuals and seizure of 26,000 sea turtle eggs near Santiago Astata on the Pacific coast. A week earlier, poachers with 89,000 sea turtle eggs had been seized in a separate effort. On Sept. 5, 1998, the Tampa Tribune reported that Hurricane Earl had destroyed about three-quarters of all sea turtle nests (35 of 47 nests) in Pinellas County, FL.} [Assoc. Press]

MERCURY IN FISH

On Aug. 25, 1998, the Journal of the American Medical Association published preliminary results of a study, done in the Seychelles Islands, on the risks from consuming low concentrations of mercury in seafood. The scientists reported little risk, even to children and pregnant women, including no evidence of impaired mental development in children. [Reuters]

ILLEGAL SHARK CATCH

During a routine boarding on Aug. 7, 1998, the U.S. Coast Guard discovered more than 6,000 pounds of illegally caught shark aboard a LA fishing vessel in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to fishing after the shark season closed on Aug. 4, 1998, the vessel operator did not have a permit to catch shark. NMFS agents sold the catch, with the proceeds to be held in escrow until this case is settled. [Assoc. Press]

FISHERMEN ON WHEATIES BOXES

On Aug. 25, 1998, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) officials released a statement wherein they asked General Mills to reconsider featuring a fisherman on Wheaties cereal boxes beginning in October 1998. PETA asserts that fishing is violent, cruel, and injures animals while not requiring any

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 athletic skill. On Aug. 26, 1998, General Mills officials confirmed that they will display the sport fisherman on Wheaties boxes, beginning on or around Oct. 1, 1998. [Assoc.Press]

What seems to be one of the best kept business secrets in Florida is the free waste reduction and pollution prevention service provided by the state. It's called the Pollution Prevention Program (P2) This program provides valuable services to business, such as:

- On site technical assistance by highly qualified professionals with extensive industrial experience. Services range from an informal assessment to a detailed waste audit report....all designed to reduce waste and pollution and increase efficiency, which usually creates substantial cost savings.
- Pollution prevention research from an extensive [pollution prevention library, including video tapes, Best Management Practices, ad pollution prevention case studies covering a wide cross section of industries and processes.

Be sure to visit us on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.southeasternfish.org>

- Industry specific workshops which bring together vendors and industry experts to assist business. Speakers for association meetings or other events can readily be provided.

To obtain any or all of these free services contact Julie Abcarian, Pollution Prevention Program Manager at:

**850/488-0300 or E-mail
 abcarian_j@dep.state.fl.us**



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INVEST IN THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

Southeastern Fisheries Association has been publishing their "Hotlines" newsletter monthly for 33 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".



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.

UPGRADED to Corporate Status

These are the movers and shakers of your organization...we salute you!!!

Shrimp Landing, Crystal River, FL
Cathy Gill
Seacoast Seafood, Jacksonville FL
Jim Mahoney

New Associate Member:

Rod Docken Associates, Apollo Beach FL -
Rod Docken

Retail Market/Restaurant Members:

W & D Inc. - Rustic Inn, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Alan Brenner, Gen. Manager
Crane Creek Fisheries, Inc., Melbourne, FL.
- Guy and Maryann Civil

New members from HACCP classes

Bodiford Fishery, Perry, FL
- Billy J. Bodiford
Miracle Fish, Inc., Miami, FL
- Laura Taylor, V.P.
Florida Mar Corp., Hialeah, FL
- Juan Arturo Roman
Lucky Star Transport, Inc., Miami, FL
- Ada M. Tapia

Mr. Fish Seafood International, Pompano Beach, FL
- Michael Montella, Michael Massaro
Miracle Fish, Inc., Miami, FL
- Laura Taylor, V.P.
Ocean Supreme Seafood, Indiatlantic, FL
- George Savarese, President
Osprey Fresh Seafood, Inc., Jax Beach FL
- Kerry Tibor, President
Southeast Corp., Miami, FL
- Joe E. Crowwell
Suwannee Fish House, Cross City, FL
- John O'Steen
Boat Owner Member
M/V "Fine Wine", Colombus, OH,
- Guy Wolfenbarger

WE INVITE ANYONE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER, WHO IS NOT ALREADY A MEMBER OF SFA TO JOIN US AND BECOME AN ACTIVIST FOR YOUR BUSINESS. WE ARE HERE TO RESPOND TO YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS IN THE STATE CAPITAL AND AROUND THE SOUTHEAST REGION. WE CAN HELP YOU ONLY IF WE KNOW YOU AND CORRESPOND WITH YOU REGULARLY..... WE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU AND YOUR COMPANY!

SFA 47th Annual Meeting
Mission Inn Golf and Tennis Resort
Howey-in-the-Hills, FL
June 17-20, 1999

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