

**Southeastern Fisheries
Association, Inc.**

Hotlines



Web Edition

JANUARY 1999

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**SEAFOOD INDUSTRY
WILL MISS
GOVERNOR CHILES**

One of the best Governors in the history of Florida has gone home. Lawton Chiles was a true friend of all people who worked for a living, especially those who made their living from the sea. He was at ease with people who had to physically work with their hands. He was the consummate friend of children. Many people believe his love for the children of the state is his greatest legacy. Governor Chiles will always be held in fond memory by anyone who had the great honor to work with him. SFA extends its deepest condolences to his family. Without the love of his wife and children, he would not have risen to the level of respect and admiration he always enjoyed. Rest in peace, dear friend.



**SENATE NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
PROPOSES FAWCC
LEGISLATION**

The Florida Senate's Natural Resource Committee voted unanimously to file a bill officially creating the Fish & Wildlife Commission (FAWCC) on January 19th. Staff was directed to further develop a proposed committee bill that would transfer most of the DEP's Division of Marine Resources, the Marine Patrol, Bureau of Protected Species and the Florida Marine Re-

search Institute to FAWCC. Some discussion arose about moving the oyster and clam functions and an amendment will be made that could keep this program dealing with water quality and health at DEP. Bob Jones of SFA and Jerry Sansom of OFF were the only commercial fishing industry spokesmen who spoke out in favor of keeping FMRI in DEP as well as challenging the committee to come up with wording that would address the "adequate due process" requirement. Unless all seafood industry groups and friends get involved in this process, public policy could be legislated to further harm the seafood industry of Florida. There is a lot at stake. The very existence of the seafood industry is on the chopping block. Unless there is a hew and cry from all of the businesses in the seafood industry, they will have to live under the mandates decided by the opposition. Most of the legislators have an open mind and need to hear from you now. Call the SFA office if you are willing to participate in this fight. This is your notification that the bell has sounded.

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



FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO MEET

February 24th marks the initial meeting of the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FAWCC). The Marine Fisheries Commission will meet on February 23rd and disband at noon on the 24th. The FAWCC will then convene with 7 MFC commissioners and 5 GAFFC commissioners. The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel, 7401 E. Hillsborough and will be open to the public. Public comments and questions will be heard on the afternoon of the 24th. Anyone interested in the direction this new group might go is encouraged to attend this meeting and participate in the discussions.

SFA & OFF BOARDS MEET

Southeastern Fisheries Association and Organized Fishermen of Florida Boards met in Kissimmee, Florida, on Saturday Jan 16th to discuss the creation of the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. Both groups unanimously agreed to ask the legislature to keep Florida Marine Research Institute (FNRI) under the Department of Environmental Protection. FMRI should work closely with FAWCC but the role of scientific research should be removed as far as possible from politics. The groups also

unanimously agreed to work with the Florida Legislature in pushing for creation of "adequate due process" and balance in the direction of the new group. The Game & Fish Commission has done an outstanding job for its constituency over the years. However, it has had very little experience in dealing with a robust and economically important marine seafood industry. Therefore the industry must be seen and heard from the very beginning of the creation of this new group. Otherwise, our opponents will try to have all the fish reserved for anglers at the expense of the consumers and our industry. Be alert. Be involved. Be truthful.

DOMESTIC SHRIMP INDUSTRY SECTION ADOPTS PLAN

SFA's Domestic Shrimp Industry Section (DSIS) met on January 16 to adopt a strategic plan of action for the coming year. A series of information gathering and dissemination projects will be conducted in anticipation of the all out effort of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute to stop bottom trawling and to set aside up to 20% of the oceans as "NO FISHING PRESERVES". Members of the DSIS were given copies of news releases and plans of attack they will face in the

coming years. The DSIS recognized immediately that they have been designated as the "demon". They know from past experiences that the first step in doing away with a specific commercial fishing operation is to "demonize" that sector and create a target. Shrimp trawling is now the official target of some of the more militant anti-fishing groups in America. Voluntary box contributions will be used to finance the DSIS. Any shrimp packing house interested in more information and in participating in this program should call Grant Ericksen at 941 463-6353, Dennis Henderson at 941/463-3341, Joe Villers at 941-463-7000 or Joe Versaggi at 813/248-5089.

REEF FISH DECISION POSTPONED BY GULF COUNCIL

The GOM Reef Fish Plan Amendment decision raising the minimum size of gag grouper and closing part of the season has been postponed until the March meeting of the Council in Baton Rouge for lack of some technical information the Council members need. At one point during the January Meeting in Biloxi, the Reef Fish Management Committee voted to recommend to the full Council that gag grouper fishing

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PERSONALIZED COOLERS AVAILABLE THROUGH SFA

SFA can provide member businesses with insulated coolers in several sizes bearing the logo of the business and SFA seal for a lower than average price. These soft coolers come in a variety of colors and make great gifts for customers or good profit maker for your retail shops. If you want to find out if they sell, give Rich Polvinale, Delaware Chicken & Seafood Market, a call at 954/983-6831. He bought 1,000. Call the SFA office 850/224-0612 for more information.



Dean Salter

Seafood Packaging Specialist

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<p>Beth Nichols Gary Nichols "Dad" Nichols</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NICHOLS SEAFOOD</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>OF CONCH KEY</p> </div> <p>"Fresh Sea Creatures from commercial fishing families." <i>We catch 'em so you can eat 'em.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(305) 289-0900 15 Seaview Ave. MM 63 Bayside Marathon, FL 33050</p> <p style="text-align: right;">FISH SHRIMP LOBSTER STONE CRABS</p> <p style="text-align: left;">Next Day Delivery</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>PROPANE TANKS FILLED DIESEL FUEL BOAT ICE</p> <p>BALLARD OIL CO. MATANZAS ICE CORP.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">2000 MAIN STREET FORT MYERS BEACH FLORIDA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JAMES B. BALLARD (941) 463-7677 FAX (941) 463-4338</p>
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be closed from January 15 through April 15 to COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN ONLY. This passed the Management Committee on a 3 to 2 vote with Florida Council member Felicia Coleman, Texas Council member Irby Basco and NMFS's Andy Kemmerer voting for the motion while Vernon Minton of Louisiana and Kay Williams of Mississippi voted against the motion. Dr. Kemmerer stated that a 30% SPR was needed for gag grouper and

that closing to commercial fishing for three months would accomplish that requirement.

SFA WORKERS COMP PROGRAM OFFERS NEW SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

Bowditch Insurance Corporation which handles the SFA endorsed Workers Comp package, now offers an employee leasing program which has saved some firms

between 10% and 25% of various administrative costs. There are quite a few SFA members who already use a P.E.O. to handle their administrative-human resources work. There might be other small businesses that also would be interested in becoming more efficient and saving money at the same time. Let us know if you are already in the employee leasing program. There is strength in numbers and savings from an economy of scale. if you are interested in hearing more about this opportunity, call Jim Clary at 904/855-0744 ext. 234.

INVEST IN THE SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

Southeastern Fisheries Association has been publishing their "Hotlines" newsletter monthly for 34 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 _____

Mailing 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".

1999 ANNUAL CONVENTION

The 47th Annual SFA Convention will be held at Howey-In-The-Hills Resort on June 16 - 19, 1999. An outstanding array of speakers have been contacted to touch on all the fishery issues currently being discussed. Bans on bottom trawling, Creation of No-Take Reserves, The New Wildlife Commission in Florida, HACCP and Import/Export items have already been placed on the agenda. This meeting will set the stage for the millennium and all members are encouraged to take advantage of this time to get away from the daily grind of business for some rest, relaxation and good times.



FLOATSAM

FL Sea Turtle Lawsuit. On Jan. 7, 1999, the Volusia County Council agreed to file an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals decision on a 1995 lawsuit that requires the County to pay to enforce increased federal protective measures for sea turtles. The lawsuit seeks to limit beach driving and excessive beach lighting during the sea turtle nesting season. [Tampa Tribune]

Illegal FL Fishing. On Jan. 6, 1999, NOAA officials announced that a FL commercial diver fisherman had agreed to pay a \$35,000 penalty after admitting to 21 violations between August 1996 and August 1997, including harvesting lobsters during closed season and exceeding commercial trip limits on some fish. In addition, the individual's federal fisheries permit was revoked for 90 days and he will be on probation for 5 years. [Tampa Tribune]

Sea Turtle Treaty. On Dec. 29, 1998, Honduras and Mexico became the 9th and 10th signatories to the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles. Also reported as considering signing before the Dec. 31, 1998 deadline were Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Guatemala. The treaty will enter into force when 8 nations have ratified the agreement -- Venezuela is thus far the only nation to have ratified it, with ratification nearing completion in Brazil and Costa Rica. [Environment News Service]

Summer Flounder Regulations. On Dec. 16, 1998, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission voted to reject proposed measures to reduce the harvest of summer flounder, through reduced bag limits, increased size limits, and area closures during the peak tourist season. Three proposed options were offered for recovery of overfished summer flounder populations within 10 years. Recreational Fishermen were reported to have exceeded the 1998 summer flounder quota by almost 5 million pounds.

Coral Reef Damage. On Dec. 15, 1998, the Royal Caribbean cruise ship *Monarch of the Seas* ran aground on the coral reef off the island of Saint Martin, damaging about 27,000 square feet of reef with an estimated loss to tourism and fisheries of more than \$8 million. [MSNBC]

TX Red Snapper Fishery. On Dec. 15, 1998, TX Dept. of Parks and Wildlife officials announced that TX will open state waters to red snapper fishing on Jan. 1, 1999, despite a likely extension of a federal ban on red snapper fishing through March 1999. [Assoc Press]

Trawling/Dredging Impacts. The December 1998 issue of *Conservation Biology* presented 7 studies of the effects of fishing using bottom trawls and dredges, causing two environmental groups to suggest that this kind of fishing may be responsible for the decline of several important fisheries. Trawling and dredging are reported to kill smaller marine organisms as well as disturb sediment, rock, and bottom habitat. On Dec. 9, 1998, Dr. Elliott Norse gave a lecture at Boston's New England Aquarium, call-

ing attention to concerns about the impact of bottom trawl and dredge fishing gear. On Dec. 14, 1998, the American Oceans Campaign and the Marine Conservation Biology Institute held a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, to call attention to the 7 papers. These groups compared trawling and dredging to forest clear-cutting and suggested that trawling and dredging was the largest single type of disturbance to the Earth's surface, other than possibly agriculture. [Assoc Press]

Red Snapper Lawsuit. On Dec. 10, 1998, oral arguments were presented in federal court in Tallahassee, FL in the case *Florida Dept. of Community Affairs v Secretary of Commerce, et al.* wherein FL is challenging an NMFS regulation repealing an increase in red snapper size limit from 15 to 16 inches.

WA Net Ban Initiative. On Jan. 4, 1999, sport fishing activists -- <http://www.banallnets.com> -- filed an initiative to protect salmon by banning commercial fishing nets in WA state waters. Supporters of the initiative must collect at least 179,248 signatures of registered voters by July 1999 to have the initiative placed on the November 1999 ballot. A similar effort, Initiative 640, failed in 1995, receiving 45% of the vote. Tribal use of nets would not be affected by the proposed initiative. [Daily Herald]

FL Manatees. On Jan. 6, 1999, FL officials announced that 66 manatees had been killed by boats in 1998 -- a record high number for this cause of death. Altogether, a total of 231

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manatees were found dead in 1998, the third highest worst mortality year on record. On Jan. 6, 1999, scientists from 10 federal and state agencies formed into 20 teams were scheduled to conduct their annual aerial survey of overwintering manatees, with 5 additional teams conducting a ground survey. This survey is scheduled during cold weather when manatees congregate in warm-water outflows from

17 power plants and 2 paper mills as well as 3 natural springs. As of Jan. 5, 1999, eight manatee deaths had already been reported in 1999. [Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel, Tampa Tribune, Orlando Sentinel, Naples Daily News]

Right Whale Protection. On Dec. 7, 1998, the Maritime Safety Committee of the United Nations' International Maritime Organization

voted unanimously to strengthen protection for northern right whales by requiring, beginning July 1, 1999, that commercial ships entering this whale's calving (coastal FL and GA) and feeding (offshore of MA) grounds to report by radio to the U.S. Coast Guard for the latest information on whale locations and collision avoidance with these animals. [White House press release, NOAA press release]



SALUTE To:

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Motivatit Seafoods Inc., a family owned seafood enterprise was established in Houma, Louisiana in 1971. The owners are 6th and 7th generations of Voisins (pronounced wah zan for all non-Cajuns). These French blooded Americans have been in the seafood business since 1770 when the first Voisin left France and stepped upon the sovereign soil of Louisiana. France had ceded the "territory" to Spain in 1762 and was under this Spanish rule for nearly 40 years. When Spain's power began to diminish France became interested in Louisiana and forced Spain to return it to them. Napoleon Bonaparte realized that France could no longer defend the Louisiana territory so he convinced the officials to sell it. On April 30, 1803, a mammoth real estate sale took place that increased the size of the United States by 900,000 square miles or 600 million acres. States included were all of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Iowa. Parts of Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Alabama, Kansas, and Minnesota were in the land package purchased at a price of 15 million dollars or .04 cents per acre. And not a single drop of blood was shed for this expansion. The Voisins were there when all of this history was happening establishing their seafood business. How about that for the other side of the story of the Louisiana Purchase..

Motivatit Seafood includes an oyster processing plant and a blue crab/ crawfish plant. The oyster plant is capable of processing 400 to 500 sacks of oysters daily. The blue crab plant processes up to 30,000 pounds per day and dur-

ing the crawfish season can process about 6,000 pounds of these delicious "mud bugs" as the locals call those delicious crawfish.

Motivatit offers a full line of oyster, crab and crawfish products and ships anywhere in the world through a variety of carriers. Less than trailer load shipments are available throughout the US and Canada.

Mike, Steve and Ernie Voisin are nationally recognized leaders in their field and are respected by their peers for their ethical business dealings. **Motivatit** has been a member of SFA for over 20 years and makes up part of the true base of the organization.

SFA salutes **Motivatit** for maintaining a positive image for not only its own company but for the seafood industry as a whole. Thanks to all the people at **Motivatit** for your continuing support of your professional trade association. May success follow your company well into the millenium.

- ◆ Each month SFA will salute an outstanding corporate or associate member. If you liked reading about Motivativit Seafoods and are interested in getting on the list please mail or fax us the Fact Sheet that was distributed in November 99. If you need another Fact Sheet form, please call the office at 850/224-0612.



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.

New Associate Member:

Victory Packaging, Orlando FL
- Dean Salter



SFA 47th Annual Meeting
Mission Inn Golf and Tennis Resort
Howey-in-the-Hills, FL
June 16 - 19, 1999

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!

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- ◆ Lawton Chiles...1930 - 1998
- ◆ Proposed FAWCC legislation
- ◆ FLOATSAM