

Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.

Hotlines



Web Edition

JULY 1999

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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 47th Annual Meeting Well Attended

The Mission Inn Golf and Tennis Resort in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida was the perfect setting for a busy, informative and educational gathering of industry and government leaders. One of the highlights for the entire group was hearing from the new Assistant Administrator for Fisheries for NMFS, **Penny Dalton** who brought a breath of fresh air from NMFS headquarters. Her knowledge of the Magnuson Act and her willingness to listen to all sides gives the industry a chance for fair hearings. **Dr. Allan Egbert**, the Executive Director of the Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission outlined transition plans for the coming unification into the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He promised an open door policy and assured the industry they would receive due process. **JoAnne McNeely** of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, **Wayne Swingle**, Executive Director of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, **John Hogarth**, the new Southeastern NMFS director, and **Steve Otwell**, IFAS, all gave informative presentations on their respective agencies and current projects.

The new President of SFA for 1999-2000, **Dennis Henderson**, Trico Shrimp Company of Ft. Myers was installed at the Awards Luncheon on Friday. The SFA Member of the Year Award went to **Bob Spaeth**, Madeira Seafood of Madeira Beach FL. The Aylesworth Government Employee of the Year Award was presented to **Wayne Swingle** for his excellence in serving as Executive Director of the Gulf of Mexico Management Council since it was created in 1976. The Heber H. Bell Quality and Personal Ethics Award



NOAA's Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, **Penny Dalton**, poses with SFA's new President, **Dennis Henderson**

was established this year and the first recipient of this honor was **Steve Cox**, President of Cox's Wholesale Seafood Tampa FL. **Dr. Jim Cato** presented seven Aylesworth scholarships continuing the program that was established by the late **Ralph & Kitty Aylesworth**. **Bobby & Dawn Aylesworth** were present to congratulate the recipients. It is very encouraging to see the industry supporting these fine young students in their educational pursuits in the marine sciences. Any member wishing to financially participate in this program should give Bob Jones a call.

All the above and fun too.....**Randy Raffield** was the winner of the 6th Annual B. J. Putnam Golf Match. Kudos to **Grant Erickson** for his low gross score, a stunning 75 on the Championship Course at Howey-in-the-Hills. Ten Past Presidents were in attendance and honored during the meeting: Harry Salisbury (70-71), Sam Cooper (68-69), Bob Bell (95-96), Jeanette Cooper (85-86), Bob Starr (92-93), Gene Raffield (75-76), Steve Cox (97-98), Sal Versaggi (78-79), Eugene McRoberts (80-81), and Cecil Lane (96-97).



The family of Jack Hill wishes to thank you for your condolences and many acts of kindness during the recent loss of Jack. We know that we will join him one day in heaven. What a reunion! May God richly bless you.

Dottie, Tom, Rick and families

GAG GROUPE HEARING

On June 23, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Reef Fish Committee held a public hearing in Panama City, Florida to receive additional information on their proposed amendment. Over 65 very interested boat Captains, restaurant owners, seafood dealers and businessmen were in attendance and most of them testified. Dr. Trevor Kenchington of Nova Scotia was brought to the meeting by Southeastern Fisheries Association on behalf of the Florida Offshore Fishing Consortium and the Southern Offshore Fisherman's Association. He gave a detailed review of the gag grouper science used to develop the proposed amendment. Dr. Kenchington's review is in sharp contrast to some of the other information presented, particularly as it pertains to the concern of a very small genetic pool of gag grouper.

There are numerous other areas of the science needing further peer review

and the associations are working on a program to accomplish that task. At present the gag grouper industry will support a 2 or 3 month closure of the 423 square mile "40 fathom break" for a three year period and support a 24" size limit for commercial fishermen. This fish drama will be continued in Key West on July 12-15 at the Pier House Hotel during the next Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meeting.

FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL APOINTEMENTS ANNOUNCED

Gulf of Mexico Council

Includes members from the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The 1999 appointees are for three at-large seats:

Pete V. Aparicio - Victoria, Texas
Maumus F. Claverie, Jr. - New Orleans, La.

James B. Fensom - Panama City, Fl

South Atlantic Council

Includes members from the states of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The 1999 appointees are for two at-large seats:

John M. Dean - University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C.

Edward B. LeMaster III - Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

PERSONALIZED COOLERS AVAILABLE THROUGH SFA

SFA can provide member businesses with insulated coolers in two sizes (6 pack and 12 pack size) 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. Call the SFA office 850/224-0612 for more information or clip and fax the below form to SFA at 850/222-3663

Contact Name:

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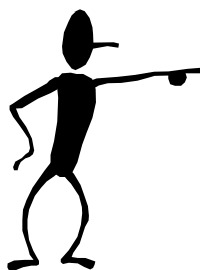
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F L O A T S A M

Swordfish Smuggling. On June 8, 1999, two Florida fish companies pleaded guilty to fraud in importing \$6 million worth of swordfish, but declaring it whitefish to avoid tests for methyl mercury. A \$650,000 fine and 4-year probation will reportedly be recommended. [Assoc Press]

Shrimp Embargo. On June 4, 1999, the Dept. of State certified Guyana as meeting requirements for sea turtle

management plan (FMP) as well as Amendment 1 to the billfish FMP. This rule consolidates HMS regulations effective July 1, 1999, implements International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendations, and addresses new requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. A vessel monitoring system requirement for pelagic longline fishermen as well as

protection and eligible to export shrimp to the United States. [U.S. Information Agency]

HMS Regulations. On May 28, 1999, NMFS published final regulations implementing the highly migratory species (HMS) fishery

permits and logbook reporting for HMS charter/headboat vessels will become effective at a later date to be announced. [personal communication, Fed. Register]

Activists Fined for Dolphin Release. On June 8, 1999, two activists were found guilty of violating the Marine Mammal Protection Act in May 1996 by recklessly releasing 2 captive dolphins off the Florida coast that were not prepared to survive in the wild. The activists were ordered to pay civil penalties totaling almost \$60,000. [NOAA press release, Reuters]



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 _____

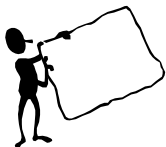
Contact person _____ Phone _____

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".





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 HACCP Members:

- ◆ Dorado Fish Company, Miami, FL
Melvin Lopez, Jr, President

When space allows SFA will salute an outstanding corporate or associate member in the Hotlines. If you would like your company to be "saluted" in this way to the 1000 industry people on our mailing list, please mail or fax us a history or profile of your company with logos if appropriate

The Association would like to give a great big thank you to the sponsors of the annual meeting. They really made it possible for the meeting to be such a great success!

DESTIN BAIT COMPANY
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SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION, INC.
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 FAX - 850/222-3663
 Web Address - <http://www.southeasternfish.org>
 Email - bobfish@aol.com

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!