

**Southeastern Fisheries  
Association, Inc.**

**Hotlines**



**Web Edition**

**MAY 1999**

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**FLORIDA FISHERIES  
PIONEER DIES**



Jack Hill, President of Key Largo Fisheries died on April 16, 1999 at the young age of 73. He is survived by Dottie, his wife of 51 years, sons Rick & Tom and their wives Jayne and Gail, brother Phil and sister-in-law Mary Ann and five wonderful grandchildren and nephews and nieces. Jack Hill was a past president of Southeastern Fisheries Association and a member of the Board for three decades. Tom Hill will take his dad's place on the Board thus carrying on the tradition. Welcome aboard Tom. Dottie, Rick & Tom will continue to operate Key Largo Fisheries and fulfill the plans and dreams Jack had for their business. The funeral services in Key Largo and in Homestead were overflowing with people who loved and respected "Pappa". The poem read by Dottie and the heartwarming eulogy given by son Tom on behalf of the family were beautiful tributes to a man who led his

life as an example for us all. His kind and gentle spirit allowed him to help so many others, especially young people, in his journey through life. He served his God, his family and his country honorably. When Bob Starr called the office with the news of Jack's passing, he said, "*God must have wanted to go lobster fishing.*" How very, very appropriate. May Jack Hill and all the faithfully departed Rest In Peace.

**SEAFOOD RESTAURANT  
ALLIANCE FORMED**

Seafood Restaurant owners will serve as a revised Section of SFA. Eddie Toomer, owner of "Captain Eddie's Seafood" restaurant in Nokomis, Florida has been designated as Southwest Florida Chairman and Steve Rash, owner of "The Blue Parrot" seafood restaurant on St. George's Island, Florida has been designated Northwest Florida Chairman of the Seafood Restaurant Alliance (SRA). The purpose of this Alliance is to educate government regulators on the needs of seafood restaurants and to communicate the economic impact seafood restaurants have on coastal towns and states. SRA supports *Sustainable Fisheries and Equitable Allocation of Renewable Marine Resources*. Millions of people depend on seafood restaurants for their taste of seafood. Too often, this group is left out of allocation decisions. That must end. For more information on the Seafood Restaurant Alliance call the SFA office at 850/224-3180.

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



### FIRST DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL THWARTS COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN

The Florida 1<sup>st</sup> District Court of Appeal ruled against Wakulla County fishermen in two recent cases. One upheld a MFC rule requiring a seine to have mesh no larger than 2" throughout the net. The Court then dismissed a ruling by a Circuit Judge that had declared the 2" rule unconstitutional on the grounds that the fishermen had not exhausted all administrative remedies before filing the lawsuit. The fishermen felt that the Circuit Judge case should have been certified as an issue of great public concern and gone directly to the Supreme Court as is allowed under Florida law. All the fishermen want is their day before the Supreme Court and have pledged to abide by whatever decision is rendered. That's certainly not too much to ask under a democratic form of government. Their grievances should be heard by the Florida Supreme Court.

### UNIFICATION OF FISH AGENCIES MOVING IN FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

The Florida Senate unanimously passed Senator Latvala's unification bill which avoids any special consideration for the science lab or for adequate due process as required by the

Constitution. The House position gives everyone some solace concerning the Florida Marine Research Institutes' future by placing it at the highest level within the new agency hopefully preventing micro-management by a bureau chief or division head within the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. The fishing industry and most of the scientific community cannot understand why Senator Latvala is opposed to keeping science as pure as possible. The agency would get off to a much better footing if all those regulated by it had confidence that the science was not going to be manipulated for political purposes. Perception is sometimes reality.

### FLORIDA OFFSHORE FISHING CONSORTIUM

The Florida Offshore Fishing Consortium (FOFC) continues to grow and is preparing information to deliver to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council at their next meeting in Austin, Texas. Billy Archer (recreational) and Greg Abrams (commercial) are Co-chairmen of this group and along with the other members of the Executive Committee, Kelly Windes and Steve Rash, have established a well thought out plan to make sure all businesses affected by NMFS regulations are kept in the loop in order to participate in the debate on

how best to manage the fisheries. Coastal Congressmen on Florida's Gulf coast have been contacted for support in getting NMFS to send their 666 square mile NO FISHING PRESERVE rule back to the Gulf Council for further consideration. FOFC has endorsed a plan to meet with all user groups and define two areas where marine preserve status could be possible. The thought is to define a north and a south area in the Gulf of Mexico off Florida to be used to create the kind of habitat and ecosystem the enviro's want to study. At the same time the areas are being discussed, research programs could be designed to validate whether or not the preserves do what they are intended to do. FOFC has offered to work with any environmental group on establishing some marine preserves but will not accept any unilateral plan that attempts to close down historical fishing areas just for the purpose of closing them down because it might do some good.

### TEXAS SHRIMP INDUSTRY TAKES NMFS TO TASK ON TURTLE PROTECTION

A recent symposium on sea turtle biology adopted a resolution asking for a NO COMMERCIAL FISHING ZONE (marine preserve) ALONG NORTH AND SOUTH PADRE ISLAND,

*(Continued on page 3)*

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Turtle Stranding Report.  
 3. NMFS denied funding for a research grant from the Gulf Research Foundation.  
 Additionally, US-FWS advised they were withdrawing their funding of \$100,000 to the Rancho Nuevo

the philosophy of the more militant among us.

**OYSTER DECISION BY FDA TO BE FORTHCOMING**

A public interest group that filed a petition requesting the US Food & Drug Administration to ban the sale of raw oysters with even a trace of *Vibrio vulnificus*, (Vv) along with the US oyster industry are anxiously awaiting the FDA's decision in the coming months pertaining to consumption of raw oysters from the wild. The industry believes in a more effective educational campaign to warn people with immune suppressed systems to avoid eating raw oysters as well as anything else raw. The industry believes in consumer choices and supports the HACCP regulations that allow the sale of raw molluscan shellfish that have been properly handled from the boat to the throat. Nine Thousand people in the United States per year die from food poisoning of all types. Education of at-risk consumers is the key to this issue.

*(Continued from page 2)*

**TEXAS.**

In response to this one sided resolution, TSA wrote Governor George Bush and pointed out the following

recent actions NMFS had taken concerning turtles.



1. NMFS advised TSA that the Sea Turtle Expert

- Working Panel would be disbanded.
2. NMFS eliminated the weekly Sea

Project. TSA and NFI had the funds restored through the political process. Reports from NMFS law enforcement personnel indicate the southeastern shrimping industry has a 97% compliance rate in the proper use of Turtle Excluder Devices. What an amazing compliance rate and even more amazing is how little exposure this fact gets in the media or from those environmental groups who seem bent on destroying the shrimping industry. "Love fish and hate fishermen" seems to be

**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.

**DEVELOPING A REPLENISHED FISH TAG**

"We're in the business of saving fish so we can eat them" said John Gummer, chairman of the international Marine Stewardship Council. Gummer is a British lawmaker and said the purpose of the new campaign is to use the market to save fish stocks. Legal Sea Foods of Boston along with other corporations including Unilever and Shaw's Supermarkets have already signed up and will begin displaying a turquoise and white logo on their products, menus and table tents. Every member of SFA is in favor of sustainable fisheries. Every member of SFA

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**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".

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(Continued from page 3)

is in favor of equitable allocation of resources. Every member of SFA is in favor of good science which is sometimes different than "best AVAILABLE scientific information. This sustainable fish logo will gather momentum and hopefully will bring all users of the resources to the management table.

### 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. Call the SFA office 850/224-0612 for more information.

## F L O A T S A M

### FISHERMAN'S FEDERATION PRESIDENT RECEIVES EPA AWARD

**P**ietro Parravano, President of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations, was recently recognized by EPA for his work to improve the environment. Parravano recognizes that the long term health of fisheries depends on a healthy natural environment, strict adherence to environmental laws and aggressive programs to recover and restore depleted or endangered species. As President of the west coast's largest commercial fishing organization since 1992, he has been a leader among the industries dependent upon natural resources to fully embrace an environmental ethic. He also serves as one of two U.S. delegates to the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers, dealing with issues such as overfishing and coastal pollution. Congratulations Pietro. Keep up the good work. (ed.)

### RED SNAPPER ABUNDANCE AT ODDS WITH NMFS MODEL

**R**ecreational and commercial fishermen throughout the Gulf of Mexico tell of more red snapper around than has been seen in

recent memory. Reports of catch in South Florida and throughout the Gulf are talked about all along the waterfront. Experienced charter boat captains report seeing huge concentrations in areas that have been almost barren for years. During the most recent commercial fishing season, the market was destroyed when over 1.2 million pounds were landed in a short period. Somewhere down the line the NMFS "fish model makers" must leave the sanctity of their caves and get on the water or both the tourism industry and seafood restaurant industry will suffer for no real reason. Some way must be found to better manage the commercial season to prevent gluts on the market and also to protect the charterboat tourism sector from being shut down before the end of the year. Many fishermen who make their living on the water do not believe the NMFS statistics.

### VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

**T**he VA Marine Resources Commission recently approved closed seasons for flounder sport fishing from July 25-31, 1999 and Jan. 1-Feb. 29, 2000 and raised the minimum size of fish retained to

reduce harvest by 40%. The harvest reduction was made necessary after sportfishing anglers exceeded their 7.41 million pound quota in 1998 by catching 12.5 million pounds. In other action, the Commission approved requests, many under hardship provisions, from 90 watermen to fish a total of 10,800 additional crab pots this spring, raising concerns by some for increased harvest pressure on blue crabs. The Commission also placed a 38-day (May 1 through June 7) moratorium on harvesting horseshoe crabs.

### GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE INVESTIGATION

The GAO at the request of US Senators and Congressmen is conducting an investigation into the way NMFS passes rules and if they give due consideration to the impact of their many, many rules. If you have any comments you would like included in the paper Southeastern Fisheries Association is preparing please send them to Bob Jones. The comments must be date, place and incident specific in order to have the report seriously considered. SFA is looking for specific information concerning the scientific data that was sequestered during one court case

(Continued on page 6)



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At Victory Packaging, you are more than just a customer. We become your packaging partner. This allows you to devote your resources to what you do best - selling seafood products - while we handle your box and packaging needs. Please give us a call at 1-888-216-8108, ask for Dean Salter, and let Victory Packaging go to work for you.

☞ *Each month SFA will salute an outstanding corporate or associate member. If you liked reading about Victory Packaging 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.*

**CONVENTION NEWS**

All seafood companies interested in the future of the southeastern fishing industry should attend SFA's annual meeting in Howey-In-The-Hills, FL on June 17-19, 1999. Details are enclosed in this newsletter.



Featured speakers will include **Penny Dalton**, the new head of National Marine Fisheries Service in Washington DC., **Dr. Allan Egbert**, of the new Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; **Joanne McNeely** of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; **Wayne Swingle** Executive Director of the Gulf Council, **Captain Dave Harrington**, **Bobby Spaeth**, **Greg Abrams** and other leaders providing up to date information on the latest happenings in the domestic shrimp industry, offshore fishing, and scallop production. Initial discussion on Individual Fishing Quotas will be held.

There is a lot of vital information to be circulated in a very informative 1 ½ day meeting. Put all this together with the ability to converse with these government regulators and get to know them on a personal basis and you will see this meeting is a business opportunity you can't afford to miss.

And before and after the business part of the meeting you are encouraged to take part in the wonderful amenities of this premier resort. Twenty minutes from Disney World, ten minutes from great antique shopping in Tavares and Mount Dora and environs.

**GET YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS IN TODAY**

May 16 is the cut-off day for guaranteed convention rate of \$89 single or double.



**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.

**Upgrade from Boat Member to Full Corporate Member -** Destin Bait Company, Destin, FL Dewey Destin

**New Full Corporate Members:**

- ◆ R. G. Melvin Fisheries Inc., Panama City, FL R. G. Melvin
- ◆ Leon S. Barfield, Panama City, FL
- ◆ Water Street Seafood, Apalachicola, FL, Steve Rash
- ◆ Florida Offshore Fishing Consortium, Panama City Beach, FL Greg Abrams / Billy Archer

**New HACCP Members:**

- ◆ CIMA, Davie FL Carlos Manrique, President
- ◆ Le Discount Seafood , Panama City, FL Namthi Le
- ◆ Fleet Seafood, Destin FL Craig Barker
- ◆ Cosemar, S.A., Guayaquil Ecuador, Juan V. Cadena

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and for other instances where NMFS science has been manipulated one way or the other. Congress wants to hear from those impacted by NMFS so if you have a legitimate grip, this is the time and place to be involved.



**Gracious Thanks to our 47th Annual Meeting "Early Bird" Sponsors (Shouldn't your Company be listed here?)**

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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!