

# Hotlines

Southeastern Fisheries  
Association, Inc.



October 1999

# Web Edition

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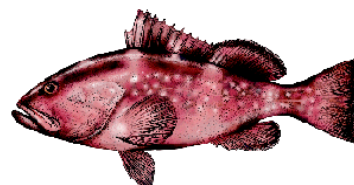
SFA is a non-profit association founded in 1952, charged with maintaining a viable seafood industry in the Southeast.

Robert P. Jones, Editor

## **GULF COUNCIL MEETS IN ORLANDO TO RECEIVE STOCK ASSESSMENT SCIENCE THAT COULD HALT ALL RED GROUPE HARVEST IN US WATERS**

**T**he Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will meet at the *Caribe Royale Hotel*, 14300 International Drive from November 8-12, 1999. The Red Grouper stock assessment has been submitted to the Council with one option that could be considered as NO FISHING for 10 years by anyone. The recommended Total Allowable Catch (TAC) presented by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) scientists Schrippa and Legault, is 1.5 million pounds for year 2000. This equates to between 15,000 and 25,000 fish per year that could be caught either directly or as bycatch. Figuring at least 100 cities in Florida alone where red grouper are harvested, this equates to 150 to 250 fish per year per city. In other words, the stock assessment by NMFS scientists using Cuban data dating to pre-Castro time, means red grouper harvest might be over as a directed fishery for all users. The

NMFS assessment says red



grouper

is overfished and must be rebuilt to some hypothetical number that only scientists who work with assumption models can understand. Dr. Trevor Kenchington will present his analysis of the Red Grouper stock assessment on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Public testimony on the red snapper TAC and red grouper TAC will be allowed from 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in the grouper fishery should attend the Gulf Council meeting to see what is being done to this important fishery. Most fishermen who spend time on the water and are familiar with the grouper fishery feel the NMFS data is flawed and plan to challenge it all the way to the US Supreme Court if necessary.

## **NMFS REGIONAL DIRECTOR CRITICIZES OUTSIDE PEER REVIEW OF SCIENCE**

**D**r. William Hogarth, Regional Director for the Na-

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tional Marine Fisheries Service in St. Petersburg, Florida, in a letter dated October 1, 1999, to Wayne Swingle, Executive Director of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, expressed his concern for having NMFS science peer reviewed by outside consultants hired by industry and presented to the Council. Dr. Hogarth said the only way Council members should have scientific hypotheses and analyses is through their own stock assessment panel and scientific and statistical committees. He further stated if the Council wants to include the work of a particular scientist, the Council should ask that scientist to serve on the Scientific and Statistical Committee. The contradiction here is the Gulf Council's operating procedures prohibit anyone who works with industry from being on the science committee or stock assessment panel. Something is wrong with the management process when there is no way to include outside scientific observations.

This current situation concerning scientific review of gag grouper seems to be more about personalities than science. If a scientist who has worked on a consultation basis for an industry association can't be included in the process how can a scientist receiving grant money from NMFS be allowed to review NMFS science as a panel member? Science should be judged by its conclusions using the scientific method. There can never be too much unbiased science.

## FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION SETS RULES

**T**he FAWCC approved a rule that a legal cast net can be no greater than 14 feet measured with stretched mesh from the horn at the center of the net to the lead line with the net gathered and pulled taut. *Editors note: If this measurement results in a net with less than 500 square feet, wouldn't that conflict with the State Constitution?*

The FAWCC also deleted the count law for shrimp harvested in Biscayne Bay, so no matter how small the shrimp are they can be caught and sold. They also designated shrimp as a "restricted species" so in the future a person will be required to have a restricted species endorsement on his license to sell shrimp or buy them from an unlicensed vendor.

The Commission also voted to hold a public hearing on red snapper that would,

- 1 Establish an April 15 to October 31 open season,
- 2 Set a minimum size limit of 16 inches and
- 3 Allow a daily bag limit of 4 fish per person. The Commission directed staff to encourage federal fisheries managers to adopt this plan in all Gulf waters.

The Commission directed staff to continue working on a horse-shoe crab plan, certified the Jones-Davis bycatch reduction device and heard reports on gill netting of pompano.

The Commission closed Atlantic  
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## 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. Call the SFA office 850/224-0612 for more information or clip and fax the following form to SFA at 850/222-3663

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_





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state waters to red porgy through March 5, 2000 and increased the minimum size limit for king mackerel from 20 inches to 24 inches.

The next FAWCC meeting will be December 8-10 at a site to be determined.

**NFI ANNUAL CONVENTION WELL ATTENDED AND INFORMATIVE**

**T**he National Fisheries Institute meeting in Miami earlier this month was very in-

formative. Past President Frank Ho- las gave a dynamic presentation on the immediate need to raise adequate funds from the industry to counter the attacks by cults, activists and pseudo-scientists who see the harvest of any fish as detrimental. There will be a vote by the industry on a mandatory contribution of a percentage of fishery product toward a war chest to be used as a counter movement against those who wish to destroy the seafood industry. Specifics are being worked out and all SFA members will be informed as soon as the mechanism is developed. Kudos to NFI for their leadership proposals.

**LISTING OF WALLOP-BREAUX PROJECTS AVAILABLE**

Anyone interested in receiving a booklet listing all the Wallop-Breaux projects by state category over a two year period should fax a request to the SFA office for a copy. (850/222-3663) It is the opinion of many that Wallop-Breaux funds contribute significantly to the over-capacity of recreational fishing and is a monumental subsidy to that sector of the economy. The seafood industry is not pushing for halting Wallop-Breaux but is adamant that

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**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".**

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government recognize the part Wallop-Breaux plays towards over-capacity of fishing. The hundreds of millions of dollars that are spent each year to build ramps, buy waterfront property or whatever is in fact a government subsidy if Salton-stall Kennedy funding is defined as a subsidy.

**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.

**Special HACCP Membership:**

- ◆ Armando Visbal, Hialeah FL
- ◆ Hi-Seas Seafood & Crab Company, Bryan Pieper, Gen Mgr. Ft. Myers FL

**Start Making plans now for the Annual Meeting in 2000 which will be held in Key West, FL**

**June 7th thru 11th  
Holiday Inn Beachside**

**SOUTHEASTERN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**1118-B THOMASVILLE RD.**  
**MT. VERNON SQUARE**  
**TALLAHASSEE, FL 32303**  
 Phone - 850/224-0612  
 FAX - 850/222-3663  
 Web Address - <http://www.southeasternfish.org>  
 Email - [bobfish@aol.com](mailto: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!