

Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.

Proudly serving the Commercial Fishing Industry for over 50 years!



Hotlines Online Edition



September 2002

FEDERAL SHRIMPING PERMITS REQUIRED

The National Marine Fisheries Service has published a regulation requiring owners or operators of ALL vessels harvesting shrimp in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico to obtain a permit. The new regulation takes effect on September 7, 2002 and all shrimp boats operating in federal waters must comply with the new permit requirement by DECEMBER 6, 2002. To apply for a permit the owner or operator should contact NMFS Permits Office at 727.570.5326. There are a host of items you must furnish, including a copy of the vessels valid USCG certificate of documentation or, if not documented, a copy of its valid state registration certificate. COMPLETED PERMIT APPLICATIONS NEED TO BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE ON WHICH THE APPLICANT DESIRES TO HAVE THE PERMIT MADE EFFECTIVE. Permits will not be issued to applicants who have overdue or out-

standing penalties for violations of existing regulations. The permits are something that NMFS has wanted for years and was finally able to get the GOMFMC to comply with their wishes.

GULF COUNCIL SEEKS INPUT ON AMENDMENT 13 OF SHRIMP FMP

The Southeast Fishery Bulletin issued a recent news release announcing that the Gulf Council will conduct a series of "scoping meetings" to receive comments on Proposed Amendment 13 to the Gulf Shrimp Plan. The current Council, in all likelihood, will ignore any advice it gets from the shrimpers who fish in the Gulf EEZ. The NMFS press release says the Council *may* consider management alternatives related to: adding shrimp to the management unit of the shrimp FMP requiring endorsements for vessels harvesting rock shrimp and royal red shrimp in the EEZ of the Gulf of Mexico.



REQUIRING VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS ABOARD SHRIMP TRAWL VESSELS FISHING IN OR TRANSITING ALL OR SOME PORTIONS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO EEZ.

(YOU CAN COUNT ON THIS HAPPENING IF THE ANTI-SHRIMPERS ON THE COUNCIL GET THEIR WAY) Improving bycatch reporting, and **FURTHER REDUCING BYCATCH IN THE SHRIMP FISHERY** (COUNT ON THIS FOR THE SAME REASON AS STATED ABOVE) Hearings are scheduled for:

Date	Where	Time
9/23/2002	New Orleans Airport Hilton	6:00 PM
9/24/2002	Biloxi, Isle of Capri Casino	6:00 PM
9/25/2002	Mobile Alabama, Adams Mark Hotel	6:00 PM
10/1/2002	Franklin County Courthouse	6:00 PM
10/2/2002	Tampa Airport Hilton	6:00 PM

All shrimpers are encouraged to attend these meetings and speak out on what the Council is planning to do to you. Maybe the format will allow more than a minute or two to speak on protecting your livelihood, but that depends on

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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

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which Council member you draw as a hearing officer. Try to get your Congressman to send someone from their staff to monitor how you are treated (or mistreated) at this Council Scoping Meeting. Try to get the media involved. Do all you can to keep from being further savaged by unnecessary government regulations.

FISHERY GROUPS MAKE DONATION TO DAVE HARRINGTON MEMORIAL

Checks from Southeastern Fisheries Association and Organized Fishermen of Florida were sent to the Dave Harrington Memorial Fund in August. Captain Dave was instrumental in the development of many innovative types of fishing gear and especially in researching the impacts of shrimp trawls. SFA established an annual award in his name and inducted Eloise Harrington as an Honorary Lifetime Member. Anyone wishing to contribute to this memorial which will be used to teach young people about the marine environment can do so by sending their check made payable to: The University of Georgia for the Dave Harrington Memorial Fund. Send to Dr. Randal L. Walker, UGA Marine Extension Service, 220 Marine Sciences Building, Athens, Georgia 30602.--Semper fi Captain Dave.

FISHING FOR FREEDOM

As reported in the *Palm Beach Post* by staff writer Willie Howard, Ron Crum said to the fishermen and supporters who had gathered at the Rivera Beach City Hall, "I can give you your civil rights back. Without your civil rights you are nothing." The essence of what the Wakulla Fishermen's Association is trying to do is bring fairness and equity into management and enforcement of the marine fishery laws of Florida. Mr. Crum intends to take this legal fight to the highest level in the land. They have developed a net that is

environmentally friendly and it could be certified if the FWC would cooperate with the industry to certify it.

GOVERNOR BUSH FISHES ON KEYS CHARTER BOAT

According to "*The Weekly Fisherman*" recently sent to SFA, "Governor Jeb Bush and a few close friends took a day off for fishing in Key West with Capt. Billy Wickers III." SFA would like to invite "the Governor and a few close friends" to go fishing with some folks in the commercial fishing industry. We would like to talk to him about the backdoor sale of fish caught by recreational anglers, including charter boats, and how much needed tax dollars are being lost through this entrenched system of tax free income for illegal sale of fish.

HOGARTH MEETS WITH SHRIMPERS

NMFS Administrator met in Louisiana on August 28th with a small group of shrimp industry leaders to hear problems being faced and to see if there is anything government can do to help increase the demand for domestic shrimp. One of the options discussed was promotion of a program to have state and government agencies buy domestic seafood. Dr. Hogarth promised to consider what he heard and respond as soon as possible. There are many things the government could do to assist the domestic seafood harvester but very little is done outside Alaska and New England.

MORE SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS TO BE PROPOSED

Vernon Minton, Director of Alabama Natural Resources, will propose an extensive addition to the existing Special Management Zone (SMZ) at the upcoming Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meeting in New Orleans. Fishing lines will be limited to 3 hooks among other restrictions.

We suppose this keeps the longline boats away.

Bob Zales, charterboat spokesperson in the Gulf will ask the Council to establish SMZ's where he fishes as well. When will the special interest efforts to reserve the ocean for only "special fishermen" end?

Could an SMZ prohibit more than 12 people on a boat or vessel? That would certainly be a way to knock out the party boats and the allowable number of rods aboard any vessel could be reduced to 3 and that could move most of the charter boats out of the SMZ. Some believe this would greatly reduce fishing mortality and slow down the pulse and derby fishing that currently occurs during king mackerel tournament. The recreational fishing industry has long argued that their sector cannot be "overcapitalized" but even if that is true, the recreational fishing sector can be "overcapacity" and may have already reached that point in many parts of the Gulf of Mexico, especially in state waters.

METHYLMERCURY ADVISORIES ON KING MACKEREL

Most Gulf States have issued Consumer Advisories on king mackerel recommending NO CONSUMPTION of king mackerel over 39 inches in fork length or 43 inches in total length except Louisiana, which recommends 39 inches in total length. If all the states recommend against eating the large king mackerel smokers, why are they still being caught and sold by King Mackerel Tournaments?

RECREATIONAL SALE OF SWORDFISH GROWING

According to those in southeast Florida who frequent the marinas and charterboat docks, angler caught swordfish are being caught and it is SFA's under-

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standing there is no bag limit for swordfish caught in state or federal waters by recreational anglers, so the sky is the limit.

Through some classic spinning of data, the Billfish Foundation, Southeast Charterboat fleet, CCA and the Florida Sportsman magazine were successful in forcing NMFS to ban commercial longline fishing for swordfish in most southern waters. In less than a year or so, the anti-commercial fishing crowd has announced that “*the swordfish are back and bigger than ever.*” The swordfish must have eaten a lot of hormones to grow so big so quickly but that is always the cry after the public’s harvesters have been banned in a fishery. Anglers do not have to fill out trip tickets and the poachers who sell their catch would never file one as that would be self-incrimination. With no trip tickets being files, who knows how many pounds of swordfish are being caught and sold?

SFA MEMBERS SON HONORED FOR ACT OF COURAGE

Brett Lycett, son of Pam & Jim Lycett, shrimper who reside in Carrabelle, was recently sworn into service with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. During the program, and unbeknownst to Officer Lycett, Douglas Hammons stood up and came to Mr. Lycett with a heart full of thanks for saving his life. Mr. Hammons was in an automobile accident and Lycett risked his safety to pull Hammons from the burning car. SFA Salutes Office Lycett who received a medal of honor certificate for his actions.

SFA SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED

The SFA Board of Directors will meet in Tampa on Thursday, December 12, 2002. All members are invited to the Board Meeting where presentations on backdoor sales, proposed Vessel Monitoring Systems for shrimp and grouper vessels and special marketing efforts for domestic seafood products will be given.

Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services is planning another workshop/panel discussion for Friday morning, December 13.

Mark these dates on your calendar and look for information packets within the next few weeks. If you don’t participate in what is going on, you are left to accept what others do to you.

FLORIDA FISH & WILDLIFE SUED BY MULLET FISHERMAN

According to the *Franklin County Chronicle*, Volume II, Number 18 dated September 6-19, 2002, Wakulla County fisherman Marvin Thomas has filed suit in Circuit Court charging the agency with Negligent Operation of a helicopter by bringing it within 8 feet of his mullet boat while he was legally fishing in Dickerson Bay on October 16, 2000. Mr. Thomas suffered loss of hearing and dizziness. When he steered his boat to shore to get medical attention he was not

detained by the FWC officers who were waiting there. Mr. Thomas has asked for a jury trial in Wakulla County.

Editors comment: It is incomprehensible why any professional law enforcement agency would recklessly fly within 8 feet of a fisherman who was legally operating his boat and commence to use a loud speaker system in such proximity to cause the fisherman to lose hearing and become impaired. It is incomprehensible why the FWC didn’t utilize any of their very fast boats to make contact with Mr. Thomas unless the use of a helicopter was to intimidate and scare Mr. Thomas.

This should be a very important trial for it will be important to see how such an act can be justified. The industry wonders if this helicopter has ever been used to hover 8 feet above a recreational angler who was just fishing and obeying the law? Recklessly flying a million dollar helicopter to harass a mullet fisherman while millions of pounds of seafood are being sold by anglers under the cover of darkness, shows what sector of the fishing world is under the boot. Hopefully this was the only recent incident of helicopter harassment.

Part of the Education Process of the PUBLIC:

On your next order for business checks from your bank have printed just above the signature line “**Commercial Fishing makes this payment possible**”

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!

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.

<p>Corporate Member <i>Summerland Seafood Inc. d/b/a Key West Shellfish</i>, John Ward, Owner Summerland Key FL</p>	<p>Boat Owner <i>M/V Capt. Tiny</i>, Bill Archer, Panama City Beach FL</p>	<p><i>Riverside Cafe & Rec. Rental</i>, St. Marks, FL</p>
<p>HACCP /Retail/Restaurant <i>Fulton Fish Company</i>, Robert Sewell Jacksonville Beach FL</p>	<p>Seafood Restaurant Alliance <i>Blue Parrot Ocean Front Café</i>, St. George Island</p>	<p><i>Crabtrap Restaurants of Destin, Ft. Walton Beach & Perdido Key</i>, Bonezzi Development Company</p>

Illegal sale of seafood by anglers is rampant. Are you a lawbreaker?

- If you catch fish** without all requisite licenses, you are a lawbreaker.
- If you sell fish** without all requisite licenses, you are a lawbreaker.
- If you buy fish** from an unlicensed fisherman or broker, you are a lawbreaker.
- If you are a restaurant** and buy seafood from an unlicensed person, you are in violation of serving seafood from an unap-

- proved source and are a lawbreaker.
- If you catch reef fish** in the Gulf of Mexico as an angler and sell them, you are a lawbreaker.
- If you catch king mackerel** in the Gulf of Mexico EEZ when the season is closed and sell them, you are a lawbreaker.
- If you catch king mackerel** in the federal waters and say they were caught in state waters, you are a lawbreaker.
- If you make multiple trips** on the same

day during the lobster sport season, you are a lawbreaker.

If you sell fish to the public that has not been through a HACCP processing facility, you are a lawbreaker.

Think about it. One angler caught by FWC in Palm Beach County was said to bring in nearly \$200,000 per year through illegal sale of fish. ONE PERSON!

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