

Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.

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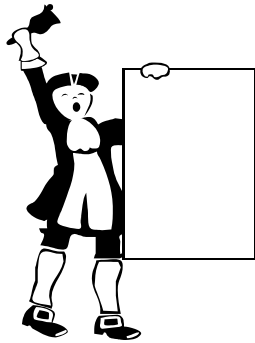


Hotlines Online Edition



July—August 2003

GULF COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED



The US Secretary of Commerce remained true to his word from last year by giving a little better balance to the Gulf Council. At least there is now one domestic shrimper, who fishes in the Gulf sitting at the Council table. Two charter boat owners were reappointed and the two commercial representatives, Karen Bell and Kay Williams, were also reappointed. The Florida seat was very contentious with William Ward ended up in the number one position over Karen Bell after some heavy lobbying by CCA and FWC's Chairman. SFA applauds the Commerce Department for not being held hostage by the Coastal Conservation Association. Thank you Secretary Ev-

ans, Assistant Administrator Bill Hogarth and Regional Administrator Roy Crabtree for keeping your word.

FLORIDA SHRIMP FUNDS MAY NOT BE DISTRIBUTED FOR MONTHS

The federal shrimp disaster money has been sent to Florida by the National Marine Fisheries Service but may not be distributed until October because the Florida Legislative Finance Committees must approve the distribution before the money can be sent to the qualified shrimpers. It is a shame that the 6 million dollars will sit in a state bank account for 90 days or more while the shrimpers struggle to make a living. SFA certainly hopes the state is at least making interest on this money the shrimp industry so badly needs.

RALPH NADER TO ENTER WORLD OF FISHERIES

According to informed sources (don't you love those words) Ralph Nader has been given \$1,000,000 by the Pew Trust to pay for a public education campaign on the importance of federal fisheries management. The money will be funneled through Nader's *Public Interest Research Group* (PIRG).

Over the year's SFA has worked with PIRG officials on oil drilling and me-

thylmercury issues and found them to be very interested in sticking to facts and figures. If that is the direction they go here in Florida it will be interesting indeed. It will be especially interesting when PIRG realizes recreational anglers catch most of the food fish. When PIRG sees landing data showing anglers catch 70% of king mackerel, 90% of mahi-mahi, 60% of the grouper, 85% of amberjack, 100% of snook, redfish and billfish they will be chagrined. When PIRG sees most of the manatees are killed by speedboats that will raise another red flag. When PIRG understands land development in and near estuaries is killing juvenile fish breeding grounds, they will again be astonished. Come on down south Ralph, fishing is good and the water and weather are fine.

GOVERNOR BUSH MOVES PINEY POINT PHOSPHATE WASTE FURTHER OUT IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

Through the leadership of Governor Bush, DEP agreed to move the dumping site of phosphate waste further offshore central Florida. Original plans called for the dumping to start at 40 miles, which everyone thought would be disastrous. It was good the Governor intervened because the dumping site originally chosen was too close to land. The Project had a few bugs. On

(Continued on page 2)

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

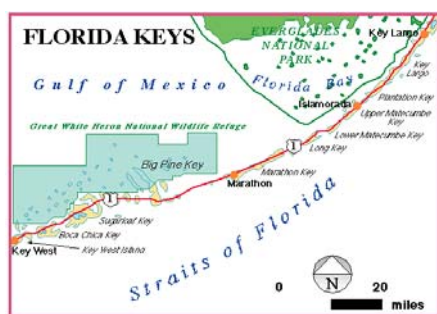
Part of the Education Process of the PUBLIC:

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

(Continued from page 1)

the first trip out, the barge carrying the waste became unstable to push after it started riding higher in the water as the waste was dispersed. The tug pulling the barge lacked certain safety equipment required to protect the men from a broken towing cable so it had to return to port half full and start the trip another day. There is also word coming back that Mexico noticed a Red Tide on July 29th which is shortly after the dumping started.

And recent reports from satellite images show the current flow is bringing nutrient rich water to the Florida Keys.



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The seven mile wide stream can be readily seen from the satellite images but there is no way to determine where it will eventually end up and whether or not it will cause a new or bigger algal bloom. The stream is moving about 4 miles an hour and there is a possibility it is composed of wastewater from Piney Point as well as nastier water from the Mississippi River.

Throughout this entire debate, SFA

pushed for dispersal in much deeper water, as far away from shore as possible. At this point in time all anyone can do, other than stop the dumping, is to cross their fingers and hope the corals in the Keys are not destroyed.

PEW ANTI-FISHING REPORT CONTINUES TO BE CRITICIZED

The 18 members of the Pew Commission, who were hand picked and funded by Pew Trusts continues to come under sharp criticism. Critics claim oil interests (Sunoco Oil heirs are in charge of Pew Trusts) hope to halt as much fishing as possible in order to make more areas of the ocean open to oil drilling. Spokesmen for Pew deny that allegation and point out Pew wants to keep the current ban on oil drilling in place until ocean zoning is accomplished.

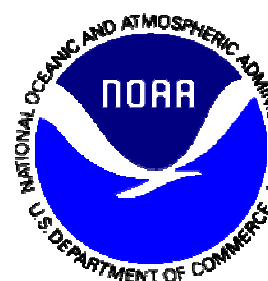
One fisherman was very critical saying "its amazing that all Pew wants to do is create no fishing areas where you can watch whales and drill for oil at the same time." The Pew Report calls for dismantling NOAA and creating a new oceans agency that would oversee all marine activities.

U.S. GROUP SAYS FARMED SALMON HEAVY IN METALS

The Environmental Working Group says farmed raised salmon may be carrying high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). Wild salmon

caught in rivers and streams have much lower levels and are healthier. The Working Group said farmed salmon had 16 times more PCB's than wild salmon, 4 times more than the levels in beef and 3.4 times the levels found in some other seafood. Farmed salmon have more fat than wild salmon and this is where the PCB's build up according to the report. California is on a quest to have all food labeled and recently required methylmercury warnings on certain fish and also banned the sale of Gulf of Mexico oysters during most of the year in their state. Judging from these recent actions it will probably only be a few months before farmed raised salmon will either be banned or the grocery stores will have to put labels on the farmed product showing it contains PCB's. In the news story, the Working group didn't give the amount of PCB's but *Wild Oats Markets* noted that their farmed salmon comes from Ireland and that the level was .568 parts per TRILLION. They said this is significantly lower than the EPA recommendation that uses 4 to 6 parts per BILLION as well under the 2,000 parts per BILLION which is the current FDA standard.

NOAA SEAFOOD INSPECTION SERVICE TO STAY IN NOAA



After a very heavy-handed attempt to scuttle the NOAA seafood inspection service, cooler heads

prevailed and it was decided the seafood inspection was indeed governmental and not subject to being privatized. Of course, Senator Liza Murkowski and several other US Senators were able to make certain cooler heads prevailed. This is an important program to those companies who voluntarily participate. There was no justi-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

fication for calling it non-governmental so that it could be privatized.

ILLEGAL SEAFOOD SALES ARE RAMPANT

A new twist on illegal sale is for charter boats to charge \$35 a person to fish all day, with the understanding that the fish belong to the captain. This is going on in the Fort Myers area and the Clearwater area, but catching the culprits is very difficult.

State and federal law specifically state reef fish caught under a bag limit cannot be sold under any circumstances yet yellowtail, snapper and grouper are still coming off the docks in coolers everyday headed for local restaurants. In the Keys the historical method used by most charterboats is to give the paying customers a few fish then consider the rest abandoned and free to sell. This is done in the open as skippers in the Keys know they will not be harassed for selling fish "abandoned" by their customers.

Does anyone in enforcement care about the trip tickets? Does anyone in enforcement really care about this form of poaching?

IS YOUR COMPANY UP TO DATE ON HACCP?

Many wholesalers have not had any updated training concerning HACCP since earning their original certificate. There have been several major changes in record-keeping requirements and more requirements related to histamine type fish. SFA has a special program for members who have already been certified and can develop a special training session based on each com-

Southeastern Fisheries Association will customize your company's HACCP Plan!

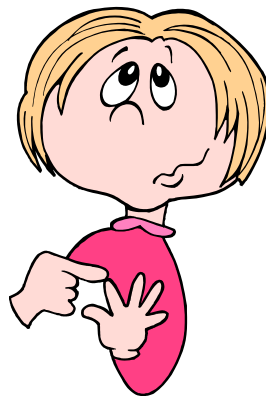
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TRIP LIMITS PROBABLE FOR GROUPE FISHMEN



Indications are that the Secretarial Plan for Reef Fish will require trip limits on the part of commercial fishermen in order to get the required reduction. The trip limits must be

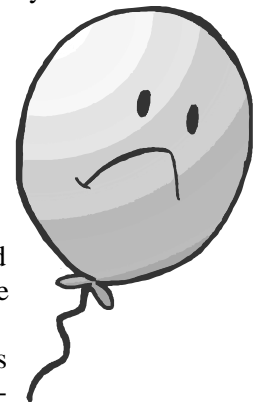
two-tiered with the separation between longliners and bandit boats. More importantly though, the Council/NMFS must remove the latent effort if this fishery is going to remain stable over time. Once the latent effort is removed, the longline industry is willing to initiate a buyout plan which according to many in the fishery would reduce the

capacity by 50% or more. But the key to all of this is removal of the latent effort and the curtailment of illegal sale of angler caught reef fish.

FLORIDA FWC TO CONSIDER SALE OF TOURNAMENT CAUGHT KING MACKEREL

In a letter to Bob Jones from Ken Haddad, Director of FWC, Mr. Haddad says, "You probably already know that the Commission has approved their 2003-2004 work plan and recreational sales" are listed as a medium-priority issue, which means we may or may not get to it this year. However, the public health aspect of your complaint is legitimate, and perhaps it can be dealt with separately from the general issue of recreational sales."

It is sad commentary of our times when the agency in charge of the public marine resources puts illegal sale of seafood by anglers as a medium-priority and in effect looks the other way as a million of pounds of saltwater prod-



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.

Marathon Seafood/CRD Group, Inc. - Danny Castillo, Marathon, FL. / Retail Market/Restaurant.

(Continued from page 3)

ucts are poached and sold for cash by anglers who are not supposed to sell their fish.

FWC will spend manpower and all available resources to catch a man in a skiff catching a mullet with a net but puts on blinders to sport fishermen and charterboat sales.

**FLORIDA TREND MAGAZINE
DISTRIBUTES RESEARCH
ARTICLE**

Those interested in getting a copy of the grouper article distributed by Florida Trend can do so by calling SFA's office 850.224.0612 and a copy will be mailed. The article is enlightening as to how many scientists feel about marine protected areas where no fishing would be allowed.

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