

Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.

Proudly serving the Commercial Fishing Industry for over 50 years!



Hotlines Online Edition



April 2004

USDA APPROVES SHRIMP FUNDS FOR FLORIDA

After a very long struggle, Southeastern Fisheries Association was notified that the Petition it filed on behalf of all Florida shrimpers for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) was approved. This means qualifying shrimp producers, who show they have had a decline in prices for their shrimp during the years covered by the Petition, may be eligible to receive 6 cents a pound for shrimp harvested and landed in Florida, as can be shown by government records. There is also money for crewmen and having the petition approved sets up the mechanism for job training as well. Kudos to **Dr. Chuck Adams**, U of F, for the economic number crunching and to Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services **Commissioner Charlie Bronson** and Assistant **Leslie Palmer** for their encouragement and assistance throughout this process. For more information please go to: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/taa04.htm> Fact Sheet on TAA for Fishermen and <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/>

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

[mainservlet](#) (Form FSA-229)

SHRIMP MARKETING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At a recent meeting of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Shrimp Advisory Committee meeting, future plans for marketing Florida shrimp were discussed. Joanne McNeely and staff have developed a hard-hitting proactive marketing plan geared towards promoting the sale of FLORIDA shrimp. There was discussion to use some of the money for a regional shrimp promotion, but the consensus was this particular money was received for the promotion solely of Florida shrimp. In fact, the requirement for promoting only Florida shrimp was

mentioned 11 times in the 14-page contract between the federal government and the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Congratulations to Joanne McNeely for her hard work and dedication to the Florida seafood industry.

APALACHICOLA OYSTER INDUSTRY REQUESTS CHANGES

Southeastern Fisheries Association, the Apalachicola Bay Oyster Dealers Association and the Franklin County Seafood Workers Association, requested the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) to enact the following rule change pertaining to the oyster industry:

1. Close the winter harvesting areas

(Continued on page 2)

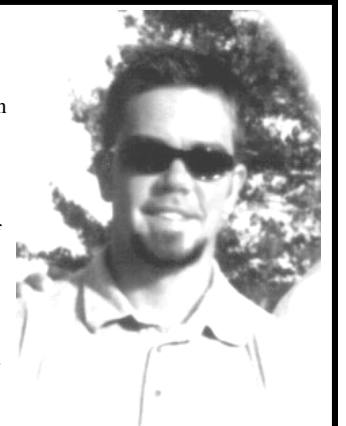
RICK ABRAMS PASSES

Rick Abrams, son of Mike and Judy Abrams, *Captain Mike's Seafood*, Davie, Florida passed on Monday April 12, 2004. Rick had been managing Captain Mike's since his dad had an accident. Rick took over the operation of the business a few months ago and was doing a good job in trying to fill Captain Mike's shoes.

Rick was young, enthusiastic and very cerebral. He loved to play golf and participated in the last few SFA tournaments. The Department of Agriculture recently called Rick and told him he was going to be appointed to the Seafood Advisory Committee to take the seat of Captain Mike. This made Rick feel good. He would have added greatly to this committee of seafood industry leaders. SFA also called Rick a few days ago and asked him to sit on the SFA Board of Directors as proxy for Mike during the upcoming annual convention.

The funeral arrangements have not been made at the time of this writing but by the time you receive the Hotlines SFA should have all the information so please call 850/224-0612 and ask for Bob, Malinda or Marie.

The death of a child is the most difficult thing parents have to deal with on this earth. It is not how the circle of life is supposed to work. All the members of SFA send their deepest sympathy to Mike and Judy and all the Abrams family. We will hold Rick in our prayers.



(Continued from page 1)

from 2004 and all future years on May 1st instead of July 1st.

2. Open the summer harvesting areas for 2004 and all future years on July 1st.

Open harvesting areas from October 1st through April 1st.

Open harvesting areas from May 1st through August 1st.

This change would put Franklin County in line with the rest of the state. This is strictly an economic issue, not a resource issue.

RALPH NADER SIDES WITH SOUTHERN SHRIMPERS

An article in the Wave announced that Ralph Nader's PUBLIC CITIZEN organization has joined the Southern Shrimp Alliance in their bid to secure high tariffs on imported shrimp. The Environmental group said, "We will be contacting FDA and asking them to increase inspections of imported shrimp." The Public Citizen said that the workers on foreign shrimp farms are being subjected to possible harmful substances and that flooded shrimp farms wash fungicides and algaecides onto rice paddies and other agricultural lands.

"LALA" LAND STARTS ANOTHER INITIATIVE

The Ocean Conservancy and the Natural Resources Defense Council

have proposed legislation in California to set aside large chunks of the Pacific coast as no-take fishing zones and

commercial or recreational fishing interests. The designated areas would be free from human activity of all kind. This proposal has already passed the Senate with a Record vote. It is scheduled for a hearing before the Appropriations Committee on April 19. Who has indicated that they are strongly in opposition to the more extreme environmental organizations. These people really do care more about fish than they do about people. Hopefully saner minds will prevail but that is asking a lot for California.

GROCERY MANUFACTURERES OF AMERICA ASSAULT STATES RIGHTS

Creating a perception in Congress that HR 2699 is just a piece of legislation calling for uniformity in warning statements, the Grocery Manufacturers of America (GMA) has the potential to be interpreted broadly and could invalidate many state laws. The programs, which get their authority from these laws, would be useless. Basically the proposed legislation says if a state agency doesn't have identical federal regulations, it is "out of business." This proposal could savage the interstate sale of shellfish and potentially cause the loss of thousands of jobs at a time when creating jobs is supposed to be the mantra for both political parties. This is a bad bill and should be defeated as soon as possible by what-

ever committee it is assigned to in Congress.

MORE GOLF PARTICIPANTS AND SPONSORS NEEDED

This year's tournament to raise money for the Brain Cancer Association. Get a group of others who are having a good time. Get a group of others who are having a good time. Get a group of others who are having a good time. Get a group of others who are having a good time.



SOFA CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FISHING FACILITY

The Southern Offshore Fishing Association has started planning for the construction of a state of the art commercial fishing facility under the Sunshine Skyway in Pinellas County. The seafood unloading houses in Madeira Beach are under immense pressure to move and let their land be used for redevelopment. Many of the fishermen would welcome a new facility geared toward taking care of their needs. So far the project has been met with favorable comments by those civic leaders and elected officials who have been contacted.

SOFA GETS RELIEF FOR FISHERMEN AFFECTED BY MRSA

The Pinellas County Health Department has agreed to examine any of the commercial fishermen in the county who believe their health has been affected by MRSA. (*Methycillin resistant staphylococcus aureus*). Executive Director Bobby Spaeth contacted the Pinellas Department of Health and has informed SFA the agency was very concerned and willing to help the fishermen any way they can. Several cases of MRSA were determined through lab work.

BOB JONES HEADED TO SOUTH FLORIDA IN LATE APRIL TO TEACH HACCP

Bob Jones will be heading south the latter part of April to conduct individual

Special thanks to the sponsors already signed up for the Annual Meeting as of April 12, 2004

Admirals

Cox's Wholesale Seafood; Keys Fisheries Inc; Raffield Fisheries Inc; Safe Harbor Seafood Inc

Captains

Aylesworth Family; Beaver Street Fisheries Inc.; Erickson & Jensen Seafood Inc

Commanders

Cape Canaveral Shrimp Company; Half Hitch Bait & Tackle; Paul Barnett Seafoods; Versaggi Shrimp Company

Commodores

E&R International Seafood Inc; Shrimp Landing; Villers Seafood; Williams Wholesale Seafood, Inc.

(Continued on page 3)

Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.

(Continued from page 2)

HACCP Training classes in Orlando, Fort Myers, Miami and Washington. If you have personnel who need to be certified, this would be a good time to see if



made. All efforts to accommodate every- one's time commitments already made. Training will be provided for trips like this. For information on what company to be certified, please call SFA headquarters at 850.224.0612.

RAFFLE TICKET SALES

We still have quite a few raffle tickets to sell before the annual convention. Anyone who hasn't bought a ticket yet please consider doing so today. Half of all proceeds will be given back in prizes during the annual meeting. Call your area director or send your check to the office in Tallahassee and we will make sure you get a ticket(s) right away.

SFA MEETS WITH VIETNAMESE SEAFOOD ASSOCIATION

After the Boston Seafood Show, SFA got a call from the executive director of the Vietnamese Seafood Association saying she had a 12-member delegation from Vietnam in Tallahassee to meet with SFA. SFA did not know the meeting was going to happen so a scramble started to find a place to host the 12 Vietnamese businessmen and women the following morning at 10:00 AM. Luckily a place was found and the meeting started on time. The meeting touched on seafood imports in general and the discussion finally got around to the anti-dumping Petition that has been filed. SFA explained the plight of the domestic harvesters giving the delegation a history of the American shrimp industry, its vessels, its people and the communities that depend on the shrimping industry for jobs and economic activity. The Vietnamese busi-

Southeastern Fisheries Association

Proudly serving the Commercial Fishing Industry for over 50 years!

FDA trained consultant with over 39 years experience in all levels of the seafood industry.

Hotlines

Online Edition

Call today:
850/224-4100
or fax an inquiry to
850/222-FOOD



nessmen explained what they were up against and the difficulty their local communities were having trying to build an economy. SFA said it understood the plight of the Vietnamese but the plight of the American fishermen was of primary concern to our association members. All the talk was through an interpreter. The Vietnamese were very cordial and respectful as was SFA.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE CONSIDERS FELONY FOR FLAGRANT NET VIOLATIONS

The House and Senate are considering legislation that would make it a felony for any fishermen to have more than a 2,000 square foot gillnet in his possession in Florida waters. In its original filing, it would have gone much further and the fishing industry felt that nitpicking violations could be used to invoke a felony penalty. Thanks to **Representative Will Kendrick**, the bill was amended in such a way that only those who intend to go fishing with nets over 2,000 square feet will be charged with a felony. The sponsor of the bill, **Representative Gardiner** from Orlando, was willing to compromise after the amendment was developed. In a subsequent meeting with **Representative Gardiner**, SFA pointed out illegal commercial fishing was only part of the equation. The other part is the millions of pounds of seafood sold through the back doors of restaurants here in Flor-

ida by so-called recreational fishermen. Rep. Gardiner said he would request the FWC to look into this and try to stop it. Everyone agreed if anyone leaves the dock with a net bigger than 2,000 square feet that the fishermen knows he is in violation of the net ban. **Jerry Sansom**, executive director of **OFF** played a prominent role in getting the proper amendments on this bill and is to be congratulated for his efforts on behalf of the Florida fishing industry.

TORTUGAS SHRIMP POACHERS SENTENCED

Four shrimpers from Mississippi and Texas were convicted by a Key West jury and sentenced to 29 days in jail and fines totaling nearly \$600,000 according to an article in the *Key West Citizen*. This sends a powerful message to shrimpers who steal shrimp from the nursery area and shows the resolve of **State Attorney Mark Kohl** to prosecute the poachers to the full extent of the law. For too long some shrimpers have felt the Tortugas nursery area was their private province when in truth they were stealing from everyone else when they sneak into the closed area under the cover of darkness. Keep up the good work Mr. Kohl and maybe you might even get a chance to prosecute some of the boats that slip into the closed area on their way around to the shrimping grounds on the east coast of Florida.

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!

Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.

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.

Full Corporate:



P.A., Miami, FL. Matt Jones, Esq. Steve Adams,

Hotlines

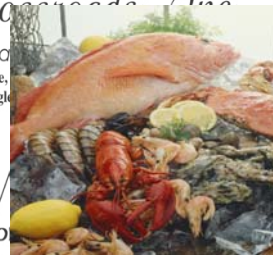
Restaurant:

David Walker, Port St. Joe, FL
Mark Moore, Port St. Joe, FL
Dewey Destin, Destin, FL

Online Edition

Dixie Crossroads, Inc.

Serving Cape Coral
1475 Garden Street • Titusville, FL
Mailing Address: 860 Single



Boat Owners:

M/V Shawn-Clinton, Mark Moore, Port St. Joe, FL
M/V Capt Salty: Skipper Drew, Port St. Joe, FL
M/V Fish Master, Inc.: Captain Eric Schmidt, Fort Myers, FL



**SFA's 52nd
Annual Meeting at the
Hyatt Sarasota on
Sarasota Bay,
June 2-5, 2004**

I have a real sweet
shrimp taste that only
Wild Ocean shrimp have.
I'm the favorite of
old-time Floridians.



2003-2004 OFFICERS

Grant Erickson, **President**
Bob Gill, **Vice President**
Jim Clary, **Secretary**
Paul Barnett, **Treasurer**
Grady Leavins, **Board
Chairman**

Bob Aylesworth
Steve Cox
Ernie Donini Sr. (alt)
Eugene Raffield
Gerald Pack

STAFF

Executive Director
Robert P. Jones
Special Projects
Chris Doolin
Office Administrator
Malinda Usina
**Publications &
Membership**
Marie Mills
Webmaster
Mike Jones

DIRECTORS

Carl Anderson
Gary Graves
Joe Versaggi
Mike Abrams
Steve Rash
Sonny Stokes
Bill Hardee
Rodney Thompson
Bob Starr
Tom Hill
Dennis Henderson