

Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.

Proudly serving the Commercial Fishing Industry for over 50 years!



Hotlines Online Edition



July 2005

SFA 53rd Annual Meeting- Gatorrific!

The meeting held at the Gainesville Hilton on June 17, was a great success. The talented array of speakers and participants was outstanding. Many thanks to *Dr. Steve Otwell* of the University of Florida for his superb arrangements for the "Touchdown Terrace" party and for providing transportation as well. All sorts of team colors were displayed and costume winners were: *Joe Versaggi* – Funniest; *Bob and Emily Bell* (FSU) and *Bob and Dawn Aylesworth* (U of F) for the Best Couples; The *Pekich's and Henderson's* as the Best Family and *Paul Barnett* won the special Mugwump Award for not being able to decide whether he was a Hurricane or a Dolphin.

A delicious seafood dinner was served including fresh Key West

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

Pink shrimp donated by *Cox's Wholesale Seafood*, scrumptious fresh scamp donated by *Water Street Seafood* and wonderful chemical-free sea scallops donated by *Beaver Street Fisheries*. Preparations were very well done by a local caterer. The outstanding seafood dinners served at prior SFA conventions by *Dixie Crossroads* of Titusville and *Rusty Anchor* of Key West have been joined by the Chef's Garden Caterer served in the Touchdown Terrace at "The Swamp."

The general session was highly informative and it was rewarding to see so many Florida Fish and Wildlife, U. S. Coast Guard, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services professionals in attendance and available to attendees for discussions. Thanks go to Commissioner Charles Bronson for taking the time to be with us and speak to the group.

Tom Hill, Key Largo Fisheries, was installed as president by his mother *Dottie Hill*. *Bob Aylesworth*, Aylesworth's Fish and Bait of St. Petersburg, was elected Vice-President.

The Aylesworth Scholarship awards were ably presented by *Dr. Jim Cato* of the University of Florida to four deserving students: *Melinda Donnelly*, *Bridgit McCrickard*, *Holly Petty* and *Laura Walls*.

Awards presented were:

- ◆ Heber Bell Award for Business Integrity – *Dottie Hill*, Key Largo Fisheries
- ◆ Government Employee of the Year – *Joe O'Hop*, FWC
- ◆ Special recognition award to Congressman *Allen F. Boyd, Jr.* and the Honorable *Charles Bronson*, FDACS
- ◆ SFA Outstanding Member of the Year – *Dennis Henderson*, TRICO Shrimp

The Association thanks all of the very generous sponsors who made this annual meeting possible:

GOLD SPONSORS

- ◆ The Aylesworth Family
- ◆ Beaver Street Fisheries
- ◆ Aquatic Food Program-U.Fla.
- ◆ Robert Bell
- ◆ Cox Wholesale Seafood
- ◆ Keys Fisheries
- ◆ Marine Underwriters

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2005 Winners Of The 50/50 Drawing Held At The Installation Luncheon On Friday, June 17, 2005 Were:

- ◆ First Prize — Bob Starr, Miami
- ◆ Second Prize — Interamerican Trading Company, Miami Beach
- ◆ Third Prize — Rick Hill, Key Largo

Congratulations! See You Next Year In The Keys

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- ◆ Raffield Fisheries
- ◆ Sunderland Mutual
- ◆ Safe Harbor Seafood

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- ◆ Young Packaging Products

SHARK ATTACKS HIT FLORIDA PANHANDLE

One 14-year-old girl was killed and a 16-year-old boy lost his leg several days apart by Bull Sharks. The young girl was out past the second

sandbar on a boogie board when the shark attacked her. A nearby surfer took heroic actions to try and save the girl by pulling her on his surfboard and hitting the shark on his nose with his fist and brought her to shore. Eyewitnesses said the shark attacked her all the way to shore where he bit her numerous times.

The young boy was fishing just 60 feet offshore in nearly chest deep water with his brother when the shark attacked him. The brother tried to beat the shark off and pull his brother to safety. Several other men jumped in the fray and grabbed the shark and hit it to get him off the boy who had been fishing at the time. Thanks to extremely good luck, a doctor and other emergency people were on the beach and immediately assisted the boy who was bleeding profusely. The surgeon at Bay Community Hospital said he thought the quick and professional intervention on the beach saved the boys life, even though his leg had to be amputated. So far no state agency has said anything about any kind of proactive program to remove the sharks, especially Bull sharks, from the swimming beach areas.



NOAA UNVEILS THE NATIONAL OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE ACT

The bill would do the following:

- ◆ Authorize the Sec. Of Commerce to issue offshore aquaculture permits and to establish environmental requirements where existing requirements under current law are inadequate.
- ◆ Exempt permitted offshore aquaculture from legal definitions of fishing that restrict size, season and harvest methods.
- ◆ Authorize the establishment of a research and development program in support of offshore aquaculture.
- ◆ Require the Secretary of Commerce to work with other Federal agencies to develop and implement a streamlined and coordinated permitting process for aquaculture in the EEZ.
- ◆ Authorize to be appropriated "such sums as may be necessary" to carry out this Act.
- ◆ Provide for enforcement of the Act.

Also the Secretary of Commerce would be authorized to set fees and establish permit terms and conditions. Permits would be transferable and once all permit requirements are met the Secretary would be obligated to issue a permit within 120 days or provide applicant with letter of explanation and timeline for decision. Permits would be for 10 years, renewable in 5-year increments.



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RED GROUPE PROPOSED REGULATIONS TO BE AIRED IN FORT MYERS

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will open the floor to the sport fishermen at their upcoming meeting and listen to their complaints about having to live within a red grouper allocation. Many anglers and their lobbyists claim the MRFSS numbers used by the federal government are flawed and should be thrown out. Of course this is the same system used to give the anglers a 70% allocation of king mackerel when that Plan was being developed, so it must be okay if they get most of the fish, but flawed if it looks like they have exceeded their allocation.

MULTIPLE NOVA'S ISSUED TO RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN IN LOUISIANA

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation (GCEL) has issued Notices of Violation and Assessment (NOVAs) totaling \$20,500 that allege Gulf Reef fishermen John Tabor, John Langlois, John Hagmann and George Donaldson violated the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

These recreational fishermen were the subjects of a yearlong investigation by NOAA Fisheries Service's

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Office for Law Enforcement and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for illegally selling recreational caught Gulf reef fish.

"Basically, these fishermen were spear-fishing around the oil rigs in the Gulf and then selling their catch to a seafood dealer in Baton Rouge," said Special Agent Steve Campbell, NOAA Fisheries Service Office for Law Enforcement – Southeast Division.

Gulf reef fish are subject to annual quotas split between the commercial and recreational fisheries as determined by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Only reef fish harvested under the commercial quota may be sold. Recreational fishermen are subject to individual catch limits, and Gulf reef fish possessed under the catch limits may not be sold or purchased.

SFA comment: Any recreational fisherman who sells reef fish caught under a bag limit and any business that buys reef fish from a

recreational fisherman is subject to severe federal penalties for breaking the law. Cash sales by anglers hurts everybody except the crooks.

To report illegal fishing activities contact the NOAA Fisheries Service's Enforcement Hot Line at 800-853-1964.

FWC'S OPERATION "NO MORE BACKDOOR" SUCCESSFUL

The Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission investigated more than 70 incidents of illegal sales and purchase of seafood since launching their "NO MORE BACKDOOR" campaign. Colonel Holway and Major Strickland gave an in depth report showing several video surveillance tapes with businesses actually buying fish from an undercover FWC officer. Over 30 citations have been written and more are in the works.



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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!

Goal for 2005 — 2006...

Each member sign up a NEW member this year!



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This program to catch the crooks selling for cash through the backdoors of restaurants and retail establishment will continue in every part of the state. Some parts of the state seem to have more illegal sales going on and hopefully the FWC will give these areas special attention.

The SFA Board of Directors reiterated their strong support for stopping illegal sale of seafood as well as continuing the effort to stop product substitution wherever it occurs. The Board stated if a consumer orders grouper, they should get grouper. To substitute a different type fish than is listed on the menu is fraud and no consumer wants or deserves to be the target of this deceptive practice.

UPGRADE YOUR SFA MEMBERSHIP

Retail and HACCP members are urged to upgrade their membership in SFA to either to Associate members status but preferably to Corporate Member status. Notify the SFA office for financial methods to accomplish this upgrade.

Thanks.

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President*

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