

# Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.

*Proudly serving the Commercial Fishing Industry for over 50 years!*



## Hotlines Online Edition



### August/September 2005

#### **KATRINA DOES MORE DAMAGE THAN CAN BE IMAGINED**

Hurricane Katrina completely destroyed many fishing communities in Louisiana, Mississippi and to a somewhat lesser degree in Alabama and Florida. There is economic damage of great proportions to all fishery businesses in the Gulf States that depend on domestic production. The damage has been so widespread that Secretary of Commerce has declared a fishery disaster in those portions of the Gulf of Mexico that have been hammered by Katrina. This declaration offers help to affected entities not eligible for help from any other federal program. The relief can pay up to 75% of costs with no matching of funds necessary. This relief is aimed at state agencies and the fishing infrastructure in the affected areas. As more information is made available we will notify the industry.

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

#### **GULF COUNCIL SUPPORTS NMFS INTERIM RED GROUPER RULE**

A critical vote concerning the red grouper interim rule was taken on the motion saying, "*That the Council request NMFS close only red grouper fishing for the months of November and December.*" The vote was 7 for and 7 against with 3 absentees.

**Voting yes** were: Walker, Al., Minton, Al., Adams, Tx., Fischer, La., Daughdrill, Fl., Reichers, Tx., Williams, Fl. **Voting no** were: Williams, Ms., Crabtree, NMFS, Horn, Ms., Thomassie, La., Bell, Fl., Perret, Ms., Morris, Fl. **Not present** were: Shipp, Al., Foote, La., & Hendrix, Tx.

The interim rule for recreational fishing took effect on August 9, 2005 .

- ◆ Aggregate grouper bag limit reduced from 5 fish/person to 3 fish/person
- ◆ Red grouper bag limit reduced from 2 fish/person to 1 fish/person, which counts as part of the 3-grouper aggregate limit.

Closure of the recreational fishery, from November 1 through December 31, 2005, for all grouper species. This is a highly controversial interim rule with nasty comments flying around the Internet and on certain Fo-

rums. One comment compared the National Marine Fisheries Service to cockroaches and SFA's Bob Jones was called Osama Bin Laden and labeled a terrorist by one of the sport fishing spokesmen. It's amazing how some people believe they can compare an agency to cockroaches, and then stand before them and demand the same agency change a rule or law just to please them. State and federal officials have to take a lot of insults from radicals as part of their job but insulting them personally will never make them quake in their boots. If it weren't for the "keepers of the flame", our nation would be in more trouble than it is already.

#### **CCA FILES LAWSUIT IN FEDERAL COURT AGAINST SEC. OF COMMERCE**

The Coastal Conservation Association is challenging the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to close the entire recreational grouper catch from November 1 through December 31, 2005. The suit was filed in Fort Myers and a CCA spokesman said in order to get justice the court **MUST REVIEW** it before November 1, 2005. That certainly puts the judge on notice on how to conduct his court. There is a paradox in this somewhere. When CCA members get 68% of the

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## NOAA QUARTERLY LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Respondents Name	Vessel Name	Law Unit	Case Description	NOVA AMT
Quincy Lee Delarosa	Clarisa	USCG	TED, BRD. Red snapper during closed season	\$41,000
Dan Van Nguyen	Sea Commander	USCG	Same as above	\$24,955
Bruce Reiger	Enola B	USCG	Ted violation	\$20,500
GR LeBlanc	Miss Lydia	USCG	Ted Violation	\$ 6,000
Donald Gonzales	Oriental Visitor	USCG	BRD Violation	\$ 3,000
Trung Ba Le Thank Quoc Bui	Ocean Prowler	USCG	TED, BRD et al	\$18,500
K.Q. Nguyen	Lovely Mother	USCG	TED, BRD et al	\$ 8,000
Richard Morris	Big Boy	USCG	TED violation	\$ 7,000
Sang Tran Nam Van Hoang	Capt. C.T.	MDMR	Ted Violation	\$ 5,500
Stanley Byrd	Drag Wagon	MDMR	Ted Violation	\$ 3,000
Vilco 15, Inc.	Vilco 15	FWC/NMFS	Fish in Tortugas Reserve	\$19,354
Ly Van Nguyen	MGB	FWC/NMFS	Undersize fish Shark finning Illegal sharks Red snapper	\$56,138
Bieu Pham	Sea Eagle	LADF/NMFS	Undersized Amberjack	\$5,543.30

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king mackerel allocation for example based on the MRFSS sampling system they think the data is okay. But when they are held accountable for overfishing they call the MRFSS data flawed, among other things. It will be interesting to see what the federal district court does in Fort Myers. This is where the "rule of law" gets tested. (Ed note: The CCA admonition must have worked, because the federal judge in Fort Myers issued an order to NMFS telling them they cannot implement the rule until he tells them they can. Hhhmmmm)

### SPINY LOBSTER SITUATION

Thousands of spiny lobster traps were washed inshore during Katrina. Gary Graves and others surveyed the trap situation and sent pictures to FWC for their perusal. As a result of efforts by MCCF & SFA, FWC has given the trap fishermen some leeway in getting new tags and in paying fees for the upcoming stone crab season.



Major Russo in Marathon was especially helpful in working with the industry, as were all his staff attending a special meeting in that city recently.

### FDA AUTHORIZES RADIATION FOR CONTROL OF VIBRIO

The US Food and Drug Administration Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition issued a Final Rule which amends the food additive regulations to provide for the safe use of ionizing radiation for control of Vibrio species and other food borne pathogens in fresh or frozen molluscan shellfish (e.g., oysters, mussels, clams, etc.). This action is in response to a petition filed by the National Fisheries Institute and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. This rule is effective August 16, 2005.

### SEAFOOD RESTAURANT ALLIANCE FORMED

A group of seafood restaurants disgusted with all the product substitution going on in their industry and who are coming to realize their access to fresh seafood could be jeopardized if commercial fishing is banned, have contracted with Robert P. Jones & Associates to serve as their government affairs consultant. The executive committee is drawing up a list of objectives, to include a pledge from every restaurant member not to engage in seafood product substitution and not purchase seafood from an unapproved source. The goal of the Alliance will be to foster good business practices, serve the customer exactly what they order from the menu and to educate the state and federal fishery managers on the economic and social importance of seafood restaurants and how important it is for them to be able

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to buy fresh seafood for their customers.

Most customers' only access to fresh seafood is in a restaurant or from a retail seafood market. Radical angler groups are pushing for the ban of all commercial fishing which directly impacts thousands of restaurants and millions of consumers. These consumers have been the silent majority in all the fish wars and the leaders of the alliance intend to break that silence.

Look for more information in the near future and visit their website when it is completed. The seafood consumers are after all, the largest constituency of all and their share of the commonly owned natural resource, provided by professional commercial fishermen, must not be stolen from them by the radical angler groups.

**PETITION TO BAN LONGLINES AND TRAWLS IN GULF OF MEXICO**

An online Petition written by the same person who compares NMFS to cockroaches can be viewed at: [http://www.petitiononline.com/mod\\_perl/signed.cgi?LongLine](http://www.petitiononline.com/mod_perl/signed.cgi?LongLine). The site claims over 3,000 signers so far but they are not listed. This is just another radical petition to remove commercial fishing from the Gulf of Mexico and reserve all the fish for anglers. It's the same kind of CCA, RFA rhetoric that has been going on for years. These people think the fish belong only to them and any method used to ban commercial fishing is justified. They are no different than any other group of radicals. Radicalism ruins any cause, no matter how well intentioned.

**Southeastern Fisheries Association**  
**will customize your company's HACCP Plan!**  
FDA trained consultant with over 40 years experience in all levels of the seafood industry.

Call today:  
**850/224-3180**  
or fax an inquiry to  
**850/222-FOOD**



**WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE WATER IN THE GULF OF MEXICO?**

Dark water, dead zones, plus red tide episodes that seem to last forever are killing big fish, manatees, porpoises and sea turtles according to scientists. The bad part is we have a very dangerous situation, but the good news is scientists are now coming forward with research to show what fishermen have been saying for years concerning the huge number of fish killed every time there is a red tide. Many fishermen in the Panhandle believe the degradation occurring to the water in other parts of the state has a direct relationship with new outbreaks of red tide in their area. There needs to be a better protocol for fish and wildlife personnel to actually get on the water and count and collect fish so the Research Institute can get a handle on the species of fish being killed by the red tide and the number of pounds that are being destroyed.

Many fishermen believe more fish are killed by red tide and dirty water than are caught by both the recreational and commercial fishermen combined.

The juvenile fish seem especially vulnerable to red tide and might be dying by the millions. There isn't enough emphasis placed on stopping the red tide episodes, if such an effort is possible. One thing for sure, if we don't get a handle on why we have so many areas being closed to swimming because of health considerations we will certainly kill or at least cripple the golden goose known as tourism. We need more action programs instead of just more long-term research.

**NMFS DENIES CCA PETITION TO SAVAGE GULF SHRIMP INDUSTRY**

NMFS determined the measures suggested in the Petition should not be addressed via emergency rulemaking or emergency rules at this time. NMFS agreed shrimp bycatch must be addressed and does adversely affect red snapper rebuilding but emergency or interim rules is not the way to do it. NMFS believes long-term measures are more appropriate than interim measures. NMFS received 7,630 form letters in favor of the petition. These were generated from several recrea-

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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!

**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.



### **Retail Market/Restaurant**

Atlantis Seafood Market, LLC - *Nicole McCormic & Monte Errington* - Stuart, FL.  
Matusik's Smoked Seafood - *Glenn Matusik*, President - Boynton Beach, FL

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tional organizations who had their members send in a form letter quoting the party line

The directed red snapper fishery will have to be addressed during the plan amendment process and it is possible that the directed catch could be reduced from 9 million pounds to 6 million pounds, which would severely impact all commercial and recreational anglers who depend on this harvest.

### **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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