

Gulf & South Atlantic News

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Gulf & South Atlantic News
is published quarterly by
the Gulf and South Atlantic
Fisheries Foundation, Inc.
(GSAFFI)

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Questions or Comments?
Ms. Judy L. Jamison
Executive Director

Mr. Geoffrey C. Lane
Program Director

NO DOMESTIC SHRIMP REPRESENTATION ON GULF COUNCIL— FIRST TIME SINCE INCEPTION

Three new appointees to the Gulf Council took their places in August. Effective in August, the Gulf of Mexico shrimp industry will no longer have any representation on the Gulf Council. The federal fishery management councils determine who can catch fish by allocating federally owned seafood stocks among user groups.

Two of the new appointees are recreational fishermen, and the other is the manager of a shrimp aquaculture facility. Eight of the Council's at large seats are held by people with ties to recreational fishing interests.

Reaction to the appointments has brought about heated debate and also prompted a lawsuit. Attorneys for John Thompson, a 62-year old fisherman who filed the suit, want a federal

to restore balance to the Council as Federal law requires. Congress passed Act PL 94-265 in 1977, establishing the 8 regional Fishery Management Councils to recommend management plans to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. Terms for the new appointees are set to expire on August 10, 2005.



SHRIMP & CHLORAMPHENICOL... BANNED ANTIBIOTIC FOUND IN IMPORTED SHRIMP

Chloramphenicol, an antibiotic that is banned in U.S. food products, has been found in imported shrimp from China and Vietnam.

This past May, shrimp imported from China was discovered to contain the antibiotic that is known to stop blood cell production in the bone marrow. Current allowable levels of one part per billion are set by the FDA and are higher than those set by the European Union.

Louisiana issued emergency regulations to begin testing imports in May. The findings of those tests, some of which were performed in Canada, confirmed levels higher than the national standards in some imports. Those findings led to a ban on certain shrimp that had been imported from China.

Alabama and Florida also began similar testing, leading to the ban on six brands in Alabama in late June.

In Louisiana, retailers are subject to a \$5000/day penalty for each package of shrimp that cannot be confirmed as Chloramphenicol free or not of Chinese origin. Louisiana requires a copy of the test results accompany each package at all times. Records showing the date acquired, name and license from whom the shrimp was acquired, country of origin/processing/packing, and whether the shrimp was wild or pond-raised must be maintained for 3 years.

Shrimp imports topped \$1 billion in product for the first five months of 2002. Rising fuel costs, increasing production of domestic farm-raised shrimp, and low prices (\$3.95 for 21-25 in GA in mid-June) are starting to take their toll on the shrimping industry, reducing it's market share.

G&SAFFI- FOUNDATION NEWS

NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED

Geoffrey C. Lane, formerly MLA Program Director of Clearwater Marine Aquarium has been named to the position of Program Director for the Foundation announced Foundation Executive Director Judy Jamison.



Mr. Lane is a graduate of the University of Miami, FL where he received his BS. in Biology with emphasis in Marine Science and Chemistry. As CMA-MLA Program Director, he developed a trawl data collection program as well as filling the role of Chief Facility Grant Writer.

As Program Director, Mr. Lane will work closely with Regional Coordinators to oversee and participate in various research projects. Responsible for drafting the Foundation's Saltonstall-Kennedy and other funding applications, Mr. Lane will communicate directly with members of the fishing industry, the National Marine Fisheries Service, University re-

DAVID L. HARRINGTON AWARD

searchers, and other governmental agencies.

We are very pleased to have him on board." said Foundation Executive Director Judy Jamison

Congratulations! to Foundation Executive Director Judy Jamison for receiving the first David L. Harrington Award at the recent 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Southeastern Fisheries Association. David L. Harrington served as the Foundation South Atlantic Coordinator for many years and was a respected friend of the industry.

TURTLE ABUNDANCE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY FOUNDATION FOR 2002 SALTONSTALL-KENNEDY

Foundation enters proposal for this years Saltonstall-Kennedy (S/K) funding opportunity.

The Foundation has submitted a proposal to begin a program to estimate sea turtle abundance and fishery related mortality along the northwestern Gulf of Mexico.

With the myriad of new regulations for shrimp fishermen, it is hoped that GSAFF will get a chance to disprove some of the myths and improve the base of knowledge in what seems to some to be a sometimes confusing atmosphere when it comes to regulating the commercial shrimp fishery.

An increase in dead turtles found on Georgia shores prompted emergency closures and regulations. According to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the turtle deaths were blamed on Gulf of Mexico shrimp boats operating in federal waters. The emergency regulations prohibited shrimping at night and mandated the use of TEDs.

Not all turtles that strand do so because of interactions with shrimp trawlers. Despite increased restrictions, almost universal TED compliance and seasonal fishery closures, the number of sea turtles that washed up dead on US beaches still increased from 1,575 in 1992 to 3,747 in 1996.

Based upon data for the period 1989 to 1998, the Northern sub-population of loggerhead sea turtles was considered by the Turtle Expert Working Group (TEWG 2000) to be either stable or declining. A similar study ranging from 1989-1999 showed increasing populations of loggerheads (Witherington 1999). Currently there is a finding for a petition to reclassify the Northern subpopulation as a distinct segment with endangered status.

The Foundation submitted it's proposal because much of the current marine turtle information could be misunderstood or even misleading, especially to the public. The proposal includes a TED display as an educational component, and the results of the work will be compared to similar historical data such as GSAFDF 1998- *Alternatives to TEDs Final Report* (NOAA # 50WCNF606083) to ascertain trends.

Fast Fact: There are five species of marine turtles found in the Gulf of Mexico.



(artist unknown)

NOAA/NMFS FEDERAL UPDATE

Southeast Fisheries Center, Galveston TX

The forecast for the 2002 brown shrimp season was released on June 19, 2002. Overall, the western Gulf of Mexico should expect an annual brown shrimp production of approximately 65.6 million pounds for the July 2002-June 2003 season. This is above the historical average of 56.2 million pounds for the Texas-Louisiana arena.

Environmental conditions delayed the recruitment this year by about 3 weeks. With below normal rainfall and cooler than average temperatures, optimal water temperatures were held down along with tidal height in nursery areas. The May size composition for Texas bays was 81-100+ count, heads-on.

NOAA, Washington D.C.

(FR V67, #107, pg. 38459) NOAA administration through the National Marine Fisheries Service announced a 90-day finding for a petition to reclassify the Northern and Florida Panhandle sub-populations of loggerhead turtle, now listed as threatened throughout their range, as distinct population segments with endangered status and designate critical habitat under the endangered Species Act of 1973 (amended as ESA). They have initiated a review of the status of the species to determine whether the petition action is warranted.

CRITICAL HABITAT FOR THE GULF STURGEON

(FR V67, #109, pg. 39105) The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) along with NMFS, propose to designate 14 geographic areas among the Gulf of Mexico rivers and tributaries as critical habitat for the Gulf Sturgeon which is listed as threatened under ESA. Gulf Sturgeon is under the joint jurisdiction of the FWS and NMFS.

STATUS REVIEW OF ATLANTIC WHITE MARLIN

NMFS conducted a status review of Atlantic White Marlin to determine if this species should be protected under the ESA. On Sept 4th NOAA Fisheries announced that the billfish does not warrant listing as endangered or threatened under the ESA. The US fishery accounts for about 5% of the total mortality. The U.S. also participates in ICCAT-supported stock assessments. ICCAT has implemented measures to reduce mortality with a potential to stabilize stocks near current levels.

STONE CRAB FISHERY OF THE GULF OF MEXICO-AMENDMENT 7

(FR V67, #122, pg. 42744) NMFS issued a proposed rule to implement Amendment 7 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Gulf of Mexico stone crab fishery. The rule would establish a Federal trap limitation in the EEZ of Florida's west coast including Monroe county (the Keys). The rule is to complement Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's trap limitation program, recognizing the license, trap certificates, and trap tags in the EEZ in lieu of a Federal permit, but would not require them in addition to a Federal permit.

NOAA ENFORCEMENT AGENTS SEIZE ILLEGAL TUNA

71 incorrectly identified undersized Bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus*, were seized by NOAA-NMFS Office for Law Enforcement Agents. A Virginia Marine Patrol officer monitoring the offload of scallops aboard a commercial scallop vessel observed the tuna which were initially identified as Yellowfin Tuna. A Coast Guard officer made the preliminary identification which was confirmed by a NOAA Fisheries Special Agent. Since the current landing limit for bluefin tuna is 2/ vessel with a minimum commercial size limit of 73" curved fork length, the entire load of school and large school size class tuna were confiscated and donated to a local foodbank.

COUNCIL UPDATES

MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Two commercial fishermen, James Ruhle Sr. of Wanchese, N.C. and Ricks Savage Sr. of Berlin, MD were among the four appointees for the Council. The other two seats are to be filled by recreational fishermen from N.Y. Their terms began on August 11th and will expire in 2005.

SOUTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

The Council held its June meeting in Key West, FL. A range of fisheries issues was addressed including marine protected areas, snapper grouper management, research involving fishing communities, marine habitat, and protected resources. An informal public scoping meeting to gather public input on issues affecting the spiny lobster fishery was also held, as was an additional public comment period regarding the use of powerhead gear for divers harvesting cobia.

GULF OF MEXICO COUNCIL

NMFS notified the Gulf Council, in a letter dated May 22, 2002, that it concurs with a request from the Council that the Gulf of Mexico stock of gag be reclassified to indicate that the stock is "not overfished" and is "not undergoing overfishing". The stock had previously been classified as "not overfished" but "under-going over-fishing" and "approaching an overfished state".



At the May 2002 Gulf Council meeting in Destin, FL, the Council modified its preferred alternatives to implement a 10-year rebuilding plan for red grouper. The July meeting resulted in prohibiting the red grouper longline fishery shoreward of the 50-fathom line. The new Red Grouper Stock Assessment was to be completed August 30, and the Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel will meet at the Miami Laboratory of NMFS, September 17-20, 2002.

NMFS also notified the Council, in a letter dated May 29, 2002, that it has approved the Amendment for a Charter Vessel/Headboat Permit Moratorium (also titled as Reef Fish Amendment 20 and Coastal Migratory Pelagics Amendment 14). NMFS will determine initial eligibility for a charter/head-boat permit under the moratorium, and an appeals process will be established to resolve issues related to the NMFS permit office records that pertain to initial eligibility. NMFS has not yet announced a time frame for implementation of the moratorium.

The commercial fishery for red snapper in Gulf of Mexico Federal waters opened at noon on July 1, 2002, and closed at noon on July 7, 2002. The commercial red snapper season will remain closed until the Fall commercial season opens on October 1, when it will reopen under a sub-quota of 1.55 million pounds.

Photo of a Red Porgy (*Pagrus pagrus*) from Chuck Manooch and Duane Raver, *Fishes of the South-eastern United States* courtesy of South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (www.safmc.net).

G&SAFFI PROJECT UPDATES

GSAFF #76 (NA87FM0221 YR III) "A Program to Improve Documentation of Fishing Effort in the Southeastern U.S. Shrimp Fishery and to Better Define Biological Parameters for the Red Snapper Stock Assessment Models— Phase 3"

LGL Research Associates, Inc.— Dr. B. Gallaway/ J. Cole, activated 37 Electronic Logbooks (ELB) on vessels. Their target was 35, so they slightly exceeded their goal. The installations were fairly distributed among the target ports.

As of the end of May, all of the retrieved boxes have been analyzed. The complete NMFS data for January/February 2002 has not been available, so the analysis will go forward with the information available by June 10, 2002. There were 105 trips (82 complete) yielding 2,347 detected tows covering 8,185 hours of trawling. Analyses were conducted on Y2000 data sets to document effort differences between ELB and NMFS calculations. Interim findings were presented at the Texas Shrimp Association annual meeting May 30-June 1, 2002.

A Request For Proposals (RFP) was sent out on March 20th to solicit proposals addressing the priorities under this Cooperative Agreement. Two proposals were accepted for funding. They are: *Assessment of Stock Structure and Female Effective Population Size of Red Snapper in the Northern Gulf of Mexico* by Dr. John Gold of Texas A&M University, College Station, TX and *Fishery Independent Estimation of Abundance, Mortality, Age Frequency, and Growth Rates of Red Snapper— A Comparison Across Years, and New Estimates from Deeper Offshore "Longline" Areas* by Dr. Stephen Szedlmayer of Auburn University, Fairhope, AL.

GSAFF #78 (NA87FM0221 YR II— additional) "Enhancing Industry Contribution Towards Documentation of Fishing Effort and Bycatch Reduction in the Shrimp Fishing Industry and Documentation of Catch Composition of the Rock Shrimp Fishery of the Southeastern United States"

In February 2002, the Foundation exercised its option to extend a portion of this project to August 2002 allowing additional time for development and testing of promising bycatch reduction devices. This was due to problems encountered from poor harvests as well as falling prices, causing vessels to remain docked or shrimping nearshore where red snapper are not abundant.

At the end of March, five trips had been completed in conjunction with the BRD testing for a total of 141 observer sea days and 211 tows sampled. Testing was on the Sea Eagle II and Double Opposed Fisheye. Preliminary data review indicates previous testing resulted in better results. Preliminary results sent to the Foundation in June from the testing of another BRD (Coulon) show promising reduction rates. The Program Director has begun work on the Final Report for this grant.

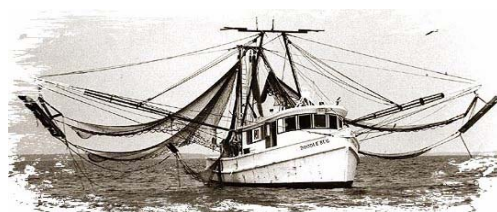
GSAFF #79 (43WCNF1A0048) "Outreach and Education Program for Gulf Shrimp Fishermen for Socioeconomic Data Collection"

The "Scoping Meetings in the Gulf of Mexico Regarding the

Acquisition and Analysis of Economic Data from the Shrimping Industry" Final Report is now available for this NMFS PO. Foundation Regional Coordinators David Harrington and Gary Graham, plus Dr. Mike Travis, Shrimp Economist of NMFS Southeast Regional Office, undertook economic scoping efforts in TX, LA, MS/AL, and FL.

Over the course of several days of travel, many outreach techniques were tested. They found the most efficient method to solicit the input that they were seeking from the Shrimpers was to meet in one-on-one sessions and small group meetings. Initial findings were that many Shrimpers had significant problems with the economic information that had been used to describe their industry.

Part of the work was aimed at the development of a survey instrument. Industry felt there was a deficiency in shrimp vessel information. A draft survey was modified and then feedback was solicited about the form. Comments on the survey instrument can be found in the Final Report.



GSAFF #81 (Florida Sea Grant Award R/LR-Q-23) "Integrated Oyster Market Research, Product Development and Evaluation, Promotion, and Consumer Education Program for the Gulf of Mexico's Oyster Industry"

Due to differences in fiscal year limitations, the contracts for this program were slow in getting out. At this time however, Dr. Tom Jamir, former Foundation Program Director, is acting as Program Consultant for this project.

The Florida Department of Agriculture Bureau of Seafood and Aquaculture Marketing has arranged a verbal agreement with Dr. Robert Degner to manage a Chef's focus group at the International Restaurant Show in New York this November. They have also preliminarily drafted some of the required educational materials.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources will be undertaking Consumer/Product Profiling and Sensory Evaluation conducted by food scientists at Oregon State University. The MDNR will take the lead in developing technology transfer strategies and extension materials, and Mississippi State University will do the benchmarking research.

The Oyster Task Force of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board is the lead agency for the project's development of new oyster product program promotion strategies and coordination of the public presentation aspect.

GSAFF #82 (MARFIN NA17FF2009) "Enhancing Industry Contribution Towards Documentation of Fishing Effort and Bycatch Reduction in the Shrimp Fishery of the Southeastern United States"

(Continued on page 5)

MORE NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

(Continued from page 4)

Work has not yet begun on this project. We will begin this work near the beginning of September after the close out of GSAFFI grant # 78.

GSAFF #83 (Purchase Order WC133F-02-SE-0098) "Cooperative Research Constituency Workshop"

A preliminary report has been completed on this workshop held April 17-18, 2002 in Tampa, FL. A major function of this NMFS-sponsored project focused on the establishment of cooperative research priorities as identified by various sectors of the fishing community. Industry participants were assigned to groups to address specific research needs and priorities to the resource users.

Participants in the workshop included members of the commercial finfish fishery, Caribbean Fisheries, Recreational and Charter fisheries, and commercial shrimp fishery. Although some different priority needs existed, there were many similarities between the individual groups.

GSAFF #84 (NA17FD2367) "Development of a Vessel Buyout Business Plan for the Southeastern US. Commercial Shark Fishery"

Preliminary scoping meetings were held June and July at the offices of the Foundation. To date, we are awaiting receipt of the Cooperative Agreement from NOAA Grants management. We will keep you posted on this project's progress.



Foundation Observer Coordinator Russell O'Brien participated in NMFS underwater filming and testing of three BRD designs in Panama City, FL in June 2002 aboard the RV *Caretta*. CJ Kiffe's Double-funnelled Extended mesh, Greg Faulkner's Hooped Fish Slot II, and Bill Hickman's Sea Eagle II were tested for water flow characteristics using a red dye injection. Two representatives from MANOMET Center for Conservation Science were also present for testing prototypes used in the Northeast US bottom trawl fisheries.



Rock Shrimp— Table Fare from Florida



Reprinted from Florida Bureau of Seafood and Aquaculture Marketing

The rock shrimp (*Sicyonia brevirostris*) is a deep-water cousin of pink, brown and white shrimp. Due to its hard exoskeleton or shell, it did not have the large market and popularity as its cousins until a machine was invented that would split the tough shell and devein the shrimp. Now rock shrimp are widely available fresh or frozen, whole, headless, shell-on, peeled, round, split or deveined.

Similar to deep-sea lobster, rock shrimp live, spawn and are harvested in 120 to 240 feet of water. Harvesting is done with reinforced trawl nets throughout the year.

When handled properly, rock shrimp have transparent or clear white flesh with no discoloration. The odor of fresh rock shrimp is mild. They are sold by "count" (number of shrimp per pound) with the largest size about 21-25 per pound. Two pounds of raw tails will yield one pound of cooked, peeled and deveined rock shrimp.

To clean rock shrimp use one of these methods. For broiling in the shell: place the rock shrimp on a cutting board, dorsal side down and the swimmerets up. With a sharp knife, cut from the base of the tail to the other end, but not through the shell. Gently spread the meat apart to expose the sand vein and wash under cold running water.

To remove the shell: use sharp kitchen scissors to snip through the back, down the middle and to the base of the tail. Gently separate shell from flesh and remove sand vein by rinsing under cold running water. This method is recommended for boiling or sauteing.

Rock shrimp cook more quickly than other shrimp. To boil, drop in a pot of boiling salted water, stir and after 35 seconds pour into a colander and rinse with cold water. To broil, place four inches from the source of heat for two minutes or until the meat turns opaque.

Keep refrigerated at 32-38 degrees F and use within two days or store in the freezer at 0 degrees F for up to five months. Thaw in refrigerator or under cold running water.

Approximate nutritional values for 4 ounces (114 grams) of raw, edible portion: calories--110; calories from fat--10; total fat--1 gram; saturated fat--0.5 gram; cholesterol--140 milligrams; sodium--380 milligrams; total carbohydrate--0 gram; protein--21 grams; calcium--25% Daily Value; iron--8% Daily Value.

Eat Seafood twice a week... it's good for your heart!





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UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 9-12 Gulf of Mexico FMC meets at the Doubletree Hotel Lakeside New Orleans 3838 North Causeway Boulevard, Metairie, Louisiana
- 16-20 South Atlantic FMC meets at the Town Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Hwy, Charleston, S Carolina
- 23 Final day Gulf Sturgeon Critical Habitat comments to be accepted

Public scoping meetings on DSEIS FMP

- Amendment 13 (shrimp) & Red Snapper rebuilding plan for public comments, 6PM
- 23 New Orleans Airport Hilton, LA
- 24 Isle of Capri casino Hotel, Biloxi, MS
- 25 Adams Mark Hotel, Mobile, AL
- Oct 1 Franklin County Courthouse, Apalachicola, FL
- Oct 2 Tampa Airport Hilton, FL

OCTOBER

- 1-3 Mid-Atlantic FMC meets at the Holiday Inn Select, Claymont, Delaware
- 14-17 Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission meets at Hawk's Cay

Resort, Duck Key, Florida

- 17-18 **G&SAFFI** Foundation Annual Board Meeting at Hawk's Cay Resort, Duck Key, Florida

NOVEMBER

- 5-7 Fourth Florida State University Fisheries Symposium: Confronting Tradeoffs in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, Sarasota, FL
- 9 NCFCA 50th Anniversary Celebration, New Bern, NC
- 12-14 Symposium on the Effects of Fishing on Benthic Habitats, Doubletree Westshore Hotel, Tampa, FL
- 12-15 Gulf of Mexico FMC meets in FL at Westin Beach Resort, 97000 South Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL

- 16-21 Atlantic States FMC meets in Williamsburg, Virginia

- 18-21 Third Biennial International Fisheries Observer conference

meets at the Astor Crown Plaza, New Orleans, LA

- 19-22 The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council hosts the 2nd International Fishers Forum at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu, Hawaii
- 20-24 Sixth International Conference on Shellfish Restoration, Charleston, South Carolina

DECEMBER

- 2-6 South Atlantic FMC meets at the Sheraton Grand New Bern, 100 Middle Street, New Bern, NC
- 10-12 Mid-Atlantic FMC meets at the Sanderling Resort in Duck, NC

JANUARY 2003

- 9-13 GOIC Annual Meeting aboard Carnival Cruise ship Holiday departs from New Orleans, LA

MARCH 2003

- TBA Summit for Sustainability of the Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Fishery