



Hotlines

SEPTEMBER 2010



NET WEIGHT VIOLATIONS STILL RAMPANT

SFA received a copy of an offering from a Chinese company listing products that could be shipped in at 70% of net weight. There was no attempt to hide the 30% glaze on the product being offered at a lower than market price. SFA forwarded the information about the Chinese company to the Florida net weight division, which determined the product was not actually in the United States yet but would be shipped in container lots when purchased to several ports in the US including Miami. The state and federal authorities have been given the name of the company. Hopefully, if the product lands in Florida at less than net weight, it will be confiscated and destroyed. Net weight fraud adversely impacts every honest dealer in the country. **Again, 13 ounces does not equal a pound and it never will. 31/35 count is not 21/25 and basa is not grouper. Be advised.**

ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO USE THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) TO ADOPT UNITED NATION'S MANDATE

"NOAA Fisheries has announced it will review the status of Atlantic bluefin tuna to determine if listing the species as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) is warranted. The status review is in response to a petition received on May 24, 2010 from the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD).

NOAA Fisheries decided to conduct the status review because the information contained in the petition and in the agency's files, including commercial and recreational fisheries data, publications and results of studies, showed this consideration is warranted. Please note that is not a listing for Atlantic bluefin tuna. Rather, today's finding begins the process of conducting a status review, which is the next step in a year-long prescribed process applied to ESA petitions that NOAA Fisheries receives and accepts. NOAA Fisheries is seeking the best available scientific and commercial data to assist the status review team in its work. The agency is also accepting the names of recognized experts who could serve as peer reviewers for the final status review report on Atlantic bluefin tuna."

The heavy "green hitters" and their cadre of lobbyists have been using the endangered species act to destroy fishing for decades. There is no evidence blue fin tuna will go extinct which endangered means, but because blue fin tuna travel the world, NOAA and their "green organizations"

have determined they can make blue fin tuna endangered in the US then maybe other countries will follow. US fishermen don't over harvest bluefin tuna, they never have. From the perspective of many fishermen, they believe NOAA verbally hints to "green groups" like the Center for Biological Diversity, to file petitions as a method to let NOAA shut down fishing under ESA that they can't and shouldn't shut down under MSA.

The UN's Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) seems to have spawned the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) which is in keeping with the plan to manage the world's oceans (and land) under the New World Order.

NOAA should publish on their web site a copy of the CBD's Petition and the decision-tree, including the names of all personnel, who decided to accept the CBD Petition and why. The Obama Administration talks about transparency which has been missing in most of the fishing issues in the South Atlantic since he took office. The Obama Administration talks and talks about jobs, at the same time they destroy fishing jobs every time the South Atlantic Council meets and adopts new fishing closures. The South Atlantic Ocean is practically a marine preservation area instead of a robust fishing area that can and must support sustainable fisheries for the fishermen and communities that depend on the sea. The South Atlantic Ocean is being turned into a federal lab experiment with minimum fishing so agenda-driven scientists can take underwater excursions.

Get on board with a winner!! **JOIN SFA TODAY.**

Be a **giver** and not a taker.

Put something back into your industry.

Is it time to petition Congress to transfer the east coast of Florida to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council? Florida is the only state DIVIDED down the middle and this division hurts Florida. Florida fisheries are mismanaged by Georgia and South Carolina council leaders for the most part with the help of NOAA. The South Atlantic Council has ruined Florida fisheries and is prepared to kill it with Amendment 17 that closes much of Florida's bottom fishing but leaves the other states mostly untouched....

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND LOBBYISTS MAKE ALL OUT PUSH TO JAM CATCH SHARES DOWN SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERMEN'S THROATS

EDF's lobbyists and a handful of catch share supporters made an all-out lobbying effort for catch shares to the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (SAC) during the September meeting in Charleston. Whether or not the fishermen came on their own dime or were brought there on EDF money makes little difference. The fishermen who drink the EDF Kool-aid have decided not to work for full stock assessments before putting their hands out for some crumbs EDF and NOAA have offered. The EDF fishermen have made their decision, now its up to the fishermen opposed to EDF's catch shares to be heard.

Sherri McCoy, President of SFA, presented the association's position on catch shares which is, **NO MORE CATCH SHARE PLANS** unless and until accurate stock assessments are completed on stocks that may or may not be suitable for catch shares. SFA has issues with too many of the fish ending up in the hands of very few. There must be a limit on total catch shares any one person, corporation or combined corporations can own. The fish are a commonly owned resources for all the people not just those who EDF converts. SFA doesn't accept the position that it's been decided and the fishermen better accept what EDF and NOAA grant them or they will be removed from the industry. The only thing stopping EDF lobbyists from removing the majority of the fishermen is the rule of law.

There was an EDF written report inserted in the Council's Briefing Books, indicating an industry-driven push for catch shares in Key West, Key Largo and elsewhere. The report was misleading and disingenuous. A true account of what occurred at EDF's stealth catch share meetings was given by Bill Kelly, Executive Director of the Florida Key's Commercial Fishermen's Association, a bonafide and professional association that represents the overwhelming number of fishermen in South Florida.

Mr. Kelly exposed the two fishermen who supported

the EDF catch share plans in Key West, and who carry double reef fish permits. One of the fishermen carries a jet ski on the roof of his vessel as his other reef fish vessel and the other fisherman carries a Jon-boat on his roof as his other reef fish vessel. Something is wrong when a jet ski and Jon-boat can hold reef fish permits for fishing in federal waters. Loopholes are wrong.

To mandate a phony catch share plan on any fishery without an up to date stock assessment is ludicrous and would only be done to accomplish a predetermined agenda of the United Nation's Agenda 21, fully supported by NOAA, EDF and the oil-endowed Pew trust. Even Dr. Lubchenco said catch shares aren't right for all fisheries. She's correct.

As an aside on how messed up the science has become, the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) voted the 2 million pound Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for wreck fish be reduced to 250,000 for the entire South Atlantic region. The SSC Committee needs to be retrained in the scientific method and any member with an agenda to reduce fishing at any cost should be removed. It appears the SSC wants to remove all infrastructure from the fishing industry and save the entire ocean for the critters. This action sounds more like proposals from PETA, Sylvia Earle and the militant vegan organizations who tell their readers catching a fish is torture of a defenseless animal.



The Rodney & Mary Jean Thompson family to be recognized as agriculture family of the year for Brevard County on September 30. Full coverage in next Hotline!

US SECRETARY OF COMMERCE LOCKE AWARDS \$26 MILLION

Thanks to members of Congress for appropriating \$26 million in disaster money so that Dr. Gary Locke can help the southern fishing industry get back to work. The \$15 million granted to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission for marketing and seafood safety work, will be an open, participatory and transparent process. All five Gulf States will be involved and the federal tax dollars will be in an account not mixed with other funds under standard federal grant protocols. The industry has full confidence in how this \$15 million will be spent.

The \$10 million awarded to NOAA and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAC) will be difficult to "follow the dollars" because of no state oversight. It is imperative that NOAA and the SAC spend the bulk of the money on stock assessments for red snapper and all reef fish under the gun from the stringent positions the Council has taken in the past two years. The money must not be diverted to blue fin tuna, international travel, new hires or projects that have been sitting on the shelf waiting for a windfall. The normal cry, even from some great scientists is, "All we need is a little more time and a lot more money." Congress has given some money, nowhere near enough but appreciated, to do the type of science that should have been done 25 years ago.

Funding in this amount has never been available for red snapper and the important reef fish on the South Atlantic coast. It's past time for NOAA to conduct the best fisheries dependent research, fisheries independent research and begin measurement of spawning aggregations. These three initiatives would lead to the long term management of all our fisheries. When we are confident in the manner the stock projections are made, we would be willing to use catch shares as one of the tools to manage the fisheries, if a plan can be approved that takes away any possibility of one person or firm having more than a fair share of the fish. We will not accept a fish dealer czar. The fish should be for the fishermen as independents, not sharecroppers for "the man".

SFA implores the Senate Commerce Committee to assign a staff person to monitor how the money is spent and what the result of the scientific effort shows, after honest research is completed.

IS THE FRANKENFISH HEADED OUR WAY?

FDA recently approved genetically modified salmon. The basic stock comes from Atlantic stock eggs fertilized with irradiated sperm from Arctic Char. The eggs are then pressure treated to produce an offspring with two sets of chromosomes, both of which come from the Atlantic salmon. As a result of more chemical treatment, the genetically modified Atlantic salmon produces milt instead of eggs. This milt is used to fertilize a natural Atlantic salmon, but the offspring of this non-romantic romance will be known as e Genetically Engineered salmon (as opposed to genetically modified salmon). The Frankenfish (GE Salmon) grow to market size in 16 months or so instead of

30 months it takes for wild salmon. At the present time the Frankenfish will be raised completely in fresh water and there are no pending permits to grow them in ocean pens or even saltwater. There's a question as to whether or not they will have to be labeled as GE salmon or not. If they are not, then it's only a matter of time before the GE salmon become Wild Alaskan Salmon in many grocery stores and restaurants. Seems like anything that is modified from natural should be labeled as such but FDA is in charge of those decisions. If FDA required no labeling then more product substitution will occur and more confusion on the seafood market will be eminent.

OIL DISASTER CLAIMS PROCESS A REAL DISASTER

SFA sent an e-mail to the membership asking if any dealer had received payment from their claims sent to Ken Feinberg. Not one dealer responded in the affirmative although one or more may have been paid and just didn't bother to respond. There have been members who were paid through the Vessel of Opportunity program and many individual fishermen were paid by BP before Feinberg took over.

Florida and Alabama seem to be at the bottom of the pile when it comes to getting claims paid under the new system. Evidently the accountants working for Feinberg aren't anxious to pay legitimate claims even though they talk a good game at town meetings and in front of media.

BP has raised its approval rating with the general public from about 18% when the explosion and deaths occurred up to near 40% now. It cost BP maybe \$1 million per week for public relations and especially their first-class ads. This massive expenditure to rebuild the BP brand makes industry leaders wonder how much money it will cost to restore confidence in the Gulf of Mexico brand.

Gulf seafood was among the most accepted in the world before the oil disaster, but some chain stores and restaurants in the various states have removed Gulf seafood from their menus and showcases. They might never put Gulf seafood back. Quantifying the total damage to the fishing industry from the worst oil disaster in US history be a monumental challenge and will take a long time.

**2010/2011
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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.

No new members this month

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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



Think Food Safety

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