



PLEASE NOTE: WE AT THE COASTAL CURRENT ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FOLLOWING NOR CAN WE IMAGINE WHY WE AGREED TO PRINT IT.

Damn, how things can run amuck. This Sunday be Independence Day for The United States of America that our ancestors fought and died for. The original idea a couple of hundred years ago was to escape the tyranny of part of what is now the European Union and establish a sovereign nation. The folks that migrated from the old world to the new world became the intelligentsia that came up with our Constitution and Bill of Rights that supposedly still rule these United States. Not that they weren't occasionally prone to heavy handedness and double dealing, just look at how they dealt with the injun's or Native Americans. But that's beside the point, they had principles such as one should never surrender that hard fought sovereignty to anybody. If you did then you didn't deserve the freedom from outside influence they'd fought so hard for.

I bring this up cuz it would appear we're being picked on by just about everybody east of Maine, the latest example being presented at a fishery management meeting in Port Aransas last week. It appears that Uncle Sugar is about to codify a suggestion by the International Convention on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas for a recreational landing limit on blue and white marlin of 250 fish total in the western Atlantic and Caribbean. This edict was the result of pressure from our emissaries to ICCAT to curb the commercial slaughter of billfish by the member countries such as the EU as a whole, the bright and shining courtiers

that populate west Africa and the Med. That ain't Club Med, that's Libya among others. The good folks at NOAA Fisheries have been chewin' on this edict for a while now and even though the other said member nations of ICCAT have done nothing to hold up their end of the bargain it looks like we're about to bite a bullet. If you're of a mind to give them a piece of your mind, fax Carol Douglass at NMFS 301-713-1917. You might also want to point out that the UN wasn't created to be a world governing body and that the world court ain't a very good idea and neither is the WTO. If ya'll are inclined to read, I suggest "Sailor's Song" by Ken Keasey. It ain't no "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" but an interesting vision of a world dominated by internationally appointed bureaucratic thugs.

DOCK TALES

Kings at the jetties, reds maulin' the bay and trout bein' a tad bit demure but catchable. It's that time of year. The South Texas Big Game Fishing Club will hold a marlin hunt Saturday and Sunday. The weigh-in is at Dirty Al's monstrosity at the south end of the Sea Roach Marina from 6:00 to 7:30. Word is that the gang'll hold a pachanga at Louie's Local's Bar Friday evening. Ain't nobody on the board but I bet there will be by the Sunday evening. Sooo's this is your last chance to join on an even sea. Be careful out there. Use your kill switch cuz every idiot and their brother'll be playing tourist and not paying attention on the bay.

We welcome your fishin' photos. Drop them by 2600 Padre Boulevard on the Island, or mail them to I.B. Hooked, c/o Coastal Current Weekly, P.O.Box 2429, South Padre Island, Texas 78597. Be sure to include the name of the angler, weight and type of fish, where caught, and name of boat if applicable. Photos with SASE will be returned.