



THE FISHIN' INSIDER

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Here's to Raul de la Garza, a 62 year old gent that fishes out of these parts. The poor guy and his crew didn't believe that Uncle Sugar was serious about fishery management regulations. He just got 16 months at a Federal country club for cuttin' off a net on his shrimp boat on the Flower Gardens cuz he'd sowed the suckers TED's and BRD's shut.

I've been writin' about this crap for longer than I care to think about, and still some of ya'll bitch at me, personally, about what these anal desk jockeys do too ya'll when their brain flatulence becomes a full thought. For years round these parts NOAA Enforcement was nowhere to be found, now there here with a vengeance and Rudy and his boys will do their job. They will enforce federal fishery regulations even if it hairlips the Church. They've just hit another boat out of Galveston with a 250 K fine plus a crewmember faces a five-year stretch in the federal can. These Vietnamese copped a plea for possessing twenty thousand pounds of red snapper out of season on their shrimp boat, the fine may be reduced but they're gonna spend some time at the country club.

Speakin' of law enforcement, Kino Flores and the House Licensing and Administration Committee are gonna be holdin' hearings up in Austin next Monday

the 17th. The focus will be on them Troglodytes at the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission that they attempt to lord over. The same dudes and dudettes that busted a couple of chicks for havin' glass on the beach a few weeks back. After their night in the worst accommodations on the Sandspit the case was thrown out by the judge cuz they were busted in the bleachers at the Rad watching a basketball game drinkin' wine coolers, they were not on the beach. I hope they sue for false imprisonment. This hearing should be a hoot, no tellin' what kind of dirty laundry will be aired about the abuses this gang of thugs have committed



Ben "Termite" Fick, RIP he was 55.

recently.

Last but certainly not least, Ben Fick passed on up in Port Mansfield last week. He made it to the Sandspit with Joe Buck back in 78' to build condos. Termite was around for the Itox oil spill clean up and he was one of the few still around that participated or should I say endured the clean up after Hurricane Allen kicked the doo-doo out of the joint. From what he and others have told me it was the most miserable time they've ever spent anywhere and this comes from a SWIFT Boat veteran. He also has the distinction of being one of the first bouncers ever arrested during a long ago Spring Break for his own protection. Seems he was workin' for our Mayor at the original Quarter Deck Bar at Gulf View 1 when some footballers from Kansas decided to get it on. Ol Termite was holdin' his own, givin' better than he took but the entire offensive line of the U of K football team were regrouping when the cops broke it up. That ended his career as a doorman. Most of his ashes have been scattered but the final scatterin' will take place when the seas are better. Jack Ficklin and the boys will re-christen the April Fools rock Termite's Rock around the slab off Mansfield.

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.