



THE FISHIN' INSIDER

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Another one bites the dust. The Coasties have been busy enforcing fishery laws round these parts. Word is that the bust last weekend was your veritable drop

in the bucket and that the Delfin IV bottom longliner is gonna be history. They're gonna revoke the permits, grab the boat and pretty much make life miserable

for some folks if they get around to doing an audit.

Speakin' of which, had a chat with one Jim Smarr, the chair of the Texas Chapter of the Recreational Fishing Alliance on what kind of mischief he's been up to and the yellow dog democrat has been up to plenty. The boy's got the ear of some high falutin' folks in Sodom on the Colorado and it appears that Texas Parks & Wildlife is gonna have a new advisory committee real soon. The RFA is pretty much furious about NOAA-NMFS decision to go to IFQ's in the commercial reef fish fishery without allocating the dinero to the enforcement side of the equation to police the mess. This is in response to some public testimony by the Alabama gang at a Mobile Gulf Council hearing on how to fish illegally and get away with it.

Them boyz said GOOOO TOOOO TEXAS where the enforcement resources are spread so thin ya can get away with pretty much anythin' cept perhaps murder unless it's a busy day. They cite the fact that the books don't balance on the combined TAC of nine million pounds for the commercial and recreational sector. They say in their brief perusal that some twenty million pounds of red snapper are makin' it to the plates of diners unaccounted for across the good ol' US of A. Their solution is to appoint an Austin chick to the aforementioned committee. She be the head of fraud investigation for the Infernal Revenue Service. I guess that's why that red haired banshee bought a ranch that abuts LBJ's ol' spread cuz anytime ya get Uncle Sugar's auditors involved in anythin' it's guaranteed to get real ugly in a hurry. Happy Cinco de Mayo, I'm goin' for the mustard greens.



These boyz were legal. Ed and Gene fished with the Island Vending Mogul and the ol' coot actually put'um on some fish. They just headed back to Elgin, Illinois with their RV's full of frozen trout. But I sure am glad they fished out of a private dock cuz the MADD section of TP&W would've had a field day with'um.

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.