



NOAA FISHERIES

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Final Rule to Protect Mid-Atlantic Unmanaged Forage Fish

NOAA Fisheries announces a new rule to protect unmanaged forage fish. Forage fish are small schooling species that serve as prey for larger commercially and recreationally important fish, as well as for marine mammals and sea birds. Anchovies, herring, chub mackerel, and sardines are some common forage fish.

Commercial fisheries often catch forage fish, but we know little about the amount of forage species caught in Mid-Atlantic waters. Because of their importance to the food web, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council wants to protect the ecological role these species play in the Mid-Atlantic and to collect more information on catch. This new information will help inform future scientific assessments and management decisions.

This is the first rule in the Atlantic to list forage species as ecosystem component species. This action would set landing and possession limits for 17 species and species groups to prevent the expansion of directed commercial fisheries on these species in Mid-Atlantic federal waters (see map below).



Read the rule as filed in the Federal Register and the permit holder bulletins for commercial fishermen and for dealers. Mid-Atlantic fishermen will receive a copy of a forage fish identification guide, which is also available electronically on the Mid-Atlantic Council's website.

Questions? Contact Colleen Coogan, (978) 281-9181 or colleen.coogan@noaa.gov.

United States Department of Justice

Cowart Seafood President Sentenced to 25 Months in Prison for Illegal Seafood Conspiracy

Lonnie M. Ray, the president of Cowart Seafood, Inc., of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, was sentenced to 25 months in federal prison for conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act and illegal possession of a short-barreled shotgun, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Harold Brittain; Assistant Director Tracy A. Dunn with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Special Agent in Charge Louis Santiago with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Chief Keith Davis with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Office of Marine Patrol; Resident Agent in Charge Jason Denham with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and Justin Green, Special Agent in Charge, Southeast Region, U.S. Food and Drug Administration - Office of Criminal Investigation.



The Lacey Act makes it unlawful to sell in interstate commerce any fish taken in violation of state law.

Ray previously pled guilty to conspiring to violate the Lacey Act by selling fish to Louisiana seafood buyers that was taken in violation of Mississippi law. According to Mississippi law, seafood dealers are required to submit information about each seafood purchase from a commercial fisherman on a form known as a trip ticket that is provided by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources ("DMR"). Ray admitted violating this requirement by failing to report seafood purchases to DMR and by **buying fish from recreational fisherman** in violation of state law. The Lacey Act charges against Shelley H. Ray, who was also named in the indictment, were dismissed. Lonnie Ray also pled guilty to owning a 12-gauge double-barrel shotgun, having a barrel of less than 18 inches in length, which was not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

Acting United States Attorney Brittain praised the efforts of the federal and state investigative agencies for their diligent work in the investigation of this matter.

Porgy, Sea Bass, Blackfish/Tautog and Cod

Individuals & Private Groups

RISAA Members Receive a \$15 Discount



46' Charterboat "SNAPPA"



Captain Charlie Donilon

- Gear For All Types Of Fishing
- Gift Certificates
- Over 25 Years Experience
- Capacity 1 - 21 Passengers

401-487-9044

www.snappacharters.com • snappacharters@cox.net



Member



Rhode Island Ash Burials

Capacity up to 21 Passengers

A Caring & Respectful Burial at Sea

Charles Donilon

2 Congdon Dr. Wakefield, RI 02879

snappacharters@cox.net (401) 487-5144

www.rhodeislandashburials.com