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Letter from the President

Greetings,

The Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation Trustees recently voted to become inactive due to lack of funds. This unanimous decision provides an opportunity for a review of goals and objectives based on the domestic seafood industry moving into globalization.

Charlotte Irsch and Frank Helies completed their service to the industry on September 30. Frank and Charlotte were loyal, honest, and dedicated. They know how much their efforts are appreciated by the Trustees, the commercial fishing industry, and the state and federal partners they worked with.

Judy Jamison and Gwen Hughes will keep the Foundation functioning by completing all contractual obligations of the Foundation. Judy has been the glue holding the Foundation together since she came aboard in 1980.

For over a quarter of a century Gwen has been the lady with the sharp pencil making sure that every penny spent was for a legitimate purpose and fully accounted for. I could write a chapter on how the staff has performed for the industry, but the Trustees who gave of their time and effort know what they have done. Suffice it to say that hardly ever has so few done so much for so many. Kudos to Judy and her staff of professionals.

I was honored to be elected the first President of the Foundation. Maybe it is my Karma to also be President at the time it becomes inactive. I wrote a short chapter in my book, *A Culture Worth Saving*, about how and when the Foundation was created and how Dr. Roger Anderson was selected to be the first Executive Director.

Hopefully the Foundation will find a way to become active in the future and continue to assist a culture that is worth saving.

Thanks to all of the Trustees who gave so much of their time and skills on behalf of the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation.

Bob

Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation Background and History

The Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation, Inc. is a private regional nonprofit research organization with a general membership and Board of Trustees representing a wide spectrum of the commercial fishing industry throughout the southeast U.S. Following implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976, several regional Foundations were developed to enhance the ability of the nation's fishing industries to better utilize the available marine resources. Over time, the focus of the Foundation has shifted from enhancing development to enhancing sustainability of both the fisheries and fishery resources. Since its inception, the Foundation has assisted the commercial seafood and fishing industry collectively identify industry needs, and address those needs through appropriate research and other activities.

During its 40 years of continual involvement in the betterment of regional fisheries and fishery resources, the Foundation developed a high level of credibility not only with industry, but with academic institutions, government regulatory agencies, conservation groups, and the general public. The Foundation represents the only region-wide organization through which the commercial seafood and fishing industry can actively participate in programs that are designed to enhance and perpetuate marine resources, and marine fisheries, for the long-term ecological and economic benefit to the region and Nation. The Foundation has aggressively sought to develop cooperative approaches that address and solve resource and stakeholder issues that impact the viability of the fishing industry.

The Foundation has successfully completed over 600 projects connected with harvesting, processing, and marketing seafood and fishery resources. Projects were completed in the areas of gear development and outreach, social science, marketing, education, and fishery dependent and independent data collection through the use of observers and cooperating industry. The Foundation was a leader in cooperative research before citizen science was a trending topic among fishery professionals. Please see the Foundation's website for final reports for research covering the last 20 years.



During inactivity and you wish information on the Foundation or have a funding source to allow reactivation, please contact: judy.jamison@att.net or via telephone - 863-646-2050 (home office number).
