**Trade Adjustment Assistance Program**

The last day for shrimp fishermen to submit their application for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program is April 12th. Anyone who has not started the process and wants to should contact the Farm Service Agency immediately. Call 251-937-3297.

A completed application includes:

- A completed FSA-229
- Evidence of your 2001 shrimp marketings
- Income tax records for 2001 and 2002
- Completed CCC-502 and AD-1026
- SF-1199A, Direct Deposit Signup

All of these forms and additional information are available from the Farm Service Agency.

**Required Trade Adjustment Assistance Training**

In addition to filing a completed application by April 12th, fishermen who apply are required to complete a technical assistance-training seminar prior to September 30, 2004. A training session will be held in April. Applicants will be contacted regarding the time and place.

---

**Soft Shell Crabs**

The soft-shell crab season is rapidly approaching. If you have a shedding system, now is the time to get it up and running with some hard crabs. It takes 30 days for the biological filter to develop properly. If you have any questions about soft-shell crab shedding systems, please call us at 251-438-5690. Ask for Rick or P.J.

**Red Snapper IFQ**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) announces that the initial referendum for the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program has passed by a majority vote. On February 12, 2004, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office (SERO) mailed each eligible voter a ballot specifying the number of votes (weighting) that each voter was assigned. In this first referendum, fishermen qualified to vote were asked to decide whether a plan amendment establishing the IFQ Program should be prepared by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council).

The next step is for the Gulf Council to proceed with an IFQ plan. If the plan is approved by the eligible red snapper fishermen, then the plan will be submitted to the Secretary of Commerce for final approval.

**Derelict Crab Traps**

The third derelict crab trap removal took place March 13th. Some 375 derelict traps were recovered by 160 volunteers. Volunteers had to work harder to find traps than in previous years indicating that the program is working to reduce the number of derelict traps in the water.

(Continued on back panel)
During the 24-hour clean-up, all traps (recreational and commercial) within 500 yards off shore had to be removed by their owners. Any remaining traps were considered litter and could be picked up by volunteers. The derelict crab trap program is an ongoing project with the Alabama Marine Resources Division, the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, and the Coastal Conservation Association. Significant funding for dumpsters and volunteer supplies were provided by the NOAA Community Habitat Restoration Program. For more information about the program, contact Leslie Hartman at 251-861-2882.