

**Lyles-Simpson Award  
Recipient  
2022**



***Thomas David McIlwain***

## **Thomas David McIlwain**

It is with great pleasure that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents this year's Lyles-Simpson Award to Thomas David McIlwain. This prestigious award is presented annually to an individual, agency, or organization which has contributed to the betterment of the fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico through significant biological, industrial, legislative, enforcement, or administrative activities.

A lifelong resident of the coast, Tom was born in Pascagoula, MS and graduated from Capitol Page School in Washington D.C. in 1958. After graduation, Tom served briefly in the U.S. Army, and then attended the University of Southern Mississippi and graduated with a B.S., an M.S and a PhD in Zoology. Tom had a career in marine fisheries and science that spanned almost 5 decades, and he was affiliated with the University of Southern Mississippi- Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) for most of his career. From 1978-1989, Tom served as Assistant Director of Fisheries at GCRL. In 1983, he served for 9 months as special fisheries legislative assistant to Congressman Trent Lott, and from 1989-1994 he served as the Director of GCRL.

In 1994, Tom retired from the GCRL and served the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Laboratory as a fisheries administrator. After a second stint in Washington D.C as a legislative fellow, he returned to his position at NMFS-Pascagoula until his retirement from federal service in 2003. McIlwain returned to GCRL in 2003 to coordinate the expansion of facilities for the Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center at the Cedar Point site. He retired from GCRL in July 2012 after completing this project.

Spanning his career at GCRL and NMFS, McIlwain had a major impact in several areas of marine research, policy development and management. He was instrumental in establishing a striped bass fishery along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the development of the MARFIN project to support

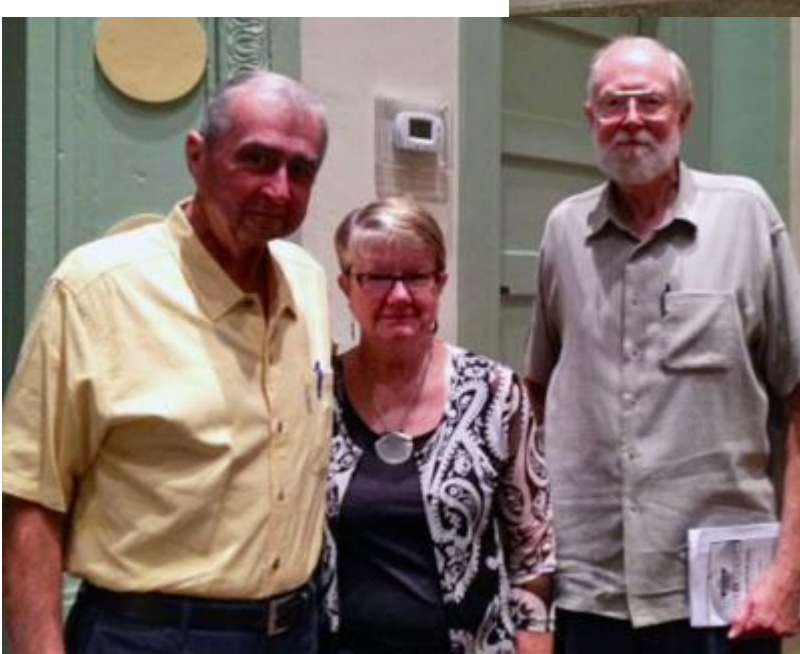
marine fishery research nationally and the United States Marine Shrimp Farming Program; the major U.S. effort to develop a national program in shrimp aquaculture.

He served from 2006-2012 as a voting member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council representing the state of Mississippi and served as Chairman from 2007-2009. Tom was also a long-time member of the Ocean Springs Yacht Club where he served as Commodore from 1976-1977. He also served as chairman of the Jackson County Harbor Commission.

For all of these accomplishments and his years of service the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is proud to present this year's Lyles-Simpson Award to such a worthy recipient.







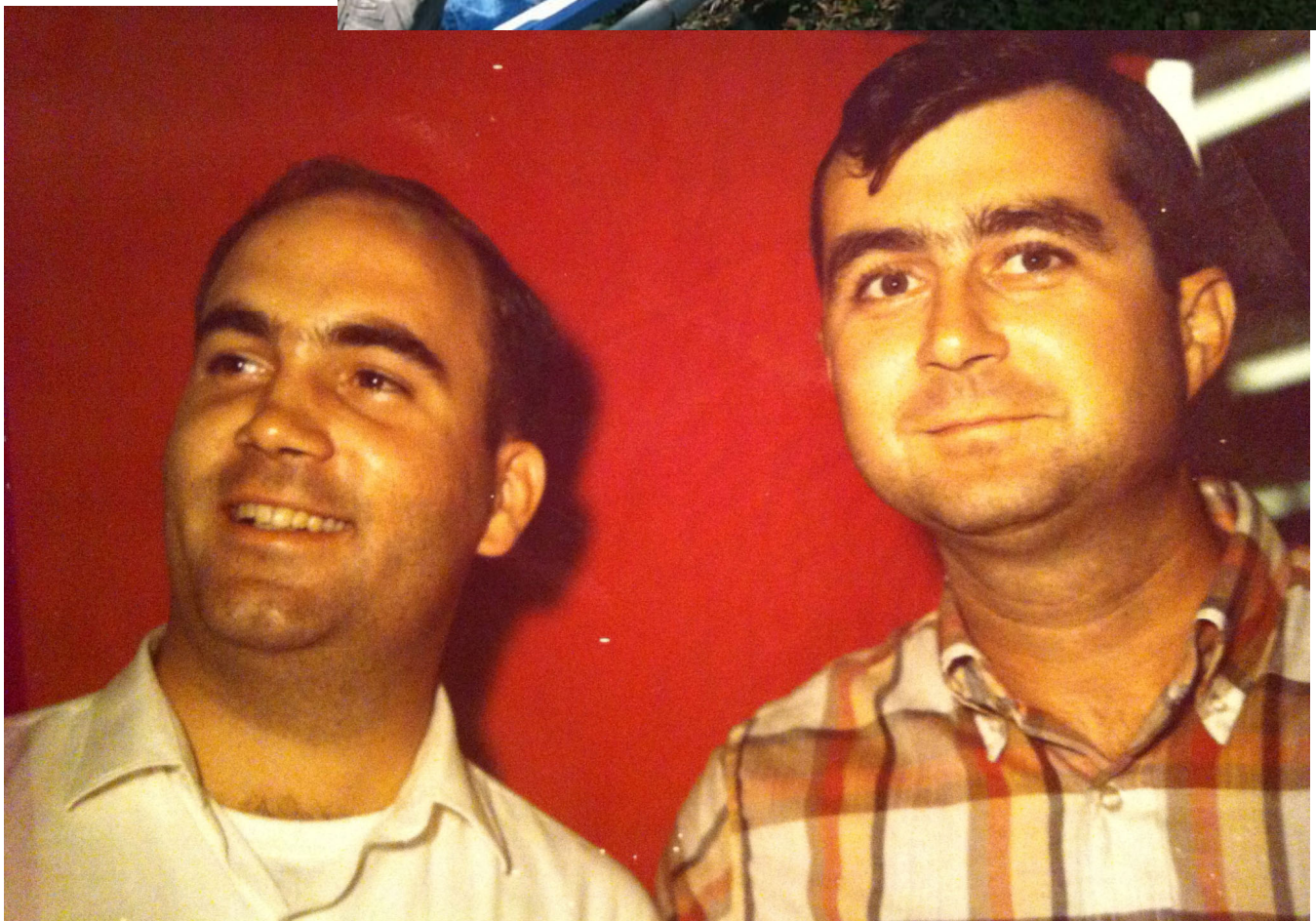














# Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

## Past Lyles-Simpson Award Recipients

<i>Charles H. Lyles</i>	1984
<i>Theodore B. Ford</i>	1985
<i>J.Y. Christmas</i>	1986
<i>John Breaux</i>	1987
<i>John Ray Nelson</i>	1988
<i>I.B. "Buck" Byrd</i>	1989
<i>Hugh A. Swingle</i>	1990
<i>John A. Mehos</i>	1991
<i>J. Burton Angelle</i>	1992
<i>Louis A. Villanova</i>	1993
<i>Theodore H. Shepard</i>	1994
<i>Edwin A. Joyce, Jr.</i>	1995
<i>Tommy D. Candies</i>	1996
<i>Walter M. Tatum</i>	1997
<i>Thomas L. Heffernan</i>	1998
<i>Trent Lott</i>	1999
<i>James M. Barkuloo</i>	2000
<i>Walter W. Fondren, III</i>	2001
<i>Jerald K. Waller</i>	2002
<i>Andrew J. Kemmerer</i>	2003
<i>Hal R. Osborn</i>	2004
<i>Leroy Kiffe</i>	2005
<i>Robert P. Jones</i>	2006
<i>Wayne E. Swingle</i>	2007
<i>Ralph Rayburn</i>	2008
<i>William S. "Corky" Perret</i>	2009
<i>Albert L. King</i>	2010
<i>Virginia A. Vail</i>	2011
<i>R. Vernon Minton</i>	2012
<i>Larry B. Simpson</i>	2013
<i>Michael C. Voisin</i>	2014
<i>Ellie Francisco Roche</i>	2015
<i>Michael S. Ray</i>	2016
<i>Joseph I. Gill, Jr.</i>	2017
<i>Christopher M. Blankenship</i>	2018
<i>William Borden Wallace</i>	2019
<i>Harriet MacGill Perry</i>	2020