

Charles H. Lyles Award Recipient 2002

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Past Charles H. Lyles Award Recipients

<i>Charles H. Lyles</i>	<i>1984</i>
<i>Theodore B. Ford</i>	<i>1985</i>
<i>J.Y. Christmas</i>	<i>1986</i>
<i>John Breaux</i>	<i>1987</i>
<i>John Ray Nelson</i>	<i>1988</i>
<i>I.B. "Buck" Byrd</i>	<i>1989</i>
<i>Hugh A. Swingle</i>	<i>1990</i>
<i>John A. Mehos</i>	<i>1991</i>
<i>J. Burton Angelle</i>	<i>1992</i>
<i>Louis A. Villanova</i>	<i>1993</i>
<i>Theodore H. Shepard</i>	<i>1994</i>
<i>Edwin A. Joyce, Jr.</i>	<i>1995</i>
<i>Tommy D. Candies</i>	<i>1996</i>
<i>Walter M. Tatum</i>	<i>1997</i>
<i>Thomas L. Heffernan</i>	<i>1998</i>
<i>Trent Lott</i>	<i>1999</i>
<i>James M. Barkuloo</i>	<i>2000</i>



Jerald K. Waller

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Major Jerry Waller has been a long-time resident of the Gulf Coast. He currently resides in Dauphin Island, Alabama with his wife of 37 years, Anne B. Waller. They have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. He began his career with the U.S. Army Security Agency where he served in Germany from 1961-1964. Upon returning to the states, he enrolled in the University of South Alabama and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice Administration. He joined the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division, in July 1970 and recently retired after 31+ years of dedicated service, 19 of which were spent as the Chief Enforcement Officer. His leadership and vast knowledge of marine resources law enforcement contributed to shaping and enforcing laws and regulations that have proven invaluable to the citizens of Alabama, and have caused him to be acclaimed as an outstanding employee of the State of Alabama.

Major Waller actively served the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC). He is a charter member of both the GSMFC Law Enforcement Committee and the GMFMC Law Enforcement Advisory Panel. During his tenure as a member and chairman, these committees worked to establish communication and cooperation among the state and federal fisheries law enforcement agencies. These efforts resulted in effective cooperative operations to stem the interstate transportation of illegal seafood. The committee also established several Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) enabling state enforcement officers to enforce federal fisheries laws and regulations as well as provide states with equipment and training. These MOAs laid the groundwork for the present Joint Enforcement Agreements between the states and NMFS enabling the states to receive federal funds for equipment, personnel, and training. These committees also established

the *Gulf of Mexico Fishery Law Enforcement Strategic Plan* which is the first such plan in the U.S., and the two committees worked together to standardize and simplify state and federal regulations and laws.

He is also a charter member of the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC), Patrol Committee. As a member of this group, this committee established communication and cooperation among the fisheries enforcement agencies of the shellfish producing and receiving states resulting in effective cooperative operations to combat the interstate transportation of illegal shellfish. The committee also worked with the ISSC and Federal Drug Administration to establish standardized criteria for evaluation of shellfish producing states' enforcement patrol agencies. He was also the only law enforcement officer to serve as Region 5 (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama) elected regulatory representative to the ISSC Executive Board.

Major Waller has received numerous awards over the years including the 1987 Gulf Coast Conservation Association's Alabama Marine Conservation Enforcement Officer of the Year, the U.S. Customs Appreciation Award for serving as a Steering Committee Member of the New Orleans Blue Lightning Strike Force, and the 1998 U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Department of Health and Human Services Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition Team Award "For outstanding contributions in developing uniform criteria by applying federal and state laws to protect consumers from illegal shellfish harvesting."

Major Waller is held in high esteem by all those who know him, and the GSMFC is indeed honored to have Major Jerald K. Waller as its *Charles H. Lyles Award* recipient for 2002.