

# Charles H. Lyles Award Recipient 2004

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

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<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>
<i>Walter W. Fondren, III</i>	<i>2001</i>
<i>Jerald K. Waller</i>	<i>2002</i>
<i>Andrew J. Kemmerer</i>	<i>2003</i>

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*Hal R. Osburn*

## Hal R. Osburn

The Commission takes great pleasure in announcing that Mr. Hal R. Osburn has been selected as the 2004 *Charles H. Lyles Award* recipient. Mr. Osburn and his wife, Judy, reside in Ocate, New Mexico. They have two sons, Morgan and Nathan.

Mr. Osburn began his illustrious career in marine fisheries while attending the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in Zoology. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, in Zoology with minors in Chemistry and Math in 1972. He then moved east and enrolled at Texas A&M University where he received a Master of Science degree, cum laude, in Marine Biology in 1975.

After graduating from Texas A&M University, Mr. Osburn took a position with the Coastal Fisheries Division of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) in September 1975. He started his career with TPWD as a finfish and creel field technician where he was responsible for field sampling on finfish projects in Corpus Christi Bay system and a creel project in the Sabine Lake and Galveston Bay systems. He quickly moved up the ranks and became a Finfish Program Area Leader in September 1977 and was responsible for the multi-faceted finfish sampling program in the Corpus Christi Bay system. In September 1983, he was promoted to Marine Resource Harvest Program leader and was tasked with planning, organizing, and directing the coast-wide recreational and commercial harvest programs for TPWD. He quickly became the Fisheries Harvest Monitoring Program leader and was then promoted to the Director of the Fisheries Harvest Monitoring programs in March 1989. Under this position he was responsible for directing the activities of the coast-wide recreational and commercial harvest programs and assisting in the formulation of management policies for TPWD.

In September 1992, Mr. Osburn began focusing on more policy issues and was named the Policy Director/Artificial Reef Program Director. He was responsible for formulation of management policies, including directing the analyses of fisheries data to provide policy justifications as well as direct the activities of the artificial reef program. He moved to the Program and Policy Director position in September 1996 where he was responsible for directing the activities of the research, science, and program development staff. He was also responsible for formulation of management policies, including directing the analyses of fisheries data as well as continuing to direct the activities of the artificial reef program. In September 1998, Mr. Osburn was named the Coastal Fisheries Division Director. He was responsible for directing the activities of the administrative, research, management, and hatchery programs of TPWD,

which encompasses 10 field stations, 144 staff, and a \$9 million budget. In addition, he was responsible for formulating management recommendations to the Texas legislature, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

In addition to all his job-related accomplishments, Mr. Osburn held numerous fishery management positions. He served as the TPWD representative on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (1993-2003), the Technical Coordinating Committee of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (1989-1998), Special Mackerel Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (1988-1993), Artificial Reef Committee of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (1990-1995), and Spanish Mackerel Subcommittee of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (1986-1988). He also served on the National Marine Fisheries Service MARFIN Funding Advisory Board (1994-1997) and the Public Participation and Education Committee of the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program (1992-1994). He published numerous papers and has given a multitude of presentations regarding a wide variety of marine fisheries topics as well as attend a number of training courses designed to improve the management of the marine resources.

Throughout his career, Mr. Osburn added to the knowledge about the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico, which lead to the improvement of management for these fisheries. Through his leadership, the world of marine fisheries benefited from his contributions and allowed for the better management of these important resources to occur. It is with great pleasure that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents this year's *Charles H. Lyles Award* to such a worthy recipient.

