

Charles H. Lyles Award Recipient 2012

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>
<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>
<i>Hal R. Osborn</i>	<i>2004</i>
<i>Leroy Kiffe</i>	<i>2005</i>
<i>Robert P. Jones</i>	<i>2006</i>
<i>Wayne E. Swingle</i>	<i>2007</i>
<i>Ralph Rayburn</i>	<i>2008</i>
<i>William S. "Corky" Perret</i>	<i>2009</i>
<i>Albert L. King</i>	<i>2010</i>
<i>Virgina A. Vail</i>	<i>2011</i>



R. Vernon Minton

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It is with great pleasure that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents this year's Charles H. Lyles Award to R. Vernon Minton. However, it is with a heavy heart that this award will be given posthumously. Vern passed after a lengthy illness, at the age of 61, on December 27, 2010. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Sharon, his daughter Kristen, his son Randal and his grandson Taylor James. In 1972, Vern received a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries Biology from Michigan State University. Upon graduation, he served in the United States Peace Corps in the Philippines. He rose from a Peace Corp Fisheries Volunteer to a Training Project Leader. In 1976, he moved to Auburn, Alabama and completed his Master's Degree in Fisheries Management from Auburn University in 1978. In October 1978, Vern accepted a position as a Biologist II with the Marine Resources Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Over the next 32 years, he moved up through the ranks to become Director of the Marine Resources Division in 1990. He served as Director for 20 years. Over his 32 year career with the Division, he was known for many things; some of which we mention here. He was viewed as an expert in striped bass capture and propagation. He developed a new electro-shocking technique to collect brood stock that worked much more efficiently in brackish water. He designed and supervised the construction of the larval fish hatching section of the Claude Petet Mariculture Center and designed a streamlined larval fish feeding system. He was instrumental in the development of techniques for spawning red snapper using hormone injections, identification of food sources for larval red snapper and creating techniques to raise those foods. He worked closely with recreational and commercial fishermen to increase the size and complexity of Alabama's artificial reef system, both inshore and offshore. The increased habitat provides fishermen increased opportunities to enjoy the resource. He was instrumental in the establishment of a saltwater fishing license for Alabama. And, he strongly encouraged the modernization and expansion of the enforcement section with the latest equipment and training. As Director of the Marine Resources Division, Vern

worked tirelessly to bring commercial and recreational fishermen to the table to negotiate agreements about the management of the marine resources in ways equitable to both groups. During his tenure as Director, the mood of marine resources management in Alabama moved more and more into that of co-management with increased involvement of the public in the decision-making process. Vern encouraged this attitude and his door was always open to anyone wanting to discuss the needs of both recreational and commercial fisheries. Vern represented Alabama on the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and served on its various committees. He began his tenure on the Commission in 1990 and served as Chairman twice. He also served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council beginning in 1990. He was the Chairman of the Reef Fish Committee for many years and served on various other committees during his tenure. His contributions to fisheries management were cut short and we here at the Commission lost a good friend much too soon. He will be missed. It is with great pleasure that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents this year's Charles H. Lyles Award to such a deserving recipient.



