

# Lyles-Simpson Award Recipient 2014

## Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Past Lyles-Simpson Award Recipients

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<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

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*Michael C. Voisin*

## Michael C. Voisin

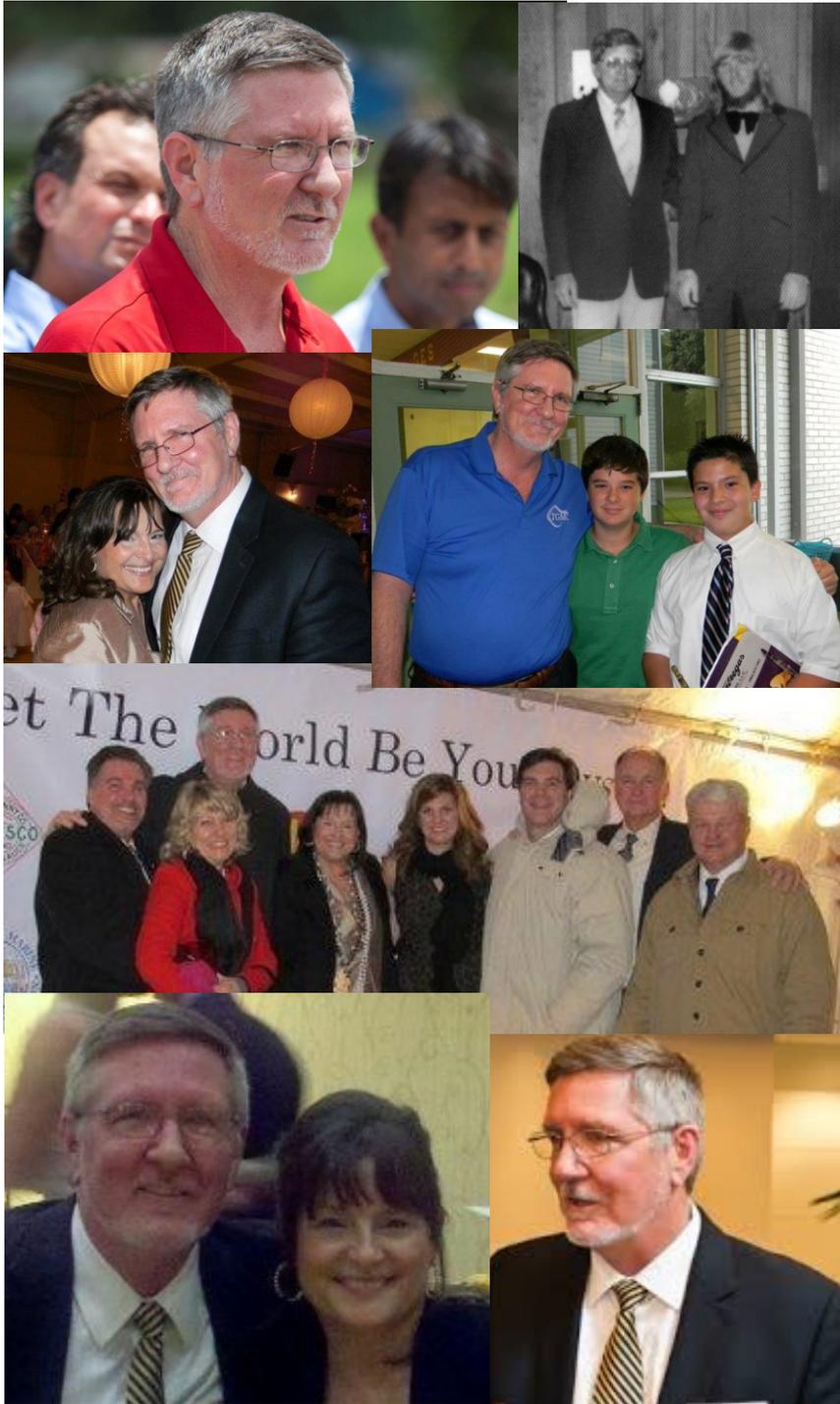
As many of you are aware, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission recently decided to rename the *Charles H. Lyles Award* to the *Lyles-Simpson Award* as a tribute to our long-term Executive Director, Larry B. Simpson who passed away in April 2013. This award is presented annually to an individual, 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.

This is the first year this prestigious award will be presented as the *Lyles-Simpson Award* and it is with great pleasure to announce that Michael C. Voisin is this year's recipient. However, it is with a heavy heart that this award is given posthumously. Mike passed away on February 6, 2013 at the age of 59. He is survived by his wife Sarah, his daughters, Amy, Sally and Sandy and sons Kevin, Gregory, and Terrance along with their spouses and grandchildren. Mike's contributions to the seafood industry were cut short and we here at the Commission lost a good friend.

Mike was born in Los Angeles, California but spent his formative years in south Louisiana. He was a seventh-generation Louisiana oysterman and owned Motivait Seafoods (established in 1971), one of the country's largest oyster processing companies. His crab plant was one of the largest in Louisiana, churning out more than 6 million pounds of meat a year until he focused primarily on oysters in the late 90s.

His contributions to the seafood industry were numerous and his impact will be felt far into the future. He founded the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board in 1984 and sat on the National Seafood Marketing Council in the early 1990s. He has provided leadership for the National Fisheries Institute, Gulf Coast Seafood Marketing Coalition, Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation, Louisiana Fishing Community Recovery Coalition, Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association, Southeastern





Fisheries Association, Louisiana Seafood Processors Council, Gulf Oyster Industry Council, the Louisiana Oyster Task Force and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. In December 2012, Mike was awarded an honorary Doctor of Commerce degree from Nicholls State University.

In addition to his work in the seafood industry, Mike served in many leadership roles in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served as Counselor to J. Michael Wall, president of the Louisiana Baton Rouge Mission, and as a High Councilman in the New Orleans Louisiana Stake. Previously, he served as Bishop of the Thibodaux congregation. He was also a member of Terrebonne General Medical Center's Board of Commissioners.

Mike was involved in the fisheries arena for over 40 years and he cared so deeply about the coastal environment and the seafood industry. He was not only able to listen but truly hear the issues and difficulties someone was trying to convey. His patience allowed him to build consensus in situations when it did not appear possible. It is with great pride that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents this year's *Lyles-Simpson Award* to such a deserving recipient.



