

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

Lyles-Simpson Award Recipient 2015



Ellie Francisco Roche

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It is with great pleasure that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents this year's *Lyles-Simpson Award* to Ellie Francisco Roche. 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. Ellie and her husband, Bob, have been married for 36 years, have one son, Bobby, and currently reside in Tennessee.

Ellie's career with NOAA Fisheries began in April 1974 as an Enforcement Technician with NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement. During that time, she was also attending night classes at the University of South Florida and received a Bachelors of Arts degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences in December 1982. Over the years, she has worked for NOAA in various positions, including a Fisheries Permit Specialist with the Protected Species Division, a Grants Specialist and Chief of the Fisheries Grants Division, and the Chief of the State/Federal Liaison Office. She recently retired in January 2014 after over 40 years of service.

Ellie was committed to assisting the states and Commission and was a true advocate for them. She received numerous awards during her tenure with NMFS including three Department of Commerce Bronze Medals for superior federal service and was selected as the supervisory Employee of the Year for the Southeast Regional Office in 2003.

Ellie has been involved in the fisheries arena for over 43 years and truly enjoyed helping the state partners throughout her career with NOAA. She was always willing to go that extra mile and her dedication and commitment to fostering the State/Federal relationship will be greatly missed by those who have had the pleasure of working with her. It is with great pride that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents this year's *Lyles-Simpson Award* to such a worthy recipient.

