



# PRESS RELEASE

## Recreational Fishing Alliance

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For Immediate Release  
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### **SKA HOSTS BENEFIT FOR RFA AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Southern Kingfish Association (SKA) is the largest offshore tournament fishing trail in the United States with 12 regional divisions from North Carolina through Texas sanctioning over 60 tournaments annually. The culmination of the tournament season is the SKA National Championships, held this year in Biloxi, MS, where 224 teams gathered to determine the best of the best. While it was the competition that brought them together over regulation of fisheries and the loss of access was the hot topic of conversation.

“The past few years I have spent as much time working on fisheries issues as I have running our tournaments,” said Jack Holmes, managing partner and voice of the SKA. “We are facing a hostile management regime that is stripping us of our ability to go fishing and only one organization understands the issues and addressed them appropriately — the Recreational Fishing Alliance!”

The SKA staff, led by Operations Director Bob Flocken, spent weeks leading up to the nationals assembling a long list of prizes for an RFA fund-raising raffle and membership drive. Tickets were sold to supportive tournament anglers during registration and at the captain’s meeting prior to the tournament. Their hard work generated over \$7000 in ticket sales. The money was presented to RFA’s Corporate Relations Director, Gary Caputi, at the awards ceremony and will be slated to aid their work on critical legislation being guided through Congress and to fight NMFS push to close the red snapper fishery in the Gulf and South Atlantic.

“Recreational fishermen have been willing participants in conservation for decades helping to rebuild depleted stocks, but the government is no longer interested in conservation,” said Holmes. “They want to strip us of our right to fish and the RFA is the only political action organization fighting to preserve our rights. That’s why it is the only organization we promote to our members and donate to. Every saltwater angler should join. ”

“We deeply appreciate the support of the Southern Kingfish Association and its thousands of members throughout the South Atlantic and Gulf States,” said Jim Hutchinson, Jr. RFA’s Managing Director. “We are honored to have such a strong, highly regarded organization like SKA as an ally and we look forward to working closely with them on the many pressing issues facing recreational fishermen and the industry. “

A long list of companies made generous donations for the raffle including Air Tran Airways; Blackfin Rods; Calcutta; Costa del Mar; D.O.A. Lures; Daiwa; Economy Tackle; Electro-Mate; Engel Coolers; Guy Harvey; Half Hitch Tackle; Moimoi Line; L & S Lures; Moldcraft Lures; Moonlighter; Navionics; NOBA Boat Insurances; Precision Props; Premier Performance; Pro Finder Charts; Penn Reels; Russell Lures; Sea Striker; Shimano American; Tigress; Tournament Tackle; Venice Resort and Marina; Ocean Tamer Bean Bag Chairs; and Quadrodz.

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*The Recreational Fishing Alliance is a national, grassroots political action organization representing recreational fishermen and the recreational fishing industry on marine fisheries issues.*

*The RFA Mission is to safeguard the rights of saltwater anglers, protect marine, boat and tackle industry jobs, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our Nation’s saltwater fisheries.*

*For more information, call 888-JOIN-RFA or visit [www.joinrfa.org](http://www.joinrfa.org).*