

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES  
July 15, 1983

CHARLES HARPER LYLES  
Route 7, Box 277A  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564  
Home (601)875-9860  
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BORN: June 24, 1913 (age 70)

EDUCATION: Louisiana Polytechnic Institute  
Bachelor of Science - 1937

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

Began his service with the Department of Commerce (Bureau of Fisheries with the U.S.) in 1938. He worked in New York and the surrounding states as a field statistician.

After the Roosevelt reorganization (1939) of Biological Survey (Department of Agriculture) and Bureau of Fisheries (Department of Commerce) into the Fish and Wildlife Service (Department of Interior), he was assigned to statistics in the Gulf of Mexico with offices in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Prior to Army service, he worked for the War Production Board to determine the types, amounts, etc., of critical materials needed by the entire U.S. Fishing Industry during the wartime conditions.

From 1942 - 1946 he served in the U.S. Army, 7th Armored Division in the European Theater during World War II.

After the War (1947) he was in charge of statistics for the Gulf and South Atlantic with offices in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In the period immediately following his assignment severe budget cuts prevented his collection, publication and distribution of fishery data therefore the absence of the years 1945-1949 from the historical data publications.

In the years after the lean budgets, he accomplished an envied record of data collection, publication and distribution.

He was instrumental in the establishment of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. He would, after retirement from Federal Service, be Executive Director for this same interstate compact.

He was instrumental in securing the research vessel OREGON and the ALASKA from the Pacific Northwest for research work in the Gulf of Mexico.

This acquisition subsequently led to the establishment of research laboratories in Pascagoula, Mississippi and Galveston, Texas.

In the period 1952 - 1954 he worked as a liaison between the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries and Fisheries.

This work gave experience in law enforcement and international fisheries management.

In 1955 he was again assigned to the Gulf of Mexico, this time to set up and manage the collection of shrimp data from the Gulf.

In 1960 he was brought to Washington, D.C. as the Assistant Division Chief of Statistics and in 1962 he was the Division Chief of Statistics. This position he held until retirement from Federal Service in 1970.

After a short retirement of 2 years in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, he was asked to work at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs as head of a newly formed statistics division.

In 1974-1976 he served the State of Mississippi as the Director of the Mississippi Marine Conservation Commission located in Biloxi, Mississippi.

And from 1977 until present he has worked as the Executive Director of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, a compact he had worked to see established back in the late 1940's.

#### GENERAL COMMENTS

Mr. Lyles has stated on many occasions that he felt his greatest achievement in the 45 plus years of public service was the production of the quality and quantity of fisheries data while he was Chief of the Division of Statistics in Washington, D.C. Never before nor have they after his departure ever been able to even match that record of production.

Others in the industry have made mention of his role in unifying the various segments of the fishing industry to achieve consensus on certain issues as his greatest achievement.

Having worked for Mr. Lyles in the last several years after he had gained all his experience, I can testify that he is a profound thinker and teacher. Without the benefit of the numerous hours he has given industry, organizations and myself we would all have been less able to address the issues in fisheries we are called upon to address each day.