

Charles H. Lyles Award  
Recipient  
1998

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Past Charles H. Lyles Award Recipients

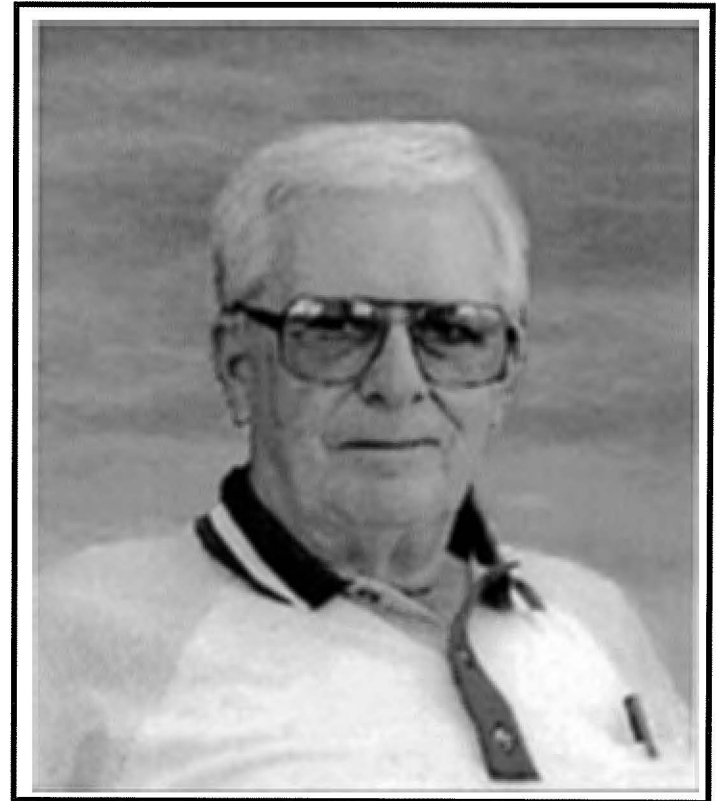
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<i>Charles H. Lyles</i>	<i>1984</i>
<i>Theodore B. Ford</i>	<i>1985</i>
<i>J.Y. Christmas</i>	<i>1986</i>
<i>John Breaux</i>	<i>1987</i>
<i>John Ray Nelson</i>	<i>1988</i>
<i>I.B. "Buck" Byrd</i>	<i>1989</i>
<i>Hugh A. Swingle</i>	<i>1990</i>
<i>John 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>

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*Thomas L. Heffernan*

# Thomas L. Heffernan

## PERSONAL:

Date of Birth: August 15, 1935  
Marital Status: Married, 39 years to Clydene Heffernan  
Hobbies: Fishing and Hunting

## EDUCATION:

BS Degree, (1958) Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas  
Major: Zoology  
Minor: Chemistry, English, and Sociology

## EXPERIENCE:

Served TPWD for 40 continuous years. Progressively advanced from seasonal technician to Director of Field Operations for Coastal Fisheries Branch. Prepared and implemented Coastal Fisheries Branch budgets for over 20 years (biennium and operating). Served in administrative positions as Regional Director (1975-1983) and Director of Field Operations (1983 to 1992). Broad based, long term, positive working experience with all Departmental Divisions, personnel, and programs. Extensive experience in public relations, problem solving, and maintaining positive relationships with public groups and individuals, various state and federal agencies, and associated personnel. Represented the Department at public regulatory hearings (since 1963), appeared before state and federal legislative committees and participated in numerous public speaking engagements before sportsmen/outdoor organizations, service clubs, and public meetings. Long term experience in working with various private individuals, organizations, and committees dealing with recreational and commercial fisheries on sensitive local and coastwide economic and sociological issues.

## SUPERVISORY AND PROGRAM EXPERIENCE:

- 1958 - 1961 Aransas Bay Area Oyster Program. Biologist I and II. Population surveys, disease studies, artificial reef construction, and general ecological surveys
- 1962 - 1965 Oyster Program Leader. Biologist III, Oyster Disease Program Leader, Aransas Bay Area Biologist. Supervised six area survey teams, served as primary researcher on oyster disease studies.
- 1966 - 1967 Supervised mudshell dredging program in Aransas Bay area.
- 1968 Blue Crab Program Leader. Supervised six area survey teams and compiled program data.
- 1969 - 1973 Program Leader for ecological evaluation study of oil field brine discharges in Aransas Bay area. Presented findings of damage at Railroad Commission hearings which resulted in prohibition of brine discharges into area streams and bays. Supervised and coordinated Aransas Bay area survey teams for the collection of shrimp, oyster, and finfish samples.
- 1973 - 1974 Program Leader for Survey of Red Drum broodfish for procurement of spawners for red drum propagation program.

1974 - 1975 Program Leader for Coastwide Recreational/Commercial Harvest Survey.

Supervised, coordinated, and participated in data collection, analysis, and report preparation for all major bay systems. Required coordination with Federal Aid administrators with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

1975 - 1983 Regional Director for Coastal Fisheries Region V.

Supervised and participated in research and program activities in four major bay systems, directed and coordinated activities at the Rockport Marine Laboratory and Marine Maintenance Facility and field stations at Corpus Christi and Brownsville. Served as program advisor to Chief of Coastal Fisheries and Director of Fisheries Division. Served as special coordinator for Red Drum Mariculture Program at Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research Station and Port Aransas NMFS Laboratory. Provided supervisory and technical assistance to achieve program goals of spawning, rearing, and stocking of red drum. Prepared Coastal Fisheries operating and biennium budgets, provided budget control for Regions IV and V.

1983 - 1992 Director of Field Operations for Coastal Fisheries.

Supervised and directed coastwide logistical and program support functions of Coastal Fisheries field activities within the coastal regions through two Regional Directors. Responsibilities included personnel management, cost accounting, branch and program budgeting, equipment and supply procurement, quality control on facility and equipment maintenance, and operation of the Rockport Marine Maintenance Facility.

Technical responsibilities included preparation of scientific and technical papers for publication, serving on Branch editorial staff, providing technical expertise to Program Leaders and area personnel on gear types, application, fabrication, and procedures, providing technical expertise to other researchers and the public on special studies and data procurement, provide technical assistance to Resource Protection Division personnel on matters regarding ecological impacts for development and dredging projects, providing technical expertise in the development of specifications for vessels, collecting devices, and program materials, and providing guidance, counseling, training, and supervisory assistance to Coastal Fishery personnel.

1993 - 1998 Commercial Liaison for Coastal Fisheries Division.

Coordinate, meet, and assist the commercial fishing industry in developing co-management of commercial fisheries in Texas. Assisted in developing a Limited Entry program in the commercial bay shrimp fishery fleet. Conducted extensive meetings with industry, TPWD, and legislators to develop a viable limited entry system. Officially retired in 1995, remained under contract with TPWD from 1995 through 1998 to complete the process of setting up bay shrimp limited entry program. During this time he assisted in training two new Coastal Fisheries staff members as commercial fisheries liaisons in the field. Additionally, he worked on developing consensus for limited entry program for the crab fishery.

Mr. Heffernan's greatest strength was that he was instrumental in fostering ideas of co-management among the commercial industry, TPWD, and the legislature.