

the state

No oil found in Gulf shrimp yet

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE, Texas — Although the Coast Guard has spotted both American and Mexican shrimpers fishing in the vicinity of drifting oil slicks, the Food and Drug Administration reported Wednesday it had found no petroleum-tainted seafood.

"We haven't found anything," said FDA district director Anthony Whitehead. "We're going to try to keep it that way."

Whitehead said four additional inspectors were brought to Brownsville and one was sent to Port Aransas for more stringent inspections of shrimp and other food fish caught both in U.S. and Mexican waters.

He said "every kind of seafood as long as there continues to be a threat," will be inspected for petroleum deposits.

"We have reports from the Coast Guard that both American and Mexican vessels were in shrimp beds where there's plenty of oil," Whitehead said.

"We may be a little early for any to be coming in. We're hoping they're shrimping in the right areas and are advising them that's the best way not to have a problem."

Members of the Brownsville-Port Isabel Shrimp Association told Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, earlier this week they welcomed the increased FDA inspections to assure consumers only untainted seafood was going to market from Texas.

Association spokesman Julius Collins said members of his organization were advised if they spotted any oil on shrimp to immediately dump their entire catches.



Battalion photo by Clarke McClung

Fitted to be a C.T.

William Hahn left, has measured incoming freshmen for their Corps uniforms for 31 years. Freshmen are fitted during their summer conference in the Military Procurement Center

Catholics to ease refugee problem

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — The Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio has assumed the responsibility for soothing the strife between locals and Vietnamese refugees that exists in several cities along the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana, a priest says.

The most recent incidents have occurred in the Texas fishing village of Seadrift where a Justice Department official met with residents during the weekend in an effort to calm a struggle between Vietnamese shrimpers and local shrimpers that led to one death.

The official also met with officials of the U.S. Catholic Conference in San Antonio Tuesday and said the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio would select a Seadrift resident and appoint a priest in the town who understands Vietnamese refugees so that both could arbitrate disputes.

The official said the archdiocese was assuming responsibility for solving problems in cities along the Gulf Coast in Texas and Louisiana.

In Seadrift, about 160 miles to the southeast of San Antonio, Police Chief Billy Lindsey was receptive to the news but had reservations.

"I'm hoping it will work to get people back together," he said, "but we'll have to see."

A Calhoun County grand jury in Port Lavaca, Texas, was considering murder indictments against two Vietnamese crabbers in the shooting of Billy Joe Aplin, 35, on Aug. 3.

Also before the grand jury were explosives possession charges against three Seadrift men arrested in a police raid on a motel last week.

Since the firebombing of a Vietnamese home and the burning of four Vietnamese boats soon after the shooting, there has been no violence. About half the 100 Vietnamese who fled the town following the shooting have returned.

Some native fishermen blame these Vietnamese who were unfamiliar of unwritten fishing rules for causing the trouble, and Monsignor William Martin, vicar

general of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio, said one goal of the liaison team would be education.

"We will try to have the two men live there," he said. "They would not only inform the residents of fishing rights but they would help the people to discuss their problems and eventually become friends."

The two arbitrators will be selected "within several weeks" through the Committee of Catholic Family and Children's Services, an arm of the archdiocese.

"I would look for somebody very sympathetic to both sides," Martin said.

Ideally, he said the Seadrift resident selected would be "held in high esteem by both sides."

He added that if an Anglo-American Seadrift resident could not be selected for the job, the committee would go to someone outside.

The Justice Department official, reached at his office in Dallas, said many of the residents, who fished the bountiful San Antonio Bay off Seadrift before the arrival of the first Vietnamese three years ago, perceived the immigrants as threats.

Before the announcement of the liaison team there already were indications the tension had abated. A few Vietnamese fishermen began crabbing late last week, and this weekend a crab meat-packing plant resumed operations using 18 Vietnamese women.

Texas licenses need new number system

United Press International
AUSTIN — Texas is going to have to find a new way of numbering drivers licenses. It is running out of numbers under the current system.

DPS Director Col. Wilson Speir said for years, Texas driver licenses have carried a seven digit number. But with the number of driver records nearing 10 million, Speir said it will be necessary on Sept. 10 to begin adding an eighth digit.

Existing seven digit numbers will be changed in the DPS computers by adding a zero at the beginning of each number, he said. Licenses with the seven digit numbers will continue to be valid, but the new eight digit numbers will appear on all renewed licenses after Sept. 10.

Speir said the number of licenses in Texas has been increasing at a rate of about 385,000 a year.

Chagra narcotics case jury begins deliberating

United Press International
AUSTIN — Jimmy Chagra's defense attorney told an eight-woman, four-man jury Wednesday that government prosecutors presented witnesses who had "prostituted" themselves by testifying against the Las Vegas gambler in order to save themselves from prosecution.

Attorneys concluded final arguments in the three-week old trial Wednesday morning, and jurors were to begin deliberating late in the day after receiving a lengthy and complicated charge from U.S. District Judge William Sessions.

Defense attorney Oscar Goodman said in final arguments of Chagra's trial on continuous criminal enterprise for narcotics smuggling that government prosecutors had based their case on the lies of former Chagra associates who were given immunity.

"These persons have prostituted themselves at the government's insistence to testify (against Chagra)," Goodman said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Carl Pierce said the government's top witnesses — Henry Wallace, Dudley Connell, Paul Taylor, Richard Young and Hamilton (Jud) Myers — were admitted criminals, but the plea agreements the five arranged with the government were necessary.

Wallace testified he had arranged a cocaine and marijuana deal in Colombia for Chagra, while Myers said he had been paid \$12,000 by Chagra in late 1977 to help him unload marijuana-loaded boats in the Bahamas.

Connell and Taylor testified they had traveled to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., in November 1977 to purchase a kilo of cocaine from Chagra. Connell is serving time in a federal penitentiary for a reduced charge of cocaine possession. Taylor received immunity from the government.

Young, a friend of Wallace, testified he also bought cocaine from Chagra, and once had been with Chagra during an aborted flight to Colombia to pick up cocaine.

Chagra, 34, is accused in the four-count indictment of conspiring to smuggle cocaine and marijuana from Colombia, of aiding and abetting in the possession of cocaine and of orchestrating a series of drug deals during 1974-78.

The jury will consider the third and fourth counts first. If jurors return a guilty verdict, the first two counts will be dropped. If convicted of the continuous criminal enterprise charge, Chagra could receive a 10-year to life prison sentence and have his personal assets confiscated.

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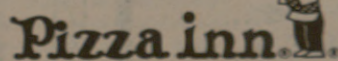
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