

WHEN SENATOR, THEN GOVERNOR GRAHAM APPOINTED ME TO THE FLORIDA MFC IN 1985, WE FACED A SEVERE PROBLEM WITH THE STATES MARINE RESOURCES. WE HAD DEVELOPED, EXPLOITED AND DEGRADED THE THINGS THAT MADE FLORIDA SO UNIQUE AND PLEASURABLE TO LIVE IN. THE CHOICES THE COMMISSION , GOVERNOR AND CABINET MADE WERE CONTRIVERSIAL AND STEEPED IN POLITICS, AS COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL USERS OF OUR MARINE RESOURCES BATTLED FOR A SHARE OF THE DWINDILING PIE. IN THE END THE USERS WERE CUTAILED AND THE RESOURCE GIVEN MUCH NEEDED PROTECTION.

THE RESULT HAS BEEN A VASTLY IMPROVED FISHERY FOR THE STATE WITH MANY SUCCESS STORIES SUCH AS RED DRUM, SPANISH AND KING MACKERAL, GOLIATH GROUPER, SEATROUT AND MANY OTHER SPECIES, THAT ARE NOW SUSTAINED AND STABLE. THAT FIGHT AGAINST CHANGE AND ENSUEING BATTLES WERE NOT UNLIKE GOVERNMENTS' AND INDUSTRIES' DENIAL AND CONDEMNATIONS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE. FEAR OF CHANGE AND THE UNKNOWN, AS WELL AS, A HIGHLY FINANCED CAMPAIGN BY INDUSTRY, HAS KEPT THE GENERAL POPULATION OUT OF BALANCE WITH WHAT HAS INDISPUTABLY BECOME THE GLOBAL WARMING TRUTH.

A POLL OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS BY THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION HAS SHOWN THAT 72% OF THESE OUTDOORSMEN FEEL THAT GLOBAL WARMING IS NOT ONLY HAPPENING, BUT IS THE BIGGEST THREAT TO MANKIND. THESE SAME INDIVIDUALS FEEL THAT GOVERNMENT IS NOT DOING NEARLY ENOUGH TO FACE

THE PROBLEM. READING ANOTHER REPORT BY THE NWF REGARDING FLORIDA'S COSTAL LANDS WHEN AFFECTED BY JUST AN 18 TO 27 INCH SEAWATER RISE OCCURING OVER THE NEXT CENTURY, AND THE IMPACTS TO THIS STATE BECOME CLEAR. NOT REAL GOOD!

SCIENTIST NOW ARE AWARE THAT THE OCEANS HOLD MANY TIMES MORE CO2 THAN THE AIR. THE CO2 CONTENT OF THE OCEANS IS GROWING FASTER THAN THE ATMOSPHERE AND IS APPRAOCHING A PH CONTENT THAT WILL SOON BE TOO ACIDIC TO ALLOW ANTHING TO GROW IN IT BUT JELLYFISH AND SOME BACTERIA. IMAGINE A DEAD SEA. GET READY FOR THE CHANGE AND TRY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, OR FACE THE COLLAPSE OF CIVILIZATION AS WE NOW KNOW IT. THIS SOUNDS PRETTY DIRE, AS IT SHOULD. MY QUESTION TO THE PANNEL IS, FACING THAT PROSPECT, DO YOU THINK THAT CO2 EMMISSIONS AND REDUCTIONS ARE THE BIGGEST WORLDWIDE THREAT AND HOW FAR AND FAST SHOULD GOVERNMENTS GO TO MITIGATE AND RECTIFY THIS SITUATION? THANK YOU