

Insider's view

I am writing this from Starke. Recently, I was fishing with my **dog**, Spot, about 100 yards off Shell Island when I was overcome by heat and popped the top on a cold one to cool down. I put fresh bait on my hook and when I threw the old bait overboard, a dolphin lurking nearby raced over and devoured it with obvious relish. Alas, all

this simultaneously was observed by two armed DEP agents on ATVs, a Sheriff's Deputy patrolling overhead in a helicopter, a "Marine Patrol" boat observing from 300 yards away, an undercover FWC agent on the beach disguised as a tourist and Rick Rector, activist with the Dolphin Freedom Foundation ("Don't feed the dolphins," News, July 10).

A few moments later the Coast Guard pulled alongside, inspected my boat and discovered that my horn was not working. I was arrested for having a **dog** and a beer within 400 feet of Shell Island, feeding a dolphin and unsafe boating.

The dolphin is swimming free today and I am doing 30 to life at Raiford. Spot had to be put down since I no longer can care for him. I sure do miss ol' Spot, but mainly I just feel so ashamed of myself for breaking all those laws. Please pray for me.

Jim Sandlin, Panama City