



Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 14, 2017

Gulf Commercial Fishermen Commemorate Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2017

Highlight Importance of Magnuson Act to Sustainable American Seafood

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance today issued the following statement on Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2017:

Capitol Hill Ocean Week provides a perfect opportunity to celebrate our oceans, the ecosystems they sustain and the fishing industry that contributes to the U.S. economy because of them.

Whether ordering fish at a restaurant or buying it from a local fish market, Americans rely on the hardworking men and women plying our nation's waters to harvest fish for public consumption. Equally important are the scientists and managers working with fishermen to develop rules that protect fish and support fishermen's

businesses – chief among them, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which puts a premium on science and conservation so that this generation and the next can enjoy the Gulf’s bounty.

The Magnuson Act is responsible for successfully rebuilding and restoring many fish species across the nation. In fact, the number of fish stocks on the overfishing and overfished lists remains near all-time lows, and 41 stocks have been successfully rebuilt since 2000. For four decades, the Magnuson Act has restored fish stocks, improved the profitability of fishing businesses, increased recreational opportunities and provided American consumers year-round access to sustainably harvested, domestic seafood.

American red snapper – the staple of the Shareholders’ Alliance fleet – were once on the verge of collapse. But thanks to a robust science-based rebuilding plan and a commitment on the part of commercial fishermen to put fish first, public access has more than tripled for all fishermen in the Gulf – commercial, charter and private recreational anglers alike. Commercial fishermen can now provide American seafood consumers with fresh, sustainably harvested Gulf red snapper 365 days a year. The vast majority of Americans – over 97 percent – access red snapper by ordering it at a restaurant or buying it at a fish market, and this is thanks to a strong science-based individual fishing quota management system and a partnership of proactive commercial fishermen.

As we celebrate Ocean Week, America’s Gulf commercial fishermen stand behind the Magnuson Act and urge policymakers on Capitol Hill to do the same.

###

Media Contact:

Shareholders' Alliance – Eric Brazer, Deputy Director, 919-451-1971

The Shareholders' Alliance is the largest organization of commercial snapper and grouper fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico. We work hard to ensure that our fisheries are sustainably managed so our fishing businesses can thrive and our fishing communities can exist for future generations. We are the harvesters that provide much of the American public with a reliable source of domestically-caught wild Gulf seafood, and we do this through a philosophy that sustainable seafood and profitable fishing businesses depend on healthy fish populations.

www.shareholdersalliance.org

www.facebook.com/GulfAlliance