



Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance

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Gulf Commercial Fishermen Express Concerns About Changes to Red Snapper Recreational Season

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance today issued the following statement:

The Shareholders' Alliance supports increasing access and improving management for private anglers, but it must be done in a sustainable and accountable manner. Yesterday's decision by the U.S. Commerce Department admits that it "will necessarily mean that the private recreational sector will substantially exceed its annual catch limit" and that "this approach may delay the ultimate rebuilding of the stock by as many as 6 years." We have strong concerns about an action that will harm fish stocks, our fishing businesses and the millions of American seafood consumers we serve.

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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.

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