



Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance

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Gulf Shareholders' Alliance Statement on Red Snapper Lawsuit

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance today issued the following statement regarding the [Environmental Defense Fund's](#) and the [Ocean Conservancy's](#) complaints against the Department of Commerce's decision to re-open the federal recreational red snapper season:

We share the concerns raised in this lawsuit, and believe the recent action by the Commerce Department could have a major, negative impact on red snapper stock in the Gulf of Mexico. We have long believed that decisions related to fisheries management must be founded on sound science and broad stakeholder input. Commercial fishermen rely upon sustainable fisheries for our livelihoods, and American businesses and consumers depend on our efforts for reliable supplies of seafood. That is why we support a long-term solution to this situation that improves access to red snapper, while preserving the sustainability of this vital fishery in

the Gulf for today and for future generations of fishermen and consumers.

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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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