

Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Quota Bank

Membership Application - Fishing Year 2018

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance launched the first Quota Bank in the Gulf of Mexico in 2015 to reduce red snapper discards in the eastern Gulf and to support the next generation of commercial red snapper fishermen. 2018 will mark our fourth year of operation. Here's how it works:

1. The Quota Bank leases red snapper allocation to the following two groups of fishermen:
 - o Eligible grouper fishermen that need red snapper allocation to cover some of their discards
 - o Eligible "next generation" red snapper fishermen that are entering the fishery.
2. In exchange for leasing this allocation, Members agree to hold themselves to a high standard of accountability and participate in program requirements including electronic reporting, Best Business Practices, participation in regulatory meetings, and joining the Shareholders' Alliance.
3. The Quota Bank is the only program of its kind in the Gulf of Mexico that is generating triple-bottom-line benefits for your fishery by:
 - o reducing red snapper discards,
 - o making fishing businesses more profitable,
 - o supporting the next generation of fishermen, and
 - o getting more fishermen involved in solving their management and regulatory problems.

To apply for the Quota Bank, complete this application and submit to:

Eric Brazer, Deputy Director, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance

eric@shareholdersalliance.org

Applications will be processed in the order in which they arrive. Red snapper allocation is available on a first-come-first-served basis. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email or call. Thank you for interest in the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Quota Bank.



Eric Brazer

phone: 919-451-1971

PROGRAM OPERATIONS

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the Quota Bank, fishermen must meet the following criteria:

- Use only bandits, handgear, bottom longlines, or buoy gear to catch reef fish.
- Own an active reef fish permit.
- Have an active IFQ account.
- Agree to join the Shareholders' Alliance (\$0.20/pound of leased allocation, up to \$1,000).
- Commitment to provide copies of trip tickets or logbooks electronically to the Shareholders' Alliance within 24 hours of landing or as soon thereafter as possible prior to the start of the next trip.

- Agree to attend at least one meeting of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, or participate in a Washington DC Fishermen’s Fly-In with the Shareholders’ Alliance.
- If this is your first year in the program, agree to provide trip tickets or logbooks for the previous fishing year.

Best Practices

Members of the Quota Bank are committed to operating their fishing businesses in a manner that promotes conservation and accountability, including agreement to the following “Best Business Practices”:

- Unless otherwise specified, red snapper allocation will be used only for bycatch in the red grouper fishery, not for a targeted fishery.
- All legal-sized red snapper caught will be landed and accounted for (i.e. no regulatory discarding) to the extent possible.
- The mortality rate of the released sublegal snapper will be minimized to the extent possible using appropriate techniques or devices.
- Members will not lease out any red snapper allocation they received as part of the Quota Bank program. The Shareholders’ Alliance has a Right of First Refusal on any unused Quota Bank allocation, not to exceed initial lease price.
- Members will submit copies of their trip tickets or logbooks electronically to the Shareholders’ Alliance within 24 hours of landing or as soon thereafter as possible prior to the start of the next trip.
- Members will work with the Shareholders’ Alliance to attend at least one management/regulatory meeting over the course of the year
- Members will work with the Shareholders' Alliance to improve the Quota Bank as it continues to grow, and will act as “fishermen ambassadors” to promote the Quota Bank in their fishing communities.

Membership

The Quota Bank seeks a high-caliber of fisherman to join and promote this program. Membership details are as follows:

- Participation in the Quota Bank is voluntary.
- Members agree to participate in the Quota Bank for the 2018 fishing year. This agreement will be valid through December 31, 2018.
- Eligible and interested fishermen will provide an application to the Shareholders’ Alliance Board of Directors. The Board will use its discretion and the list of eligibility requirements to determine whether the applicant shall be admitted as a Member of the Quota Bank. Admission will be effective once the Board has made a positive determination and the Quota Bank Member has been notified.
- Members agree to join the Shareholders' Alliance (\$0.20/pound of leased allocation, up to \$1,000).
- Members authorize the release of information to the Deputy Director of the Shareholders’ Alliance regarding the catch of various species of fish associated with the Participating Vessel.
- Members agree that they have the authority to enter into this Agreement on their behalf and on behalf of the Participating Vessel they represent.

Allocation, Reporting and Finances

The Quota Bank will lease red snapper allocation to Members according to the following operations policy:

- Lease Amount:
 - The Quota Bank will lease red snapper allocation to participating Members. The exact amount will be determined by the Board. Allocation will be leased in multiples of 500 pounds.

- Lease Price:
 - The price of this lease will be set at/around fair market value at the time of the lease as determined by the Board. Lease price may be subject to change over the course of the year in response to changes in market conditions.
- Payment:
 - Members will pay for allocation prior to receiving it from the Quota Bank. Payment will be accepted by check or electronic wire transfer. An allocation distribution and financial payment plan will be agreed on by the Member and the Board.
 - The Deputy Director will electronically transfer the appropriate amount(s) of allocation to the Member's IFQ account upon receipt of full payment(s).
 - Allocation payment and membership payment will be made separately.
- Reporting:
 - Members will provide copies of federal trip tickets or vessel logbooks electronically to the Deputy Director within 24 hours of landing or as soon thereafter as possible prior to the start of the next trip, whichever comes first. Failure to do so may impact the ability to lease additional allocation.
 - The Deputy Director and Board will use these data to analyze catch and allocation usage. These data will be considered confidential and will not be shared with others.
 - Members are strongly encouraged to voluntarily and accurately report their red snapper discards to the Quota Bank on all trips. This may become a program requirement in the future.
- Allocation Management:
 - Members will not lease out any red snapper allocation they received as part of the Quota Bank program.
 - The Shareholders' Alliance has a Right of First Refusal on any unused allocation, not to exceed initial lease price.
 - The Member is responsible for preventing individual allocation overharvest.

Administration

The role of the Shareholders' Alliance Deputy Director is to oversee the daily operations of the Quota Bank, including but not limited to tracking, accounting for, and transferring red snapper allocation; analysis of catch reporting; and management of Quota Bank finances. The role of the Shareholders' Alliance Board is to manage and oversee the Quota Bank program, including but not limited to program admission and operations; enforcement of program policies, Best Business Practices, and this Agreement; and addressing of grievances.

Enforcement

Enforcement of program policies and this Agreement is necessary to maintain the integrity of the Quota Bank and to promote the long-term stability of this program.

- Members participating in the Quota Bank must comply with all applicable requirements and conditions of this Agreement and other applicable state, federal and other regulations.
- Members agree that the Board and/or the Deputy Director will enforce this Agreement, and that they have the authority to invoke sanctions ranging from letters of warning to reductions in allocation to fines to expulsion from the Quota Bank.
- All appeals from such Board action shall be made in writing to the Board for review and consideration within 7 days of the Board action in question. Members agree to cooperate fully with the Board and the Deputy Director in such procedures.
- Members acknowledge that the Quota Bank is a program of the Shareholders' Alliance and agrees not to hold the Shareholders' Alliance or its affiliates liable for violations of the law, applicable regulations, and this Agreement committed by Quota Bank Members.

- Members in violation of this Agreement and/or other state or federal or other regulations agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the other Members of the Quota Bank, the Shareholders' Alliance Board and Deputy Director, and any other affiliates of the Quota Bank and/or Shareholders' Alliance.

Eligibility Criteria

Please check the appropriate boxes.

- I use only bandits, handgear, bottom longlines, or buoy gear to catch reef fish.
- I own an active reef fish permit.
- I have an active IFQ account.
- I agree to join the Shareholders' Alliance (\$0.20/pound of leased allocation, up to \$1,000).
- I commit to provide copies of either the trip ticket or logbook electronically to the Shareholders' Alliance within 24 hours of landing or as soon thereafter as possible prior to the start of the next trip, whichever comes first.
- I agree to attend at least one meeting of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, or participate in a Washington DC Fishermen's Fly-In with the Shareholders' Alliance.
- If this is my first year in the program, I agree to provide trip tickets or logbooks for the previous fishing year.

Owner Information

Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone	Email	

Fishing Business Information

Vessel Name	Reef Fish Permit #
Primary Landing Port/Dock	IFQ Account ID
Gear Type	Target Fishery
Dealer/Fish House Name & Location	
Requested Amount of Red Snapper Allocation	

Meeting Participation (check at least one)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council	Washington DC Fishermen's Fly-In
February 7-8, 2018 Tallahassee, Florida <input type="checkbox"/>	January 29 - February 1, 2018 New Orleans, Louisiana <input type="checkbox"/>	TBD Spring 2018 <input type="checkbox"/>
April 25-26, 2018 TBD, Florida <input type="checkbox"/>	April 16-19, 2018 Gulfport, Mississippi <input type="checkbox"/>	TBD Summer 2018 <input type="checkbox"/>
June 19-20, 2018 Sarasota, Florida <input type="checkbox"/>	June 18-21, 2018 Key West, Florida <input type="checkbox"/>	TBD Fall 2018 <input type="checkbox"/>
September 26-27, 2018 Tallahassee, Florida <input type="checkbox"/>	August 20-23, 2018 Corpus Christi, Texas <input type="checkbox"/>	
December 12-13, 2018 St. Augustine, Florida <input type="checkbox"/>	October 22-25, 2018 Mobile, Alabama <input type="checkbox"/>	

Quota Bank Member Category (check one)

Please check the appropriate box.

I am a:

- Grouper fisherman that needs red snapper allocation to cover discards.
- Next generation red snapper fisherman.

The undersigned party agrees that the information contained in this Application is accurate and wishes to be considered for participation in the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Quota Bank in 2018.

Name

Signature

Date