



ALLIANCE UPDATE

The latest from the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance



2018 is shaping up to be another successful year for the Shareholders' Alliance. We continue to grow and expand as an organization, fighting for the commercial reef fish fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. However, threats from CCA remain and could ramp up in 2019 with another attempt at reallocation. The federal political landscape has also changed, and we are closely monitoring the lame duck Congress for the rest of the year. Keep reading to get up to speed on federal legislation, the Gulf Council, and other areas where we are fighting for your fishery.

Thanks,

Upcoming Events

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission Meeting
Baton Rouge, LA
December 6, 2018

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
St Augustine, FL
December 12-13, 2018

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources
Biloxi, MS
December 18, 2018

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Baton Rouge, LA
January 4, 2018

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources
Biloxi, MS
January 15, 2019

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Orange Beach, AL
January 28-31, 2019

Eric Brazer, Deputy Director

Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance

eric@shareholdersalliance.org / 919.451.1971

Newsletter at a Glance

- Midterm Election Results
- Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017
- Young Fishermen's Development Act
- Consumer Engagement in Houston, TX
- Shareholders' Alliance at Pacific Marine Expo
- Gulf Council Updates
 - Reallocation
 - Red Grouper
 - Amendment 36B
 - State Management of Red Snapper
 - New Requirements for Commercial Reef Fish Permitted Vessels
- Giving Tuesday
- Quota Bank
- Shareholders' Alliance Marketplace

LATEST LEGISLATION

Midterm Election Results

Everyone wants to know whether the elections helped us or hurt us. Long story short - it's still too early to tell what this change will mean for commercial fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, for Shareholders' Alliance members, and for legislation such as Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization. While it's likely that we'll see more opportunities to advance helpful solutions, the reality is that we'll still need to defend against CCA-led and other attacks. More details will be coming soon, but feel free to reach out any time to talk about this.

S. 1520 - Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017

[S. 1520](#) is still alive in the Senate, although Congress has a number of other priority issues to deal with these days. That

In the News

MSA Today: House approves Magnuson reauthorization
National Fisherman
[READ MORE](#)

House approves overhaul to Magnuson-Stevens
E&E News
[READ MORE](#)

Magnuson Reauthorization Bill Goes from Bad to Worse
Marine Fish Conservation Network
[READ MORE](#)

Atkins Seafood owner advocates for sustainable fishing, regulations in the Gulf of Mexico
Waxahachie Daily Light
[READ MORE](#)

Red Snapper: Unusual Experiment in the Gulf of Mexico May Ripple Nationwide
USA Today
[READ MORE](#)

We must protect our young fish populations
News Press
[READ MORE](#)

Where does traceability fit into the sustainable seafood conversation?
Marine Fish Conservation Network
[READ MORE](#)

Florida Businesses oppose S. 1520
Shareholders' Alliance
[READ MORE](#)

Where is the next generation of commercial fishermen?
Marine Fish Conservation Network
[READ MORE](#)

Red Grouper - one of the other red fish in the Gulf of Mexico

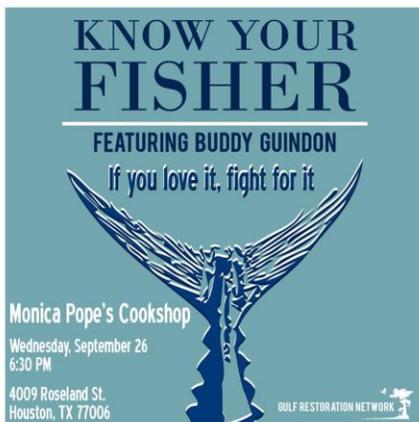
being said, S. 1520 is still a harmful bill and we continue to oppose it in its current form.

H.R. 2079/S. 1323 Young Fishermen's Development Act

The Shareholders' Alliance is actively working with Congressional leaders to create a program that will help usher in the next generation of commercial fishermen. We are not only working with representatives, but also with commercial fishing groups across the country to support this [legislation](#).

Consumer Engagement in Houston, TX

Last month, Executive Director Buddy Guindon was a guest speaker at a "[Know Your Fisher](#)" dinner in Houston, hosted by Gulf Restoration Network. Buddy discussed the importance of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the role the IFQ program played in rebuilding red snapper, and of supporting American seafood and fishermen. It was a successful event and we look forward to other opportunities where fishermen, consumers and chefs can come together over great seafood and great conversation.



Shareholders' Alliance at Pacific Marine Expo

Shareholders' Alliance Vice President, Jason DeLaCruz, spoke on a panel at the [Pacific Marine Expo](#) about the successes of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, some of the

Marine Fish Conservation Network
[READ MORE](#)

Know Your Fisher
Marine Fish Conservation Network
[READ MORE](#)

Reasons to Celebrate National Seafood Month
Marine Fish Conservation Network
[READ MORE](#)

Video Spotlight

The Shareholders' Alliance is a founding member of the Fishing Communities Coalition, which recently debuted a short video about the Young Fishermen's Development Act.

[WATCH HERE](#)

Stay Connected

- Get Involved
- Events
- Industry News
- Know A Fisherman Who Should Be A Member?

threats from the radical recreational lobby here in the Gulf of Mexico, and the precedent this could set for other fisheries. This was a great chance for us to share about challenges in our region and to network with commercial fishermen in other areas of the country.

GULF UPDATES



Gulf Council News

The Gulf Council met in August in Corpus Christi, TX and in October in Mobile, AL. Below are highlights from these two meetings.

Reallocation

CCA members of the Gulf Council continue to push for reallocation of red snapper. As with Amendment 28 a few years ago, it is the intention of CCA and other radical recreational groups to take away quota from commercial fishermen, seafood consumers, and charter fishermen to reward a private angler sector that has exceeded its quota 23 of the last 27 years. In June, Gulf Council staff introduced a [scoping document](#) that discussed some basic parameters and history of the red snapper fishery. While there has not been forward progress on the Scoping Document itself, the Gulf Council has been reviewing “triggers” that would initiate the reallocation process, and reviewing and editing the objectives of the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan. Commercial and charter fishermen remain in lockstep against this attack, and we encourage you to contact your Gulf Council member and express your concerns. [Contact your Council members here.](#)

Red Grouper

For several years, commercial and charter fishermen have been sounding the alarm that the red grouper stock is in trouble. Since 2016, landings have decreased and quota utilization has been low. This year, commercial fishermen

have only been able to catch 27% of the quota, and thus far recreational fishermen have only caught 8%. In October, in response to your outreach and recommendations from the Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Gulf Council initiated an action to reduce the red grouper quota in 2019 by 55% to approximately 4.6 million pounds. We support this proposed action as a good first step to helping protect and rebuild this valuable fishery.

Amendment 36B

Amendment 36B is primarily focused on changes to the IFQ program. CCA is trying to use this amendment to push through a rule that would penalize commercial fishermen if their estimates don't match landings. This amendment also looks at developing a government run Quota Bank to distribute shares. The Shareholders' Alliance supports industry run and fishermen-led quota banks as a way to reduce dead discards in the fishery and support the next generation of commercial fishermen. It remains unclear what the goal and objectives and overall structure of a government-run quota bank would be.

State management of red snapper

The first year of the States' exempted fishing permits is complete. With only one more year to manage the fishery under the EFPs, the States and the Gulf Council are working on a more permanent state management solution. Some State Directors still want to force the charter-for-hire sector into state management even though there is overwhelming opposition.

Public hearings will be held December and we encourage you to attend. [Find the meeting nearest you here.](#)

Reminder of new requirements for commercial reef fish vessels

Effective January 1, 2019, there will be [new reporting requirements](#) for commercial reef fish vessels. This change came out of Amendment 36A and the IFQ review. These changes mean:

- All owners or operators of a commercial reef fish permitted vessel landing any commercially caught, federally managed reef fish from the Gulf of Mexico will be required to provide an advance notice of landing at least 3 hours, but no more than 24 hours, prior to landing.

- This applies even if the reef fish landed are not part of the IFQ program.

ORGANIZATION NEWS

#GIVINGTUESDAY

We will be launching our first ever “Giving Tuesday” campaign on November 27th. Our goal is to expand our membership and raise funds to continue doing our critical work like defending against reallocation and fighting off CCA attacks. If you'd rather not wait until Tuesday, you can [donate here](#). Stay tuned to our Facebook page and please share with your networks! Thank you for your support.

Quota Bank

We are wrapping up another successful year of the Reef Fish Quota Bank where we've been able to put over 60,000 pounds of red snapper allocation into the hands of fishermen to reduce discards and the assist the next generation of fishermen. We encourage everyone who's interested in red snapper allocation to review our [web page](#) and the [2018 Application and Operations Plan](#). There will be some changes and improvements to the Quota Bank coming for 2019, so check back on the website often or contact [Eric](#) for more information.

Shareholders' Alliance Marketplace

We developed [Shareholders' Alliance Marketplace](#), or SAM, to provide fishermen with a dependable and transparent platform to buy or sell quota, permits, and other industry essentials. We believe that having a reliable and transparent marketplace allows fishermen to more easily buy and sell the things they need for their business. Having a trusted online platform makes these transactions simple and straightforward. By managing it as part of the Shareholders' Alliance website, we will provide users the opportunity to access timely news and updates on relevant threats and opportunities for your business and your fishery. The Shareholders' Alliance is working hard to protect what

you've built and wants to ensure that you are aware of decisions that are being made that impact your businesses.

Please visit the [site here](#).

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

Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance
1902 Wharf Road
Galveston, TX | 77550 US

[Facebook](#) • [Unsubscribe](#)