



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **December 17, 2018**

### ***U.S. Senate Passes the “Modern Fish Act”***

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders’ Alliance today issued the following statement upon the passage of S.1520 “Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017” by the United States Senate:

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders’ Alliance has worked closely with allies and Senate leadership since the introduction of S.1520 (the “Modern Fish Act”) to address harmful provisions in the bill that would have forced mandatory allocation reviews and restricted the use of management tools even if a majority of the fishing industry wanted to use them.

The version of the Modern Fish Act that passed today is an improvement over the version that passed out of the Committee, with many of our critical concerns being addressed. Moving forward, the bill allows an opportunity for fishermen to continue to provide input on these issues and for the issues to be objectively reviewed.

We greatly appreciate all the effort that Senators and staff put in to improving the bill, and we look forward to continuing to collaborate on ways to help foster solutions that help recreational fishermen without hurting commercial fishermen.

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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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