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Gulf Commercial Fishermen Commemorate Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2018
“Science-based Management Works”

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance today issued the following statement on the start of the 2018 Capitol Hill Ocean Week:

As we celebrate the start of [Capitol Hill Ocean Week](#), I wanted to take some time to speak on the importance of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Through the Magnuson-Stevens Act, over 44 different fish stocks have been rebuilt, making the United States a global leader in fisheries management, marine conservation and sustainable seafood. Red snapper is a prime example: in 2006 catch limits for the Gulf's commercial and recreational sectors combined to [five million pounds in 2008 and 2009](#). As of April 18th 2018, the recreational quota *alone* is over [six million pounds](#).

My teenage son, Conner, has been fishing his entire life and hopes to one day become a full time commercial fisherman. Growing up in the early 2000's, he saw first-hand how the red snapper fishery rebounded. [From 2005-2015 the spawning biomass tripled](#), and as a result, we are all enjoying a fishery now that is better than any in recent memory. This rebound has helped commercial fisherman grow their business and, in my case, helped me to teach my son about this great industry. My hope is to instill in him the understanding that we must protect the resource while we sustainably harvest it for seafood consumers across the country, whether they live in coastal Texas like we do or whether they live inland a thousand miles from the ocean. According to [a 2016 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) report, nearly 70% of seafood is consumed at restaurants; and I take great pride in being one of the individuals who help bring that resource to you and to support the American restaurant industry at the same time.

Science-based management is common sense and it works. I firmly believe that as long as we stick to the core principles of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the future looks brighter for my son and all those willing to help supply America with locally harvested, sustainable seafood.



Captain Bubba Cochran

President, Gulf of Mexico Reef Shareholders' Alliance

Galveston, Texas

Captain Bubba Cochran fishes out of his homeport in Galveston, Texas on his boat the f/v Chelsea Ann. He has been fishing for as long as he can remember, starting out on a charter boat when he was 17. Fishing commercially in the charter off-season, Bubba eventually became a full-time commercial fisherman. In his role as President, he supports and provides leadership to both the Shareholders' Alliance and [Gulf Wild](#). He is passionate about the sustainability of Gulf fisheries and works to protect the heritage of fishing for his family, especially his son, Conner.



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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.

www.shareholdersalliance.org