



ALLIANCE UPDATE

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

April 1, 2019



The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance is taking 2019 head-on, and we're excited for what this year is shaping up to be. At a local level, interest in (and applications to) our Quota Bank has skyrocketed as we continue to work with fishermen in the eastern Gulf reduce discards and also to help the next generation of fishermen build stable businesses. See the summary below about our upcoming Quarter 2 application deadline. Regionally, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council continues to tackle a wide range of complex fishery issues, from the good (necessary protections for red grouper), to the bad (recreational data), to the ugly (reallocation

Upcoming Events

[Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council](#)
Biloxi, MS
April 1-4

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Baton Rouge, LA
April 4

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources
Biloxi, MS
April 16

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Tallahassee, FL
May 1-2

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Baton Rouge, LA
May 2

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources
Biloxi, MS
May 21

proposals that penalize commercial fishermen for staying within their quotas and take access away from American seafood consumers). And on a federal level, we have a new Congress, a shift in power in the House, and changes in leadership. It's going to be a busy year, and we appreciate your continued support. Keep reading for more detail on these and other Shareholders' Alliance initiatives.

Thanks,



Eric Brazer, Deputy Director

Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance

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LATEST LEGISLATION

Spring Washington, D.C. Fly-In



The Shareholders' Alliance flew fishermen and staff to Washington, D.C. in March to educate and inform Congress on the impacts their decisions have on the working fishing families in the Gulf. We met with more than a dozen offices and organizations over two days to promote the success of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) and to educate representatives about some of the on-the-ground issues in the Gulf, including role commercial reef fish fishermen have played in red snapper rebuilding, the success of Individual Fishing Quota

(IFQ) programs in promoting safer fishing practices and increased business stability, and how changes to the fishery, including reallocation, will hurt commercial fishermen. We were well received, and look forward to our opportunity to

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Miramar Beach, FL
June 3-6

Capitol Hill Ocean Week
Washington, D.C.
June 4

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Baton Rouge, LA
June 6

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources
Biloxi, MS
June 18

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Baton Rouge, LA
July 1

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources
Biloxi, MS
July 16

Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
Baton Rouge, LA
August 1

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Miramar Beach, FL
August 12-15

Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources
Biloxi, MS
August 20

In the News

Senate Unanimously Passes "Compromise" Recreational Fishing Bill
SeafoodSource.com
[READ MORE](#)

Sustainable Fisheries Management in the Legislative Crosshairs
Civil Eats
[READ MORE](#)

Commercial fishermen

bring fishermen back again to walk the halls of Congress with us.

The Modern Fish Act

At the end of last year, President Trump signed the [Modern Fish Act](#) (S. 1520). The version of the Modern Fish Act that was signed into law was 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.

The Young Fishermen's Development Act

We, along with our partners in the [Fishing Communities Coalition](#), have helped support the reintroduction of the [Young Fishermen Development Act](#) (H.R. 1240, S. 496) in this new Congress. This legislation would establish the first national grant program to educate, train, and mentor young and beginning fishermen. This bill, which has bi-partisan support, will ensure the next generation of commercial fishermen have the training and tools necessary to navigate an industry and be successful.



stand to lose billions from government shutdown.

Washington Examiner

[READ MORE](#)

Video Spotlight

Through the [Fishing Communities Coalition](#), the Shareholders' Alliance works with commercial fishing organizations across the country. Check out this video from a young fisherman from the [Maine Coast Fishermen's Association](#) making her own way in the Maine lobster fishery.

[WATCH HERE](#)

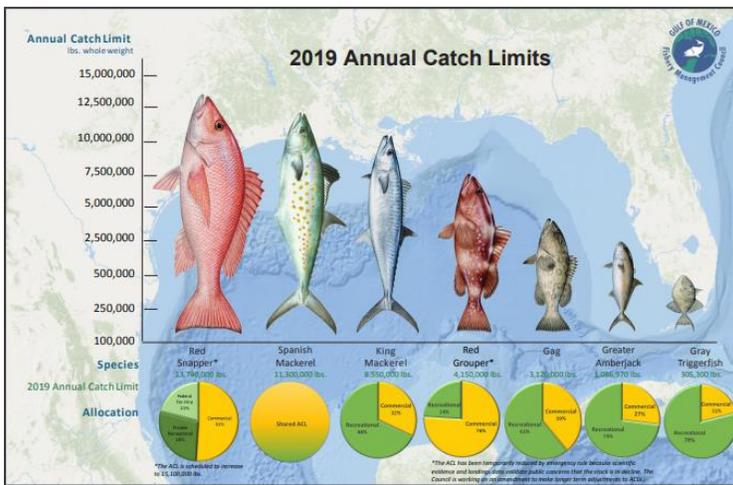
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[View video about Young Fishermen Development Act](#)

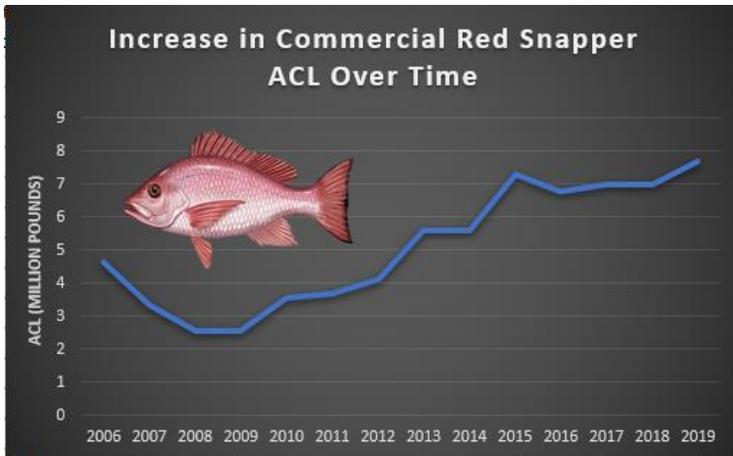
GULF UPDATES

Recreational fishing groups continue to claim that they need more fishing opportunities, despite the fact that in almost every fishery the recreational sector has a larger percentage of quotas. The Gulf Council regularly updates this graphic to demonstrate that shows how these quotas are almost always skewed to the recreational sector. The [2019 annual catch limits \(ACLs\)](#) and how they are divided between commercial and recreational fishermen are shown below. .



Red Snapper and Hogfish Quota Adjustments

In 2018, the Gulf Council approved an increase in the red snapper annual catch limit (ACL). Effective April 4, 2019, the commercial red snapper ACL will increase from 7.007 million pounds to 7.701 million pounds, an approximately 10% increase. In the same framework action, the Gulf Council reduced the West Florida hogfish ACL from 219,000 pounds to 129,500 pounds, approximately a 40% decrease.



Gulf Council News

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will meet in Biloxi, Mississippi this week.

Reallocation Update

CCA members that dominate the Gulf Council continue to push for taking red snapper away from accountable commercial fishermen and the seafood consuming public to gift it to a recreational sector that has exceeded its quota in [23 of the last 27 years](#). At the last Council meeting, a draft Amendment (Amendment 52) was presented that included specific alternatives that would reallocate this quota, yet **no one has been able to adequately explain why the Gulf Council is doing this**, what the goal is, or what problem reallocation will solve. **If you believe that hurting commercial fishermen isn't the right path forward, let the Gulf Council know by submitting a comment [here](#).**



ORGANIZATION NEWS

Quota Bank Update

The [Reef Fish Quota Bank](#) is off and running in 2019. More than 40,000 pounds of red snapper allocation have been committed to active and eligible fishermen participants in this groundbreaking program. If you're interested in learning more and applying to be part of this initiative, check out the updated Quota Bank [website](#) and the new online [application](#). Applications are now being accepted for Quarter 2 and the deadline is April 15.

Shareholders' Alliance Joins Net Gains Alliance



The Shareholders' Alliance has joined forces with leaders in the fishing community in an initiative called the [Net Gains Alliance](#). This global initiative is committed to modernizing fishery data and data systems. Recognizing that fishermen play a critical role in this process, the Net Gains Alliance has invited the Shareholders' Alliance to have a seat at this table. We look forward to working with this team of experts to improve the data we need to better manage fisheries. Doing so not only helps commercial fishermen and the fish that we've built our businesses on, but also helps provide better access for seafood consumers throughout the Nation.

Gulf Wild Update

Check out what's new with [Gulf Wild](#) these days, where your seafood comes with certainty!



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

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