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Florida fishermen feeding families in need during pandemic

Commercial fishermen partner with the St. Petersburg Free Clinic to distribute 20,000 lbs. of fresh fish

MADEIRA BEACH, FL – Today members of the [Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance](#) along Florida's Gulf Coast have announced a new partnership with a Tampa area non-profit to deliver fresh, sustainably-caught fish to families facing economic hardship created by COVID-19.

Over the next few months, up to 40 commercial fishermen in Madeira Beach will offload up to 20,000 pounds of red grouper and red snapper which, with the help of several area businesses, will be donated to [St. Petersburg Free Clinic](#) for distribution to the organizations and individuals it serves.

"We've been part of this community for our entire lives and we take pride in our work," said Bobby Carter, a Madeira Beach commercial fisherman. "It's important to look out for each other and to give back in times of need."

The fish will arrive at [Don's Dock](#) where it will be offloaded by [Wild Seafood Co.](#), processed by [Evan's Meats and Seafood](#), and then donated to the St. Petersburg Free Clinic. The clinic is a multi-service, independent, human services agency which provides Floridians assistance with food, shelter and health care.

"Since the onset of the pandemic, we've been serving at times up to triple the amount of families we typically support," said Jennifer Yeagley, CEO of St. Petersburg Free Clinic. "Half of these households have never had to visit a food pantry prior to COVID-19. So, we are very grateful to the local fishing captains and these businesses all working together to provide sustainable, local seafood to our neighbors in need."

All fish donated through this program will be tagged with the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance [Gulf WildTM](#) tags. These tags allow families to track the fish's journey from boat-to-plate and to enjoy their meal knowing the fish were harvested under some of the strictest conservation guidelines in the Gulf.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to bring our local fishermen and the community together, especially during these difficult times,” said Erin Grebenev, Local Program Lead for the program and Deck Boss at Wild Seafood Co. “I look forward to seeing this program continue to grow in the months ahead.”

The partnership is overseen by the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance, the largest organization of commercial grouper and snapper fishermen in the Gulf. The program is supported by [Catch Together](#), a nonprofit which raises funds to strengthen fishing communities and fishermen across the country who prioritize sustainable fishing practices. Catch Together is supporting similar efforts in other regions including [Alaska](#), [Maine](#), [Cape Cod](#), and [Martha's Vineyard](#).

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The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance is the largest organization of commercial grouper and snapper fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico. We represent the interests of commercial fishermen and other stakeholders who want to bring sustainability and accountability to fisheries management, in addition to engaging in a variety of fisheries support and philanthropic endeavors.