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Gulf of Mexico Commercial Fishermen Statement on Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance today issued the following statement on the introduction of the "Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020" by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-3), Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives:

"The bill reinforces many of the values we hold close – science-based management, sustainable domestic seafood production, collaborative research, and environmental protections. It is a good start to a necessary conversation about how to effectively manage our nation's fisheries in a changing environmental climate.

Commercial fishermen are experiencing first-hand the effects of climate change. We see it through the pages of a lifetime's worth of tattered notebooks that chronicle our fishing grounds. Fishing patterns, once driven by the calendar, are now shifting in space and time, and so is the composition of what we catch.

To address these conditions, we have relied on authorities contained in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to adapt our fishing businesses to ensure we can continue to feed a nation of seafood lovers. We are working closely with stakeholders and managers at Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meetings to craft the rules that protect fish, fish habitats, fishermen, and the seafood-consuming public. We are championing fisheries technology, including electronic video monitoring and catch reporting, that supports ocean protections through selective, responsible, and low impact commercial fishing, without the need to close off ocean areas. We are also partners in science and research, working to ensure that management measures are supported by robust data that fishermen help collect.

We look forward to working with Congress on this bill to help shape what the Gulf and its fisheries look like for our business today and for our grandchildren."

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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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