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Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance Statement on President Biden's Climate Change Executive Order

Gulf of Mexico commercial fishermen show optimism in response to commitment for collaboration

GALVESTON, TX – Eric Brazer, Deputy Director of the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance, released the following statement on President Biden's <u>Executive Order</u> on "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" that was announced yesterday:

"We are encouraged to see President Biden and his Administration acknowledge the important role that commercial fishermen play in helping craft sound ocean policies. We point to the recent successful expansion of the <u>Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary</u> off Texas as an example of a collaborative process with meaningful opportunities for collaboration.

"Commercial fishermen are on the front lines of climate change. We build and operate successful seafood businesses that must respond and adapt to the dynamic Gulf of Mexico marine ecosystem. We battle the tides, the weather, warming waters, growing hypoxic zones, and intensified algal blooms. But we persevere because we are at the helm of fishing businesses that support our families, fuel our coastal communities, and feed a nation that's demanding more sustainable seafood than ever before.

"We look forward to working closely with the Biden Administration to conserve important natural resources through collaboration, and with input from commercial fishermen, on policies that impact our industry, our communities, and the nation's seafood supply."

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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.