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Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance Statement on the National Academies of Sciences Review of Limited Access Privilege Programs in Mixed-Use Fisheries

Gulf of Mexico commercial reef fish fishermen support the findings and look forward to working with managers to implement them.

GALVESTON, TX – Eric Brazer, Deputy Director of the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance (Shareholders' Alliance), released the following statement on yesterday's report on "The Use of Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) in Mixed-Use Fisheries" by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (National Academies):

"As directed by Congress, the National Academies conducted a multi-year independent review of multiple Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs) throughout the country, including the Gulf's Red Snapper and Grouper/Tilefish Individual Fishing Quota programs.

The study found no negative impacts of commercial LAPPs on recreational fishing. It also found that LAPPs provide many benefits if the programs are appropriately designed to fit the characteristics of particular fisheries.

The study recommends that fishery managers implement recreational management reforms that foster accountability while enhancing fishing experiences and opportunities for all anglers.

The Shareholders' Alliance supports the findings, conclusions, and recommendations outlined in yesterday's report and looks forward to working with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries to implement the report's recommendations."

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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.

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