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## **Court Finds Red Grouper Reallocation Was Flawed, Remands to NMFS**

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance today issued the following statement on the decision by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to remand Amendment 53 (Red Grouper Reallocation) back to the National Marine Fisheries Service:

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Two years ago a coalition of commercial fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico sued the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for reallocating red grouper fishing quota from the commercial sector to the recreational sector.

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance, A.P. Bell Fish Company, and Southern Offshore Fishing Association argued that the reallocation was flawed and did not comply with legal requirements.

On March 1, 2024 the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed.

The Court found that NMFS contradicted its own economic analysis, and failed to explain how the reallocation promoted conservation or minimized bycatch.

The court remanded the action to NMFS for further explanation.

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**Media Contact:**

Eric Brazer, Deputy Director, Shareholders' Alliance, 919-451-1971  
[eric@shareholdersalliance.org](mailto:eric@shareholdersalliance.org)

*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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