



Celebrating Women in Gulf Fisheries

Today (March 8) is [International Women's Day](#), so we wanted to take this opportunity to showcase some [Shareholders' Alliance](#) members and family that help make our organization a success and our fisheries sustainable for today and future generations.

Donna Brooks

Donna Brooks has been part of the commercial fishing industry for the past 35 years, starting when she married a fisherman, with whom she raised three kids – two of which are active in Gulf fisheries today. Together they started and grew their business as her husband fished offshore for the first 8 years.

After that they built several more boats and hired captains and crew which gave them time to get involved in fisheries management, including attending meetings of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and outreach trips to Washington DC. Donna also

attended a fishermen's exchange trip in Campeche, Mexico to discuss fishery management solutions and ideas.

Donna is very passionate about educating the public about domestic and sustainable seafood. She served on the Shareholders' Alliance board for two years and is currently on the board of [Gulf Wild™](#) - a tracking and traceability program for Gulf seafood. Donna and her family are now revitalizing a small fish house near their home in Inglis, Florida into [Brooks Dockside Seafood](#), where they will offload boats of fresh seafood and operate a small retail market to serve the local community.



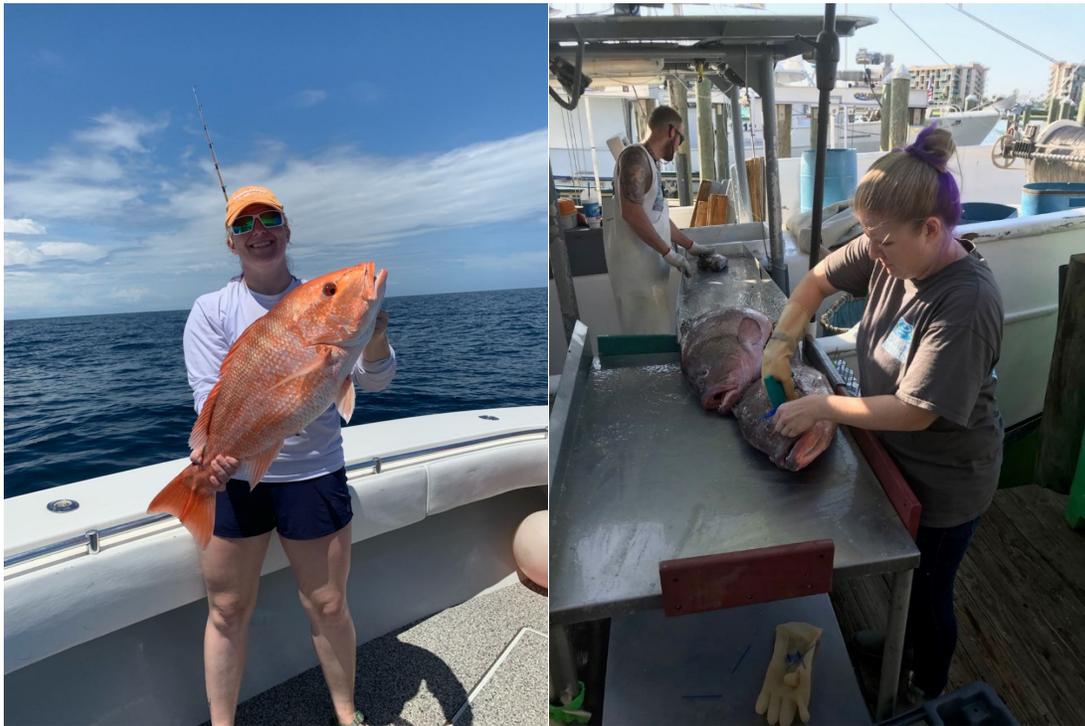
Meredith Pelton

Meredith Pelton is a member of Good Times Charters, Inc. – a commercial reef fish business that operates in Crystal River, Florida. Meredith is an integral part of this family fishing business and does everything from fishing offshore to legal and administrative work onshore, in addition to managing her own law practice. She supports measures in the fishery that perpetuate a sustainable business, and believes hard work and ethics should be woven into every facet of life and business.



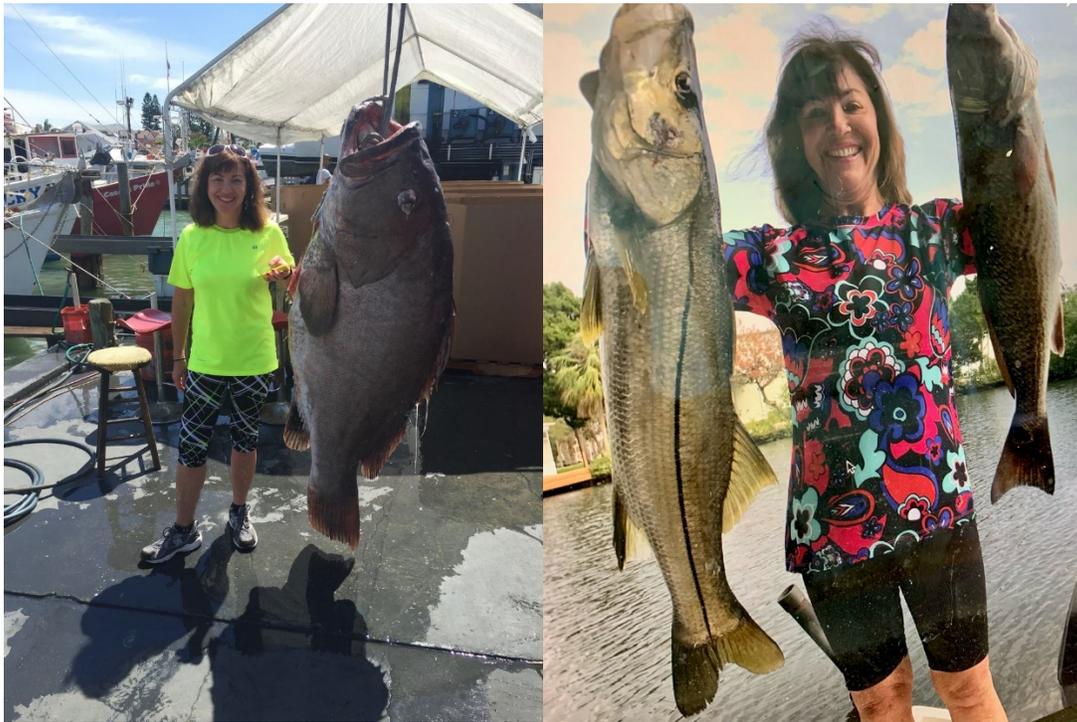
Ashford Rosenberg

Ashford Rosenberg's love for fishing started young and shaped her education and career path. Since 2018, she has been the Policy Analyst for the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance – the largest organization of grouper and snapper fishermen in the Gulf. Ashford is dedicated to promoting strong fishery science, accountable fishery management, sustainable seafood, and opportunities to train the next generation of the Gulf's commercial fishermen. Prior to joining the Shareholders' Alliance team, Ashford managed fisheries outreach at the Audubon Nature Institute in New Orleans and was the Sustainability Coordinator for the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, TN.



Lisa Schmidt

Lisa Schmidt is the owner of Bohica Fishing Corporation in Palm Harbor, Florida. Lisa managed the business with her husband John until he passed away in 2014, at which point Lisa took over. Her business currently owns 2 grouper longline boats and employs many captains and crew. Lisa is a passionate advocate for science, accountability, and professionalizing the Gulf's reef fish fishery. She is a fixture at meetings of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; and serves on the Planning Team member of the Gulf Young Fishermen's Development Program, and an electronic monitoring research partner with Mote Marine Laboratories in Sarasota. In 2020, Lisa was [recognized by NOAA](#) as one of a core group of women who support electronic technologies in fisheries throughout the nation. Lisa believes in providing young fishermen with opportunities to build their businesses to keep the future of commercial fishing alive in the Gulf of Mexico.



Patty Zurbrick

Patty Zurbrick is a managing partner of Tide's Up Fisheries, based in Steinhatchee, Florida. For many years, Patty fished with her husband Captain Jim Zurbrick on the Jolly Rogers II on rod-and-reel and spear fishing trips. She now manages all the offloads for Tide's fisheries, which includes 3-5 commercial fishing boats in Steinhatchee. Patty is a director of [Fish For America USA](#), holds a US Captain's license, and is the Local Lead on a program that is collaborating with Lombardi's Seafood and the Shareholders' Alliance that is donating grouper and snapper to families in need in north Florida. She's a regular at Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission meetings.



[Join the Shareholders' Alliance today!](#)

The Shareholders' Alliance is the largest organization of commercial grouper and snapper 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.

www.shareholdersalliance.org

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