



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
 Southeast Regional Office  
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 St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast>

03/09/2022

F/SER24:PH

Mr. Dale Diaz, Chair  
 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council  
 4107 West Spruce Street, Suite 200  
 Tampa, Florida 33607

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Dear Mr. Diaz,

This letter advises you that NOAA Fisheries approved Amendment 53 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico (Amendment 53) on March 9, 2022.

As you know, Amendment 53 does the following for Gulf of Mexico red grouper:

- Revises the Gulf red grouper allocation from 76% commercial and 24% recreational to 59.3% commercial and 40.7% recreational,
- Increase the recreational annual catch target (ACT) buffer from 8% to 9% and sets new sector ACTs, and
- Modify the overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), sector annual catch limits (ACLs), and sector ACTs as listed in millions of pounds gutted weight in the table below.

	OFL	ABC	Commercial ACL	Recreational ACL	Commercial ACT	Recreational ACT
<b>Current</b>	14.16	13.92	3.16	1.00	3.00	0.92
<b>MRIP-FES equivalent</b>			(5.26)	(2.10)		(1.93)
<b>Proposed</b>	4.66	4.26	2.53	1.73	2.40	1.57

NOAA Fisheries expects a final rule to implement Amendment 53 to publish soon.

NOAA Fisheries appreciates the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's ongoing efforts to manage the commercial and recreational sectors as well as prevent overfishing of the red grouper stock while achieving optimum yield.

Sincerely,

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 Date: 2022.03.09 11:31:16 -05'00'

Andrew J. Strelcheck  
 Regional Administrator

