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The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance applauds approval of red snapper state management for private recreational anglers

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance (Shareholders' Alliance) today issued the following statement on the approval of Amendment 50 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan:



Today, in a landmark decision, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) unanimously passed Amendment 50 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan, which grants the Gulf States the opportunity and authority to manage private anglers fishing for red snapper in federal waters. This action also preserved the opportunity to continue to manage private recreational anglers and the federally-permitted charter/for hire fleets in ways that are tailored to the different practices of each group, by removing the sunset provision on Sector Separation.

The Shareholders' Alliance applauds the Gulf Council and the five Gulf States for their leadership and diligent work on this important issue.

This victory underscores the existing opportunities that a strong Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act provides America's fishermen. It also demonstrates the ability of local managers on the Gulf Council to solve fishery problems by working together with the very fishermen their decisions impact. This is a prime example of finding innovative solutions to help recreational fishermen that do not hurt commercial or charter/for-hire fishermen.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Gulf Council and National Marine Fisheries Service to improve recreational accountability and data collection, advance charter/for-hire solutions, and protect the commercial fishing industry that helps provide seafood access to millions of Americans.

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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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