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***Celebrate National Seafood Month with the
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance***



October is National Seafood Month, and it's the perfect time to celebrate sustainable, American-caught seafood and the hard-working men and women who harvest it for you to enjoy. In 2016, [commercial fisheries generated \\$144.3 billion in sales and supported 1.19 million jobs across the country](#). In the same year, reef fish fishermen from the Gulf of Mexico caught approximately 17.5 million pounds of snappers and groupers worth \$62.6 million. Our economic, cultural, and ecological contributions are substantial and integral to the Gulf region and throughout the nation. The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance (Shareholders' Alliance) – the largest organization of commercial snapper and grouper fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico – is committed to protecting and providing sustainable,

American-caught seafood to consumers across the country. We are proud of this role and thank you for your support.

How can you celebrate National Seafood Month?

1. **Support America's commercial fishermen.** When you are at a restaurant or grocery store, ask where the seafood comes from. If it was wild-caught in the U.S., then you're likely making a sustainable choice. If you really want to know the story behind your seafood, ask for [Gulf Wild™](#) tagged fish and get your seafood with certainty.
2. **Learn about the fishery management process.** The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act is the backbone of our fishery laws, and it helps ensure that our fisheries are managed for both the fish and the fishermen. In the Gulf of Mexico, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) meets five times per year to discuss and develop rules to manage fisheries in federal waters. All meetings are open to the public and rely on public input. Find a [Gulf Council meeting near you](#) and get involved in the process – we hope to see you at the [Galveston, TX meeting](#) on October 21-24.
3. **Join us!** We work to protect fish and fishermen, and we invite you to be part of our team. If you're into conservation, love sustainable seafood, and/or want to support the men and women that set sail into the Gulf of Mexico every day, you'll fit right in.



[Join us!](#)

How is the Shareholders' Alliance celebrating National Seafood Month?

1. **We're featuring fishermen.** This year, we are taking the opportunity to showcase some of our fishermen leaders who are committed to bringing sustainable seafood to Americans like you across the country. They are proponents of sustainability, science-based management, and conserving fish populations in the Gulf of Mexico; they are businessmen and women; and they are pillars of their working waterfronts and traditional fishing communities. Stay tuned to our [Facebook Page](#) to meet some of the people behind the snapper and grouper on your dinner plate.
 2. **We're staying involved in the management process.** We will also be active at the previously-mentioned October meeting of the Gulf Council. We look forward to working with our fishery managers to promote better science and responsible management for red grouper, protect the successful red snapper and grouper/tilefish management programs, and build support for improved fishery data and reporting systems that get us away from antiquated paper and pen reporting and towards
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electronic solutions. Consumer access to sustainable seafood relies on effective management, and that message is at the heart of what we do.



While National Seafood Month may only last 31 days, Gulf commercial fishermen take enormous pride in ensuring that U.S. consumers can enjoy fresh, domestic, sustainably harvested seafood 365 days a year. We invite you to be part of the history of Gulf seafood, whether it's enjoying a plate of red grouper, or writing an email to one of your fishery managers. Join us in making the most of National Seafood Month this year and help us promote sustainable U.S. seafood year-round.

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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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