

Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Quota Bank

A program of the
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance



GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

JUNE 4, 2019

MIRAMAR BEACH, FLORIDA

Drivers of Change

- ▶ Increasing and expanding red snapper population
- ▶ Precipitous decline in red grouper
- ▶ Quotas lagging behind biomass
- ▶ Increase in discards
- ▶ Fishery transition.



Industry Response - Grassroots Initiative

- ▶ Cooperative industry-based leasing program
- ▶ Rapid response
- ▶ Accountability
- ▶ Allocation access
- ▶ Complement the existing market-based IFQ programs



Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Quota Bank

- ▶ 2013: Strategic Planning
- ▶ 2014: Research and Development
- ▶ 2015: Launch
- ▶ 2016-2019: Operations



EPA Gulf Guardian Award
2nd Place, Non-Profit Category
November 2017



Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Quota Bank

Program Priorities

- ▶ Reduce red snapper discards in the Eastern Gulf grouper fishery (2015 – 2019)
- ▶ Support the next generation of commercial fishermen (2017 – 2019)



Goals and Objectives

Conservation

- ▶ **Reduce red snapper discards and discard mortality** in the grouper fishery
 - ▶ Facilitate allocation acquisition
 - ▶ Promote selective fishing practices
 - ▶ Maximize retention.



Goals and Objectives

Economic

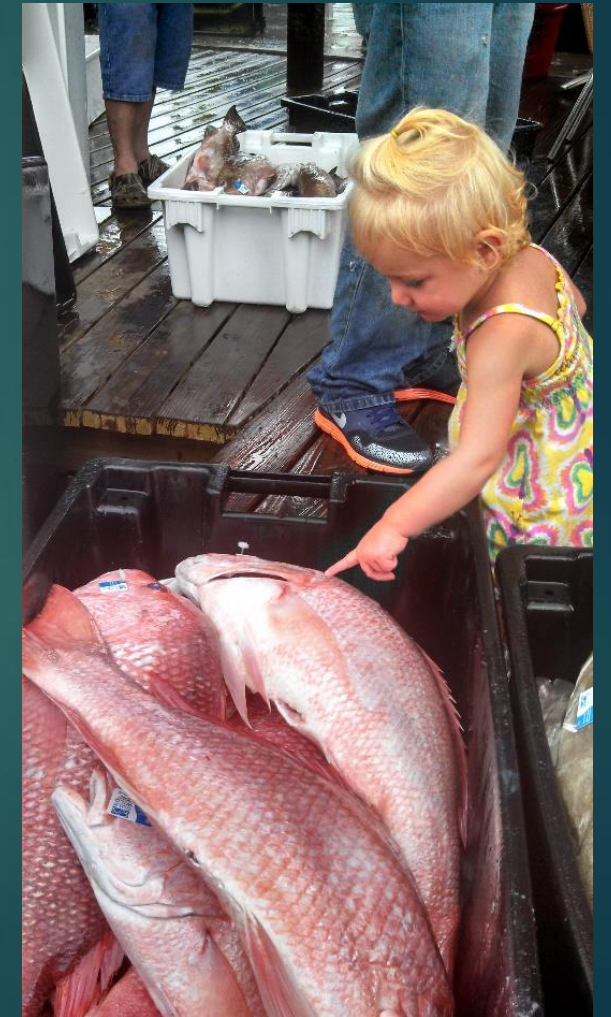
- ▶ **Improve profitability** of fishing businesses and supply-chain businesses and **provide business stability** for next generation of commercial fishermen
 - ▶ Provide access to allocation
 - ▶ Support reinvestment in fishing businesses



Goals and Objectives

Social

- ▶ **Increase accountability** of commercial fishermen
 - ▶ Maintain higher reporting and operating standards
- ▶ **Support the next generation** of commercial reef fish fishermen
 - ▶ Facilitate business development
 - ▶ Access to the Shareholders' Alliance
- ▶ **Build replicable model**
 - ▶ Communities can replicate and adapt to meet their needs.



Goals and Objectives

Management

- ▶ **Build capacity** for more commercial fishermen to actively participate in the fishery management process



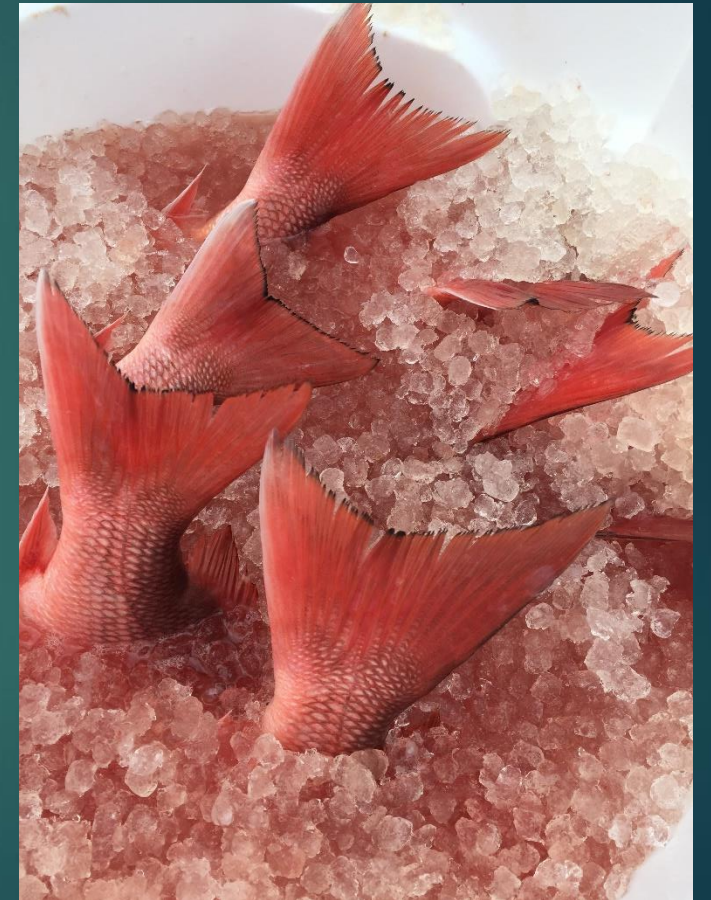
Program Operations

Structure and Governance

- ▶ Shareholders' Alliance Board of Directors
- ▶ Shareholders' Alliance Deputy Director and Policy Analyst

Portfolio

- ▶ Bought ~50,000 lbs
- ▶ ~15,000 lbs contributed as equity
- ▶ Plus additional contributions = **~75,000 lb**



Program Operations

Participation

▶ **Eligibility Criteria**

- ▶ Own an active reef fish permit
- ▶ Have an active IFQ account
- ▶ Shareholders' Alliance membership
- ▶ Electronic reporting
- ▶ Meeting attendance



Program Operations

Best Business Practices

- ▶ Reduce discards and discard mortality
- ▶ Allocation will be caught, not re-leased
- ▶ Improved catch reporting and accounting
- ▶ Meeting attendance
- ▶ Support the Quota Bank and work with the Shareholders' Alliance to evolve and improve the program over time



Concluding Remarks

1. Structure and governance are critical.



Concluding Remarks

1. Structure and governance are critical.
2. Programming is essential.



Concluding Remarks

1. Structure and governance are critical.
2. Programming is essential.
3. **Success is a commitment.**





Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance

eric@shareholdersalliance.org

919.451.1971

www.shareholdersalliance.org

