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***The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance  
Thanks Our Senators for Supporting \$300 Million to Assist  
Commercial Fishermen***

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance today issued the following statement on the latest stimulus package passed by the Senate:

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Last night, after lengthy negotiations, the Senate passed a bi-partisan stimulus package that will inject \$2 trillion into the economy in response to the crisis surrounding COVID-19. Not only will this stimulus package assist small businesses across the nation, it also will specifically help the commercial seafood industry, whose fishing activity and supply chains have been significantly disrupted over the last several weeks.

Gulf of Mexico commercial fishermen have been severely impacted by restaurant closures, as more than two-thirds of seafood in the U.S. is consumed in restaurants. In 2018, Gulf of Mexico commercial fishermen caught [374 million pounds of seafood worth \\$780 million](#). Commercial fishing in the Gulf is a significant contributor to our coastal economy. With the current restricted supply chain due to restaurant and other food business closures, jobs in the Gulf of Mexico seafood industry are at risk.

This bill designates \$300 million in fisheries disaster assistance from impacts of COVID-19. This is a crucial first step in helping fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico and across the country. We applaud the initiatives of state and local governments to take precautions to keep citizens safe, but mitigation efforts for fishermen who

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supply these businesses, such as the language included in this third stimulus package, will be crucial.

The next step is for the House of Representatives to pass the bill, which would then be sent to President Trump's desk to be signed into law. We continue to urge quick action by our leaders to help the American seafood industry.

There is still work to be done, and it will take time to fully understand the economic impacts of this unprecedented crisis. But on behalf of Gulf of Mexico commercial fishermen and seafood businesses, and the millions of seafood consumers we help feed, the [Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance](#) extends a sincere thanks to our Senate leadership, especially those within the Senate Appropriations and Commerce Committees, for swift action to provide assistance to American commercial fishermen.

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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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