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Supporting the Domestic Seafood Industry During the COVID-19 Outbreak

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance today issued the following statement on the COVID-19 outbreak and how to support American commercial fishermen and the domestic seafood industry:



As cities and states implement restrictions, business closures, and quarantining procedures in an attempt to slow down the outbreak of COVID-19, impacts are already being felt in the seafood industry as supply chains are significantly disrupted. This is an issue both in the Gulf of Mexico and nationally. The [Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance](#) encourages consumers to support commercial fishermen and the domestic seafood industry by continuing to eat Gulf of Mexico and U.S. wild-caught seafood.

American-caught seafood is a healthy, sustainable choice of protein and remains a dining option at grocery stores and take out restaurants across the country.

Can you be exposed to the coronavirus by eating seafood?

No. This week, the [Food and Drug Administration released a statement](#), confirming that there is no evidence of food consumption or food packaging being associated with the transmission of COVID-19.

How can you know the seafood you're buying was caught by an American fisherman?

[Country of Origin Labeling Laws](#) (COOL) require grocery stores to display and identify the country of origin for food products.

When ordering take out seafood from a restaurant, if the origin is not located on the menu, ask the restaurant to provide that information for you.

Commercial fishermen work hard to provide top quality seafood to fish houses, restaurants, and grocery stores across the nation. By purchasing and eating seafood harvested in the U.S., you are supporting our economy and supporting an industry who, like so many others, is feeling the immediate and short-term impacts of this outbreak.

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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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