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Commercial and Charter Voices Preserved in Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Appointments

The [Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance](#) (Shareholders' Alliance), [Charter Fisherman's Association](#) (CFA), [Destin Charter Boat Association](#) (DCBA), and [Florida Guides Association](#) (FGA) today issued the following joint statement on [Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council](#) Appointments.

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance (Shareholders' Alliance), Charter Fisherman's Association (CFA), Destin Charter Boat Association (DCBA), and Florida Guides Association (FGA) commend the U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo for [appointing](#) Mr. Juan "John" Sanchez and Captain Troy Frady to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council). The Gulf Council is responsible for the sustainable management of our marine resources and functions best when there is a diverse balance between the commercial, charter/for-hire, and private angler fishing sectors.

The appointments of Mr. Sanchez (Florida) and Captain Frady (Alabama) are a positive step in the right direction by maintaining a balance of interests on the Gulf Council, with three of the seventeen members making a living in the commercial or charter/for-hire fisheries under the Gulf Council's purview. These appointments also add needed diversity, which will lead to more informed decision-making that benefits all stakeholders, and confirm a commitment to conservation and accountability.

While we applaud the addition of Mr. Sanchez and Captain Frady, we still have a long way to go before there is truly balanced representation on the Gulf Council from all fishing sectors - commercial, charter/for-hire, and private anglers.

Fisheries are inherently dynamic. They face increasing challenges including stronger hurricanes, changing ecosystems, business pressures, and shifting regulatory landscapes. Now, perhaps more than ever, it is important that the Gulf Council is populated with people who understand how management decisions made around a meeting table affect the hard working men and women on the water. The Secretary's decision to appoint Mr. Sanchez and Captain Frady reflects an understanding of the complexities within Gulf fisheries, and the need to lead with science-based management that promotes healthy fisheries, economically viable fishing businesses, and resilient fishing communities.

Mr. Sanchez brings a range of invaluable experiences and insights into the Gulf Council process. He has worked in the commercial industry for decades, including a previous appointment to the Gulf Council. He prioritizes conservation while balancing the needs of fishermen who rely on a healthy Gulf to feed their families and this great nation. His appointment also adds important diversity to this stakeholder body and creates more inclusive access for Spanish speaking fishermen in the Gulf.

Captain Frady has ties to the ocean that go back 40 years through his service in the Navy and his family-centric charter fishing business in Orange Beach, Alabama. He has been a steadfast advocate for sustainable fishing practices and the economic health of the charter industry. His presence on the Gulf Council will ensure that charter/for-hire fishermen continue to have a strong voice in the management of Gulf fisheries.

By maintaining the voices of both charter/for-hire and commercial fishermen, the Administration has shown that it agrees that the men and women who make a living on the water shouldn't lose their seat at the table. We thank Secretary Raimondo for this support and we look forward to working with all Gulf Council members on advancing our collective effort to protect and sustain a healthy Gulf of Mexico, viable fishing businesses, and resilient coastal communities.

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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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