



Updated Information on Response to COVID-19 Outbreak, Request for Information, and Resources Available

We continue to get new information about responses to the situation around COVID-19, and continue to get requests for data on how the commercial seafood industry in the Gulf is being impacted. Below is some updated information about efforts on The Hill, statements from NOAA Fisheries, and another request for economic information.

Home Our Team Get Involved Quota Bank More ▾

Information Regarding Coronavirus Response

Take the COVID-19 Economic Impact Survey

We continue to get questions about the economic impact on the commercial seafood industry. Therefore, we have created a survey to obtain some quantifiable data. Please take five minutes of your time to fill it out. We will not be collecting businesses names.

[Take the Survey](#)

————— Federal Resources and Assistance Available —————

Shareholders' Alliance Webpage Devoted to COVID-19 Resources

With things changing quickly and new information about resources available to small businesses, including the commercial seafood industry, the Shareholders' Alliance has a dedicated page on our website for Federal and State Assistance. We will keep this as up to date as possible, so check back frequently.

[View our Coronavirus Response Webpage](#)

Commercial Reef Fish Fishery Economic Impact Survey

If you have already shared your story with us about how the COVID-19 response has impacted you, thank you. We continue to get questions about the economic impact on the commercial fishing and seafood industry. Therefore, we have created a survey to obtain some quantifiable data from you. This will help us support your cause and make your case for maximum financial relief. Please take five minutes of your time to fill it out.

[Take the Survey](#)

Seafood Industry Sends Letter to President and Congress

The national seafood industry came together and sent a letter to the President and Congress outlining actions that should be taken to preserve the seafood industry during this crisis. The main points in this letter include:

- Ensuring the USDA's Section 32 funding levels are maintained and expanded to include an additional \$2 billion in funding that will directly support the supply chain of domestically produced seafood to end consumers.
 - Provide an initial \$1.5 billion to the Department of Commerce to provide direct relief for fishery disasters caused by Federal, State, and Local government responses to COVID-19.
 - Appropriate a minimum of \$500 million for the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, to purchase surplus commercial seafood that can be shipped overseas or supplied to domestic organizations.
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The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance, as an organization and as a member of [Seafood Harvesters of America](#), fully supports the effort behind this letter and urge Congress to act swiftly to aid the commercial seafood industry.

[Read the Letter](#)

NOAA Implements Emergency Action for Observer Requirement

Today, NOAA Fisheries issued an emergency action that grants the Regional Administrator authority to waive observer coverage, some training and other program requirements on a case-by-case basis.

Under this emergency action, a NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator, Office Director, or Science Center Director can waive observer requirements in three specific circumstances, after consulting with observer providers. The three circumstances are:

- The providers do not have sufficient observers to staff a fleet or a port or a vessel (i.e., the observers are under quarantine).
- The providers cannot physically get observers to fishing vessel departure points - perhaps because of travel restrictions, or shelter in place guidance, etc.
- The providers do not have enough trained observers because we could not offer training due to building access restrictions, meeting guidance, etc.

[Read the Full Press Release](#)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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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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