

Gulf of America Commercial Fishermen Applaud Presidential Support for U.S. Seafood Industry

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The <u>Gulf of America Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance</u> (Shareholders' Alliance) and commercial fishermen across the Gulf commend <u>President Trump</u> for recognizing the vital role of the American seafood industry in our nation's economy, food security, and cultural heritage.

The Shareholders' Alliance represents members from all five Gulf states, including many in the President's home state of Florida. Nationally, the commercial fishing industry generates \$183 billion in sales and supports 1.6 million jobs. The Gulf, especially Florida, plays a major role in this success, contributing \$24.6 billion in sales impacts and \$4.6 billion in income impacts.

At the heart of this industry are the men and women who dedicate their lives to fishing — hardworking commercial fishermen whose livelihoods depend on the sea and whose efforts feed millions of Americans. These individuals are essential providers of healthy, wild-caught protein, and their small family-owned businesses are pillars of their coastal communities. Generations of fishing families have built their lives around the ocean, sustaining local economies, preserving maritime traditions, and contributing to the nation's food security.

The Shareholders' Alliance looks forward to our role in the process as this Executive Order is implemented. We stand ready to work with federal agencies like the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Gulf Council so that all Gulf commercial fishermen have a seat at the table. NOAA and the Gulf Council have built relationships with fishing communities and, when their core mission and essential roles are functioning efficiently, are uniquely positioned to help deliver results that benefit fishermen and the economy alike.

We are encouraged by the President's commitment to shining a national spotlight on the challenges and opportunities faced by commercial fishermen. His support sends a strong message that American fishing jobs and coastal economies matter.

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