

**Subject:** Snapper Season

**Date:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013 1:42 PM

**From:** carson ulrich <culrich22@hotmail.com>

**To:** Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>

**Conversation:** Snapper Season

Dear sir or madam,

I am a gas station/marina owner in Franklin county. I have noticed the impact in a negative way on my business, I rely on the fisherman's business. We sell fuel, bait, ice and everything needed for a snapper trip. With our snapper season being SO short it is REALLY hurting us! Please take this in to consideration, us small businesses are hurting because of your action! We NEED a longer red snapper season!

**Subject:** Fishing Regulations  
**Date:** Saturday, February 9, 2013 10:03 AM  
**From:** John Kimbrough <johndkimbrough@gmail.com>  
**To:** John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>  
**Conversation:** Fishing Regulations

Council,

After attending your Mobile, AL meeting February 5th, I have realized that you seem to spend your entire time arguing over the details while missing the much broader point. It doesn't matter how you allocate between Recreational and Commercial fishing, when the real problem is the Total Allowable Catch in the first place.

Just like the US Post Office, you are not amending or changing with the dynamic world. Your stock assessments are erroneous, and even you know it. With respect to Grey Triggerfish, you published an article last summer about how the stock was depleted, and thus closed the season in the Gulf. However, you based this on the actual catch. Yet, you fail to realize that the catch is down not because the population has simply disappeared since 2008? The catch is down as an unintended consequence of mandating the use of Circle Hooks. Authorized experiments last year proved this, yet you simply refuse to acknowledge this data.

As for Red Snapper... where to start? I would be a fool to deny that conservation efforts have helped rebuild the Red Snapper stock. However, Regulatory bodies are fools to deny that Red Snapper populations have EXPLODED with the creation of the massive artificial reefs. In the 30 years I have been fishing the Gulf Coast of Alabama, Florida, & Texas, I have never seen so many Red Snapper. Especially now in Alabama, you literally cannot drop a bait (whether live, dead, or even artificial) w/out catching a Red Snapper. Your own evidence shows the size of kept Red Snapper doubling since 2007. This does not happen w/ an unhealthy stock.

And yet, you continue to ignore this massive reef population when determining the stock assessment. Why? You have to realize that only a fool would ignore that. But then, you count the fish taken off these artificial reefs in the allowable catch.... THAT MAKES NO SENSE! And I also contend that any Court of Law would find this unreasonable too.

You are a government agency. Again, look at the US Postal Service. They have failed to keep up with a changing dynamic, and they are now faced with reductions, and possible closure at some point. This will be your fate too if you do not act rationally, and you continue to unfairly deny access to resources which are amazingly abundant. I suspect that you may find that all too soon w/ the failure to

reauthorize Magnus-Stevenson this year... that is unless you cease and desist your dishonest and unjust limitations on fishing.

It seems that you have adopted a childish attitude towards the States that are not abiding your Federal regulations. "If you don't play by my rules, then I am taking the ball and going home!" However, did it ever occur to you why these States are abandoning your rules? It is because they are arbitrary, and unreasonably limiting. On top of that, you then lash out at States that continue to employ your policies, even though they have devastating impacts to the communities. If you continue, I expect that no State will continue to follow your rules.

While Alabama has vastly more Red Snapper than any other State, you plan on cutting our fishing allocation to offset what you perceive as over-fishing in these other states? Yeah, that makes sense. Really? Get your act together, otherwise there will be no regulatory group to oversee fishing management. And that would be bad for all of us. Again, I respect the idea of managing our resources, but it must be done in a responsible manner. You are not meeting that criteria... not even close.

John Kimbrough  
Fairhope, AL

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Jarvis [mailto:cobiachamp56@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, February 08, 2013 2:35 PM

To: Phyllis Miranda

Subject: Public testimony

Well here we are .....still..... trying to desperately grasp at what ever little morsel this council is willing to wave enticingly in front of the federal permitted CFH businessman..... to keep us disjointed, confused , angry , and divided. I believe it's the old " defeat them by attrition due to disillusionment in management plan" The political lobby who has superior representation on this council has executed the perfect plan. Status quo and its recent rule making that applies only to charter for hire permitted vessels for effort controls in recreational fisheries .....CAN, WILL and IS .....destroying the access of the non boat owning public. Does this Lobby on this council say to its self? " we do not have to do anything" . "In fact status quo is so effective we must make sure we don't do anything" . " Better yet let's move our arms and legs to make it appear we are working at a feverous pace....at doing nothing" . Its now becoming more apparent .....Let time take its toll, lets get rid of the number one competitor to our recreational allocation .....the professional charter fishermen.....and their public angling customers who can just buy a fish if they want to eat a fish..... ( THAT IS.....at least until we reallocate all of those public consumers fish into our boutique private fishery ) .

The red snapper fishery Is only one species in the Status quo FMP but is the shining example of the total failure of status quo to meet the needs of all user groups.... not just one. For years the CFH fishermen/ businessmen came to this council in good faith, with a attitude of compromise and innovative ideas on how to bring all fishermen into a accountable recreational fishery that would stop overfishing annual allocations. Presenting plans, pilots, ,compromising ideas that all will lead to a 21st century accountable recreational FMP that would increase access for all recreational anglers in a rebuilding fishery.

Status quo will not increase access to a rebuilding fishery. Science agrees with antidotal evidence that red snapper fishing is the best in this century. The so called fatally flawed data has agreed that snappers are plentiful . We have increased allocations from 5.1 million pounds to 8.2 million pounds in only 4 years , this council and the NMFS has given fishermen 3.1 million on this pounds of snapper back .

BUTT and this is a monstrous BUTT the status quo management has reduced our recreational access by 66% to all those new snappers .....a total of 3 million pounds.....during this same time frame. DO YOU HEAR ME ? .....3 million pounds increase resulted in 66% less access. Status quo is the reason .....it has led to overfishing the annual allocation 5 out of the last 6 years.....so why have you not changed the system? why are you failing all recreational fishermen?

Capt. Gary Jarvis F/V Back Down 2

Providing access to our Gulf fisheries for the American consumer and recreational fishermen for 34 years

Capt. Gary Jarvis F/V Back Down 2

Providing access to our Gulf fisheries for the American consumer and recreational fishermen for 34 years

**From:** Chuck Wheeler [mailto:chuckwheeler@bellsouth.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 09, 2013 07:19  
**To:** Steve Bortone  
**Subject:** Red Snapper????????????????????? What are you thinking

This is not the way we should be taking care of our fisheries. Red Snapper are a pest here in Carrabelle, FL. We can't catch other reef fish because we can't keep red snapper off our hooks. So we catch them, vent them and send them back to die or the porpoise get them.

*Chuck Wheeler*

-----Original Message-----

From: [davidaaldrich@aol.com](mailto:davidaaldrich@aol.com) [mailto:[davidaaldrich@aol.com](mailto:davidaaldrich@aol.com)]

Sent: Friday, February 08, 2013 8:09 AM

To: Phyllis Miranda

Subject:

I own a boat and fish regular in gulf shores. I have never seen the snapper as thick as they are now. I hope you guys lengthen the season. I hope you don't disaPpoint us  
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

February 7, 2013

Mr. Doug Boyd, Chair  
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council  
2203 North Lois Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33607

Re: Recommendations to ensure the red snapper stock keeps rebuilding

Dear Mr. Boyd:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the management of Gulf of Mexico fisheries. We urge the Gulf Council to ensure that the management actions it takes foster ongoing progress toward rebuilding the overfished red snapper stock. Certain proposals under consideration threaten to slow or set back rebuilding and raise a concern about pressing the fishery back to “overfishing” status. The rebuilding underway is largely attributed to the commercial red snapper management plan. Now, important improvements to recreational management are needed to further advance rebuilding and meet the goals of recreational interests. Our comments and recommendations are discussed below:

**1. Ensure that the red snapper population keeps rebuilding**

Ending overfishing and getting rebuilding on-track for the overfished red snapper stock is one of the Council’s management successes, and important steps are needed to keep rebuilding underway.

***Maintain effective operation of the commercial management program because it is a leading contributor to the rebuilding underway.*** The Council’s commercial red snapper management plan implemented in 2007 – using individual fishing quotas and eliminating or reducing season closures, trip limits, and size limits – is meeting the objectives established by the Council. The plan’s 5-year review confirms that it has stopped the destructive “race-to-fish”, cut discarding, helped end overfishing, and contributed to expanding stock abundance.<sup>1</sup> For the first time in decades, catch limits are steadily rising, rather than shrinking, for both commercial and recreational fisheries. Keeping the program working effectively is central to continued rebuilding. A few key steps could further improve the program, including eliminating the minimum size limit and implementing better at-sea monitoring.

***Ensure that actions the Council is exploring for recreational fisheries do not slow or reverse red snapper rebuilding progress.*** There are a variety of proposals under consideration to improve recreational

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<sup>1</sup> NMFS SE Regional Office (2013). Red Snapper IFQ Program: Overview of the Program.

management.<sup>2</sup> Under current management, the recreational sector collectively exceeds the quota most years, even though anglers and for-hire operations as a whole comply with regulations. This is a systems problem, rather than an individual compliance problem.

Unfortunately, options such as adjustments to bag limits and seasons will only perpetuate the failures we have seen under the status quo. For instance, one proposal – Amendment 28 to reallocate red snapper from the commercial to recreational quota – states the “need” for the action as “to prevent overfishing while achieving the optimum yield.”<sup>3</sup> However, without improvements in management the pattern of overages will continue even if the recreational quota is higher, and the result is almost certain to be quota overages even larger than those in recent years. In addition, commercial management’s contribution to rebuilding would be undermined by reducing fishermen’s long-run economic stake in the fishery.

Management actions that introduce risks to rebuilding and threaten to return the stock to “overfishing” status can be in violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act’s central requirement to prevent overfishing and the requirement to rebuild fisheries as soon as possible.<sup>4</sup> Considerations of shifting quota to the recreational sector prior to improving catch accountability would call into question the red snapper FMP’s requirement to contain “measures to ensure accountability,”<sup>5</sup> and appears to violate National Standard 4, which states that allocations shall be “reasonably calculated to promote conservation.”<sup>6</sup> In addition, while the Council currently emphasizes economic efficiency, National Standard 5 requires that economic efficiency cannot be the sole criterion in allocation decisions, overriding other national standards and rebuilding requirements.<sup>7</sup>

It is also important to note that alternatives in Amendment 28 are not supported by the economic analysis presented. The issue of “economic efficiency” is being highlighted in relation to improving net benefits for the nation, one objective of fishery management. However, analysis from NMFS and the Council’s Socioeconomic SSC show that the proposals simply replace one inefficiency with another.<sup>8,9</sup> While the analysis suggests the values (willingness to pay) for additional red snapper quota are different in the commercial and recreational sectors, it does not suggest that efficiency will be improved by shifting quota. This is because values change as allocations change, and how much those values could change is unknown. The best science available cannot measure how reallocation will change net benefits to the nation. For these reasons, in its January 2013

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<sup>2</sup> Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (2013). Fisheries Management Alternative for Extending the Red Snapper Recreational Season.

<sup>3</sup> Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (2013). Red Snapper Allocations. Draft Options Paper for Amendment 28 to Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish.

<sup>4</sup> Magnuson-Stevens Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1851(a)(1), 1854(e)(4)(A)(i).

<sup>5</sup> Magnuson-Stevens Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1853(a)(15).

<sup>6</sup> Magnuson-Stevens Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1851(a)(4).

<sup>7</sup> See Magnuson-Stevens Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1851(a)(5) "Conservation and management measures shall, where practicable, consider efficiency in the utilization of fishery resources; except that no such measure shall have economic allocation as its sole purpose."

<sup>8</sup> Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (2013). Report: Socioeconomic SSC Meeting. January 16, 2013.

<sup>9</sup> Agar, J.J and D.W. Carter (2012). Is the 2012 allocation of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico economically efficient?



motion, the Council's Socioeconomic SSC stated it does not support reallocation except by trading quota across sectors.<sup>10</sup>

**2. The Council and stakeholders should focus the Council process on designing new recreational management that contributes to rebuilding and provides longer seasons and other benefits anglers and recreational fishing businesses seek.**

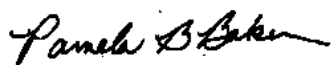
Today's recreational management is failing, and status quo options will not solve the problem. Recreational regulations are not working for anglers, fishing businesses, or the goal of rebuilding the stocks. Although individual anglers comply with the regulations, the seasons get shorter and shorter, leading to frustration and a lack of faith in the management system. Understandably, no one is happy with the prospect of a 27 day season in 2013. Proposals to adjust bag limits, seasons, and allocation extend seasons by a few days at best.

Instead, we recommend the Council and stakeholders focus on developing new red snapper recreational management with the goals to contribute to rebuilding of the stock and meet other important objectives including longer fishing seasons. The Council has already discussed new management models that are a good place to start. Examples include proposals for headboat IFQs, charter days-at-sea, harvest tags, and inter-sector quota transferability. These options should be further developed to see how they can provide needed benefits for the stock and recreational fisheries: longer seasons, improved access and flexibility, better data and information, and contributions to rebuilding.

**Conclusion**

Recreational and commercial fisheries are important to the region's economy and culture. Both sectors seek long seasons and management that accomplishes this goal can also be good for the economy and rebuilding of the stock – the commercial red snapper fishery is one example. Just as the Council made significant changes to commercial management seven years ago which are now paying off, now it needs to make significant improvements to improve recreational fisheries management. This is not easy and there are no perfect off-the-shelf models for effective long-term management in joint commercial/recreational fisheries. However, new management models offer promising features and potential to expand recreational fishing access without undermining rebuilding. This can improve economic efficiency, preserve conservation incentives, and help relieve the allocation impasse that is stalling fishery management progress in the Gulf.

Sincerely,



Pamela Baker  
Director, Gulf of Mexico Oceans Program



Daniel Willard, Ph.D.  
Economist, Gulf of Mexico Oceans Program

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<sup>10</sup> The motion reads: "The Committee does not support a reallocation between sectors of the GOM red snapper as large as 1% without giving strong consideration to the market transferability across the two sectors." Agar & Carter (2012) reach the same conclusion: "Inter-sector trading would allow the market to provide valuable price signals to help ensure that the red snapper quota is allocated efficiently and in a way that provides the greatest economic benefits to the nation."

**Subject:** Please pass this around to the council members and post  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2013 4:01 PM  
**From:** tom adams <4tomadams@gmail.com>  
**To:** Info <Info@gulfcouncil.org>, Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>  
**Cc:** tom adams <4tomadams@gmail.com>  
**Conversation:** Please pass this around to the council members and post

***I have been looking for the correct way to explain the red snapper situation in the gulf. I think I have found it This imaginary biomass number that says when the rs stock is totally rebuilt is totally wrong. We ARE rebuilt and need to go back to a 2 fish 6 month season now. The imaginary number they came up with for the stock to be rebuilt- has to be 10 times higher than what it actually needs to be. If we get any more snapper out there in the gulf ,there will be no other species left. They(Red Snapper) are the most aggressive feeders and reproducers as it seems.***

***Let me explain it this way my Friend Capt Chuck Guilford was –hired by the Fwc for fish tagging, went out 5 weeks ago on a a 10 hr trip with 5 Fwc people fishing. In the 6.5 hrs of fishing time they caught,tagged and released 364 RS in waters from 60 to 87 ft deep from 8 to 12 miles offshore. That is not counting the 75 to 80 other fish they caught. Does it seem right to you to catch 4 to 5 times as many red snapper as all other species combined? He is 82 yrs old and 4th generation fisherman from the mexico beach pc area. He has seen the ups and owns of rs and other species and is adamant that we are screwing up the species balance OF THE GULF. .Put that testimony with about 500 other cfh fishermen that are 2nd or 3rd generation that say the same thing , plus all the rest of us captains that are out there 100 days or more/yr and you can see that the council and Noaa are looking for a biomass number that is way too high. We Have reached a more than proper number of snapper in our area. Start catching the rs for a while and let other species rebound. Commercial should not keep anything less than 24 inches 16 for recs. That will help to get rid of some of these huge rs that are decimating the other species of fish on our reefs and man made structures.***

***Thanks,  
Capt. Tom Adams- Mexico Beach Charters  
Recreational Fishing Alliance- Chairman- Forgotten Coast Chapter  
311 Nutmeg St, Port St Joe, Fl 32456  
850 -381-1313 www.mexicobeachcharters.com <http://***

*www.mexicobeachcharters.com/> or .net*

Dear Gulf Council Members

I would propose the Gulf Council and NMFS look at managing recreational anglers in the Red Snapper fishery on numbers of fish caught. That number should be based on a legal size fish of a ten year average weight.

Example (A)

Annual Gulf of Mexico recreational red snapper landings in numbers and pounds whole weight, 1998-2009.

	<b>Year</b>	<b>Landings (lbs ww)</b>	<b>Number Caught</b>	<b>Avg. Weight (lbs ww)</b>
	1998	4,260,891	1,225,279	3.48
	1999	4,001,898	993,398	4.03
	2000	3,935,348	988,875	3.98
	2001	4,471,359	1,064,275	4.20
	2002	5,386,618	1,372,296	3.93
	2003	4,849,296	1,259,960	3.85
	2004	4,998,990	1,292,022	3.87
	2005	4,086,941	1,031,350	3.96
	2006	4,025,435	1,201,348	3.35
	2007	4,443,206	1,338,082	3.32
	2008	3,713,406	864,815	4.29
	2009	3,581,005*	713,093*	5.02

In this data provided above you will see from 1998 to 2007 (4.5 million lb. TAC) recreational anglers caught an average of 1,177,000 fish per year with an average weight of 3.3 lbs.

Recreational anglers had an average 195 day red snapper season.

In 2008 the TAC was lower to 2.5 million lbs and a season was set from June 1<sup>st</sup> to Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> based on an increase of a 4.5 lb. average fish. A 29% increase in weight.

In 2009 the TAC remained at 2.5 million lbs and a season was set from June 1<sup>st</sup> to Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> based on a 5 lb. average fish. An 18% increase in weight. A loss of 150 days out of the 195 day season!!

In 2010 the TAC was raised to 3.4 million lbs. and a season was set from June 1<sup>st</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup> based on an increased average weight to 7.5 lbs per fish. A 54 day season!!

Although the TAC was increased by almost a million lbs the average weight of each fish has more than double and the abundance of fish has increased exponentially, yet there was another loss of days in the season due to the increase in average weight of each fish.

In 2011 there was 123,000 lbs. added to the TAC to give us 3.5 million lbs with a 48 day season with an increase of average weight fish of 9.5 -10.5 lbs. A 48 day season!!

From 2007 to 2011 there has been a 75% increase in average weight of each fish caught but from 2008 to 2011 there has only been a 33% increase of 1.075 million lbs in the TAC!

Example (B)

YEAR	TAC	AVERAGE WEIGHT	NUMBER OF FISH CAUGHT	SEASON LENGTH
2006	100	2	50	180 DAYS
2007	100	3	33	110 DAYS
2008	100	4	25	90 DAYS
2009	100	5	20	60 DAYS
2010	100	6	16	45 DAYS

IN EVERY YEAR SCIENCE ALLOWED 100 LB TAC. MARINE FISHERIES MANAGERS APPLIED THE INCREASED AVERAGE WEIGHT. THE RESULTS, LESS FISH ALLOWED TO CATCH, THUS REDUCED SEASONS

This is just an example, but one can surely see that current management practices make no allowance for an increase in TAC to offset for the increased weight of the fish.

You could carry this example from 2012 and beyond, with a projected average weight increase of 75% every three years and an increase in TAC of only 33% or less every four years, we will never have an increase in seasons again.

(1998-2007) average 1.2 million fish harvested

(2008) 864,000 fish harvested

(2009) 713,000 fish harvested

(2010) 253,000 fish harvested

(2011) estimated 371, 000 fish harvested

Thirty days next year, twenty days the next and so on with less days to fish every season. Sector separation, days at sea, catch shares none of these plans will fix this scenario. Nope the only way out of this downward spiral in our season is to change the way fisheries managers count or should I say weight our fish.

Here in America we have very successful wildlife and freshwater fishery management plans ; they are managed by the number of game you allowed to take **NOT BY POUNDS!** In freshwater, again managed by number of fish allowed to harvest **NOT BY POUNDS!**

They have wildlife and fish surveys and check stations to monitor the age and growth of wildlife and this should continue in saltwater as well but they don't shorten seasons based on the fact the weight of the deer or ducks killed one season were bigger or the fish caught were bigger. No in fact they would admit there management was successful and would lengthen the season not punish them for their success.

We should continue to survey our saltwater fish for weight and size for science purpose, but manage TAC under an average weight of a legal size fish, if a 16 inch fish weights 3.5 lbs. then the fishery should be managed according to that weight.

Thank You

Scott Robson

DCBA Co President

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Ken Grimes" <kgrimes@cityoforangebeach.com>

Date: Feb 7, 2013 12:41 PM

Subject: Highlights for Gulf Council presentation

To: <benfairey@gmail.com>

Cc: "Tony Kennon" <tkennon@cityoforangebeach.com>, "Phillip West" <pwest@cityoforangebeach.com>

Mayor Tony Kennon of the City of Orange Beach stated the following points related to our fishing industry....

1. "The Heritage"....our fishing heritage predates our communities and yet, "it is who we are!" The history of fishing is rich for Orange Beach and the Alabama Gulf Coast but that history carries on today and is vibrant with third and fourth generation fisherman still working the waters!

2. "Economic Driver". Fishing is an economic engine and is the number two attractor, just behind the beaches, for our entire tourism industry which draws over 5 million people here each year. Our fishing industry has proven economic impacts and is a stable foundation of much of our local economy as the captains, deckhands and marina staff all live in the immediate area while they service a huge segment of our guests year round.

3. "Largest Reef Investment". The State of Alabama along with the local municipalities had the foresight to invest and construct one of the largest artificial reef systems in the world. The fishery that has been cultivated is "our crop" and now the Federal Government is restricting the access to that crop? It is our right to cultivate and harvest the very fish population that we have developed over the past several decades. The State of Alabama should have a direct say in what we have cultivated and managed with impeccable care and planning!

Please consider your actions carefully as they affect so many in a potentially negative way. This economy, which is already in dire straights, could be

detrimentally impacted by the results of a wrong decision. This action could be the final nail in the coffin for our fisherman and their livelihood. Showing Wisdom and not blindly following policy is a sign of true leadership! We appreciate your diligent consideration of this matter.

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Ken Grimes, City Administrator

City of Orange Beach

PO Box 458

Orange Beach, Alabama 36561

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/cityorangebeach> <https://twitter.com/#!/cityorangebeach>



**Subject:** Fwd: Red Snapper- GOM management  
**Date:** Saturday, February 2, 2013 11:15 AM  
**From:** Joe nash <captjoenash@gmail.com>  
**To:** John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>  
**Conversation:** Red Snapper- GOM management

Had wrong address had to forward

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Joe nash** <captjoenash@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Sat, Feb 2, 2013 at 10:11 AM  
**Subject:** Red Snapper- GOM management  
**To:** gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.gov

The management of the GOM fish is terrible , sorry but the truth hurts. All the public testimony and you still stand behing "our hands are tied we are to uphold the laws set" well you can do something and it is up to you and people in your position to do it, well it requires WORK and we all know most people will not go above and beyond when they are just an employee. I am a charter for hire owner operator and I do know what work is and am foregetting as we speak becuae these so called laws are keeping me from working. Enough of that I am concerned that the management of the fisheries is in a rut and we are not managing the whole GOM ecosystem correctly and we all know it and need to change this. We are protecting all the predatory fish, the ARS average size is larger now than ever and soon between saving them , amberjacks and grouper we will have an empty gulf becuae there will be nothing for them to eat. Now is the time for change before this gets to out of hand, ARS need to be controlled not managed at this point. Somewhere there comes a time for a change in management it seems all of the available science is and has been done the same way for many years , time to change this and then we can expext some different results. Micro manageing species works for a while and you should have hero status on red snapper due to the overwhelming population of them but this species is just mud in the face becuae of beauricratic bs, let the people catch some its like hoarding its no good . The proper management of a fishery encompasses more than just numbers on paper, it should reoresent a healthy resource that can be sustained and properly exicuted can sustain a healthy businness. I know you are trying to help within the law but if you know it is wrong and you do not want to do the extra work neccessary to make proper changes for the health of the ecosystem and the people of the United States that depend on you for doing what is right, then step down and let someone who can and will fight for what is right. I only can hope this will make the people in the positions that have the oppurtunity to make a difference wake up and either resign or go to Work for the people and the fish. Look outside of the box please

--

Capt. Joe Nash

Cool Change Charters Inc.

Orange Beach, Al.

[www.coolchangecharter.com](http://www.coolchangecharter.com/) <<http://www.coolchangecharter.com/>>

251-979-1812 <tel:251-979-1812> cell

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Capt. Joe Nash

Cool Change Charters Inc.

Orange Beach, Al.

[www.coolchangecharter.com](http://www.coolchangecharter.com/) <<http://www.coolchangecharter.com/>>

251-979-1812 cell

**Subject:** RED SNAPPER

**Date:** Sunday, January 27, 2013 7:26 PM

**From:** Regina F. Rouse <rfrouse@bellsouth.net>

**Reply-To:** "Regina F. Rouse" <rfrouse@bellsouth.net>

**To:** John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>

**Conversation:** RED SNAPPER

To whoever will listen , in the summer of 2012 ny son and I went offshore and caught and released so many snapper tnat averaged 5-7 pounds by 10 a.m. we were wore out and had to come in, the catch is it was out of cocodrie in 55- 65 foot of water and for every fish we caught 25 to 30 fish followed the caught fish to the surface, and we have not fished snapper in 10 years, the new policy is bull , lets get a grip on this so I can take my Grandchildren fishing before I die, RESPECTFULLY JERRY ROUSE

**Subject:** Red Louisiana Coast  
**Date:** Sunday, January 27, 2013 1:10 PM  
**From:** blossom200@yahoo.com  
**To:** John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>  
**Conversation:** Red Louisiana Coast

Red Snapper are more abundant in closer shore waters. Having fished the Fucheon south are for 31 years, the last five years including 2013 have seen red snapper closer to shore each year and larger reds closer each year. They are abundant. Most sports & sports guides would have no problem recording catches by telephone. An aside is that red snapper often prevent and/or interfere with mangrove fishing.

Thank you  
From Captain Jerry D's iPhone

**Subject:** <no subject>

**Date:** Monday, January 21, 2013 2:19 PM

**From:** Lacy Shaw <lshaw@shawvision.com>

**To:** John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>

The gulf council has several proposals on the table.

1) no action that would leave a 2 fish bag limit and a 40 day season.

As you can see non are good but the 1st is the best.

I suggest combine the 1st bag limit but allow only Friday, Saturday, Sunday fishing and extend the season.

Thanks

Lacy B. Shaw O.D.

The Vision Source Alexandria

[lshaw@shawvision.com](mailto:lshaw@shawvision.com) <mailto:Dawn@shawvision.com>

phone: 318-442-7787

fax: 318-443-1654

**Subject:** Red Snapper

**Date:** Friday, January 18, 2013 9:38 PM

**From:** Steve Fugatt <sfugatt@fugattindustries.com>

**To:** Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>

**Cc:** Joe Vanderslice <vanderslice-j@comcast.net>, David Mills <huntfish24@gmail.com>

**Conversation:** Red Snapper

Charlene Ponce:

Please to tell me how I can protest the proposed changes to the offshore fishing rule changes for Red Snapper. As I understand, the proposal is to reduce the fishing days to 27 and the bag limit to 1/person. I would like to know what data supports this kind of unnecessary restrictions to Florida residents; especially on the Gulf Coast. My fishing activity over the last 4 years support the best red snapper fishery that I have seen in over 50 years of fishing the waters offshore of Panama City (Bay County). I have discussed my concerns with Governor Scott and State Representative, Jimmy Petronis and I am waiting their response. I have offered them any assistance that I may be able to provide them should they need me, and I will extend that to you as well. With these proposed changes, you might as well close the fishery entirely, as the cost to purchase all the supplies necessary to go off shore will not justified the expenses and efforts. That really upsets me, I enjoy passing this tradition on to my grandkids, and somebody, with inaccurate data is imposing on my like style and freedom. That's not right! I fought for this Country to keep our freedom, not to loose it.

Sincerely

Charles S. Fugatt

Phone: (cell) 850-596-1066

**Subject:** RED SNAPPER  
**Date:** Friday, January 18, 2013 1:52 PM  
**From:** John Houser <johnh@bwssal.com>  
**To:** John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>  
**Conversation:** RED SNAPPER

PLEASE THINK ABOUT THE ECONOMIC EMPACT THE 27 DAY 2 FISH LIMIT HAS TO OUR STATE,AND WHEN IT SHOULD NOT BE SO SHORT. PLEASE LOOK AT THE DATA AND COME UP WITH SOMETHING THAT MAKES SENSE. I HAVE BEEN MAKING A LIVING FOR FORTY YEARS AND I DONT SEE HOW I CAN CONTINUE TO DO SO AND MY 15 EMPLOYEES. PLEASE LOOK AT IT

John Houser  
Blue Water Ships Stores of Alabama, Inc.  
8103 Highway 59 South  
Foley, AL 36535  
251-943-4179  
251-943-3912

January 17, 2013

Gulf Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue

Suite 1100

Tampa, FL 33607

We definitely need more days to fish for red snapper. I recommend that you go over the data that has been collected. There is an abundance of red snapper; during last year's red snapper season (if you could call it a season) 90% of the time I couldn't get a line to the bottom to catch other species, due to the red snapper. This is proof that someone is not doing their job. I feel we are being discriminated because of the flawed data on the red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico.

Sincerely,

Dave Buckner, Deckhand

Southern Lady Charters

850-348-9827



**Subject:** Red Snapper  
**Date:** Thursday, January 17, 2013 9:08 AM  
**From:** Steve J. Chatry <SJChatry@WeeksMarine.Com>  
**To:** John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>  
**Conversation:** Red Snapper

Gulf Council

I'm 50 years old and a resident of south Louisiana all my life. I'm an avid offshore fishermen and have fished the local waters since childhood. Based upon my observations and offshore experience, the red snapper is the most prolific species in the area today, it's ironic that it is also the most heavily regulated (maybe that's why it's so prolific!) . I become more convinced every year that the science behind determining whether or not a species, particularly the red snapper, is in jeopardy has to be flawed. It seems to me that the regulatory agencies should be spending more time on evaluating the health and population of a species and less time on managing the harvest. If my, and other offshore fisherman's, observations are typical then clearly the take limits are far too low. I think it's time to come up with a new matrix for measuring population, one that includes input from both recreational and commercial fisherman.

Ironically, I think the ever increasing take limits may be contributing to a higher mortality rate. For instance, if a fisherman is restricted to 2 or less fish per day, he is likely to cull his catch for the biggest possible fish. Although there are regulations in place to protect released fish (circle hooks, venting tools), I have to believe that the likelihood of a fish surviving post catch is fairly low. Based upon the current proposals on the table, I would recommend holding the limit at 2 per person and adjusting the season to weekend only.

Steve Chatry

January 14, 2013

Gulf Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue

Suite 1100

Tampa, FL 33607

We definitely need more days to fish for red snapper. I recommend that you go over the data that has been collected. There is an abundance of red snapper; during last year's red snapper season (if you could call it a season) 90% of the time I couldn't get a line to the bottom to catch other species, due to the red snapper. This is proof that someone is not doing their job. I feel we are being discriminated because of the flawed data on the red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico.

Sincerely,

Captain Jacob Tankersley

Southern Lady Charters

850-227-5860

January 14, 2013

Gulf Council

2203 N. Lois Avenue

Suite 1100

Tampa, FL 33607

It is sad that we are still being discriminated by the National Marine Fisheries for using flawed data on the red snapper population in the Gulf of Mexico.

We definitely need more days to fish for red snapper. I recommend that you go over the data that has been collected. In my 36 years of fishing I have never seen the abundance of red snapper as we have today, which tells me that someone is not doing their job.

I will be glad to carry any one of you to go fishing aboard the Lady J 11 and see firsthand the abundance of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico.

Sincerely,

Captain Danny Tankersley

Lady J Charters

850-227-1200

**Subject:** New message from your mobile website, 03609da.mynetworksolutions.mobi  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 10:36 PM  
**From:** Mobile Alerts <alerts@site.mobi>  
**Reply-To:** <miclijr@aol.com>  
**To:** John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>  
**Conversation:** New message from your mobile website, 03609da.mynetworksolutions.mobi

**Subject:** Snapper season 2013 and beyond

**Message:** The proposal mentioned on our snapper season is a joke. There are more snapper than u can imagine in the gulf right now. It is time that we, the recreational fisherman take our waters back. There is no way that your numbers are real on what the snapper stock really is. Greed money is what you are taking your actions on. We should not suffer for you all to make a dollar.

Tired of being the victim

As long as I have been legally fishing, my lifetime, I have never been surveyed, where are you getting your numbers from?

I vented and released five times the snapper I kept the past two years.

Someone has an agenda that completely fiction.

No more bull crap on our gulf snapper season. It's our Gulf of Mexico.

Email: miclijr@aol.com

Phone: 2516809169

**Subject:** Red snapper  
**Date:** Saturday, January 12, 2013 10:49 AM  
**From:** Dr.Michael Kleamenakis <mkleamenakis@yahoo.com>  
**To:** John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>  
**Conversation:** Red snapper

I believe the no action alternatives are the fairest to recreational anglers. The one fish alliterative would be unacceptable to the public. Anglers would not go out to target Red snapper and place an increased pressure on other fish, grouper, amberjack.

My suggestion is to keep the two fish bag limit and eliminate fishing during the week, allowing recreational fish on weekends. This would enable a longer season.  
Sent from my iPad

**Subject:** <no subject>

**Date:** Sunday, January 13, 2013 1:41 PM

**From:** davidaldrich@aol.com

**Reply-To:** <davidaldrich@aol.com>

**To:** John Milner <GulfCouncil@gulfcouncil.org>

Go ahead and just take our fishing away. I bet less than half of the council actually fish. Well, probably more like 20 percent. The snapper are so abundant. We went out around the holidays in our own boat fishing for red fish. In 1 hour we caught over 100 snapper that weighed over 15 pounds and only 3 red fish. This happened everyday for the entire week. Snapper are everywhere. Last year snapper season was awful. We have 26 foot boat. We did not fish for at least 3 weeks due to the waves and weather. We actually fish and know the real facts. The right thing is to extend the season at least til aug 1st with 2 per day per angler. Stop punishing the recreational anglers! We are good people who work hard and look forward to fishing during the summer. But I don't manage a fish population. Good luck! I know you guys are catching some hell.  
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

**Subject:** Closed Seasons

**Date:** Friday, January 4, 2013 11:29 PM

**From:** Myron Franklin <Mfrank657@aol.com>

**To:** Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>

**Conversation:** Closed Seasons

If you all want to preserve fish species, the closed season should be when fish area spawning. Red Snappers spawn in the summer time. It doesnt make since to harvest fish when they are about to reproduce.

Franklin

**Subject:** Update my e-mail address.  
**Date:** Thursday, January 3, 2013 5:34 PM  
**From:** bill <billvirg1@cox.net>  
**To:** Charlene Ponce <charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org>  
**Cc:** Coursen Bill <billvirg1@cox.net>  
**Conversation:** Update my e-mail address.

Charlene,

Please update my e-mail address to billvirg1@cox.net instead of billvirg@cox.net.

Thanks.

Also a couple of comments concerning the Council's Meeting Notice dated Dec 14,2012.

I wish the NMFS would do something about their lack of a good way to perform an accurate stock assessment for red snapper. The SSC has "estimated" the recreational fishermen have overharvested the red snapper by 1.6 million pounds during the 2012 recreational season. The 2012 season, due to the tropical storm, Debby, I think is the name, amounted to about a three week season. Of course, the season was extended by six days which did not help the fishermen very much still due to weather in the Gulf Panhandle. Even doing good weather we did not observe very many boats out fishing for snapper. I think the SSC estimate is off but we can still use an increase in the acceptable biological catch in 2013. The abundance of red snapper are reducing other species by eating them.

The two limit red snapper regulation should not be reduced to one snapper. With the abundance of red snapper the limit should be increased. On my boat we fish three to five persons who are friends and we share the expenses. After we catch our limit, we try to catch other species that are open but



mostly we will still catch red snapper. A two snapper per person limit makes for some expensive fish.

I wish you well and hope you have a great New Year.

Sincerely,

Bill Coursen