

Subject: New message from your mobile website, 03609da.mynetworksolutions.mobi

Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 7:44:54 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Mobile Alerts

To: Gulf Council

Subject: Gulf snapper season

Message: The current change to snapper season is an act of communism

Email: horn84@att.net

Phone: 7137220089

Subject: New message from your mobile website, 03609da.mynetworksolutions.mobi

Date: Sunday, May 25, 2014 at 9:23:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Mobile Alerts

To: Gulf Council

Subject: Red snapper season

Message: Ian 14 years old and have never seen as many red snapper in five years as I did last year. I think that the red snapper season should be year round with a 7 snapper per person limit. There are so many snapper out there that it is hurting the grouper and scamp populations. How can the survive when snapper are eating their offspring and all of the baitfish. And how can the commercial fisherman make their living with eleven days to fish. And they can't fish with the state regulations because they have the federal fisheries charter permit. I think that you are doing a horrible job at regulating the fish and are trying to ruin peoples lives.

Email: matthewcostin1@gmail.com

Phone: 8503582005

Subject: Red Snapper Season 2014 - Missing Data

Date: Monday, May 19, 2014 at 3:54:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Bob Bryant

To: TheSec@doc.gov, Kathryn.Sullivan@noaa.gov, Eileen.Sobeck@noaa.gov, Roy Crabtree, Gulf Council

CC: David Van Voorhees, Luiz Barbieri, Nick Wiley, GaryPoyssick@mac.com, commissioners@myfwc.com, rroundtree@tampabays10.com, Melissa Thompson, rw_harris@msn.com, hilton@rt-nav.com, Bob Zales II

I am interest to find out, how NMFS will "fill-in" the missing data for the 2014 red snapper season. Their self-imposed data collection ban will surely have an impact if you consider since 2004 we have lost 95% of possible data collection opportunities. It would seem to me to be counterproductive to make decisions using very sparse data and then compound the problem with an even tighter noose on the data.

Will NMFS use the tried and (un)true method of filling in the data with data from years past?

I noticed in the Federal Register that NMFS reiterated its unfounded belief that red snapper are "overfished" or undergoing "overfishing". Tell me how does red snapper fall into this definition:

104-297 (34) The terms "overfishing" and "overfished" mean a rate or level of fishing mortality that jeopardizes the capacity of a fishery to produce the maximum sustainable yield on a continuing basis.

By all accounts red snapper are rebounding at an astonishing rate and as such, pure logic dictates that a fishery cannot be overfished and recovering at the same time. The definition as stated in the MSA make those mutually exclusive events.

So please the recreational fishing community want to know. How will NMFS "fill in" for missing data resulting from their self-imposed "data boycott"?

And

Under what legal definition in the MSA can red snapper possibly be found "overfished" or undergoing "overfishing"?

A reply is expected.

Sincerely

Bob Bryant
Executive Director
National Association of Recreational Anglers



Subject: Re: 11 Days REALLY?

Date: Friday, May 16, 2014 at 11:03:41 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: sight4soreeyes@cox.net

To: Gulf Council

Hello,

Thank you for the reply. It does not clarify anything that makes sense. Where do the numbers come from? Are you saving fish for the next oil spill? One sector which is the recreational fishermen is being punished for the over-fishing of commercial fishers. Last year not even 30 days and it was deemed it was over-fished and now 11 days or 8 whichever it is why even have a season at all? 11 days out of 365 and then 30 days or less last year for maybe 45 days of red snapper fishing out of 730 days and that's not counting the days we lost because of bad weather that your council did not replace? I guess we will have bring our own lawsuit to contest this stupidity, and to have this department disbanded or not funded. GOD Provides! There is no data that says we will over fish and that your information will provide the balance that is needed. There is an over abundance of red snapper and its going to run in danger of being over populated and that info comes from being out there and not in a office!

Thank You

---- Gulf Council <gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org> wrote:

Mr. Mitchell:

The lawsuit against the NMFS was ruled on by a judge and the ruling declared that NMFS has a statutory duty to:

- * Prohibit the retention of fish after quotas are reached;
- * Use the best scientific information available;
- * Require necessary accountability measures to constrain catch to the quota;
- * Avoid decisions that directly conflict with the FMP's allocation of catch; and
- * Avoid penalizing one sector for overages that occur only in another.

The Court also said "NMFS must disapprove and return for revision any Council proposal that does not contain adequate accountability measures." In addition, the Court determined the methodology used to estimate the 2013 fall season length should have included the 2013 MRIP landings. As a result of these findings, the Council requested an emergency rule that establishes a 20% buffer on the recreational Annual Catch Limit. This, combined with the inclusion of 2013 MRIP data, which estimate much higher catches, resulted in the significant shortening of the season.

I hope this helps to answer your questions.

Sincerely,

Charlene Ponce

On 4/29/14, 6:50 PM, "sight4soreeyes@cox.net<<mailto:sight4soreeyes@cox.net>>"

<sight4soreeyes@cox.net<<mailto:sight4soreeyes@cox.net>>> wrote:

I will continue to see this until I get an answer, even post it on facebook. You are getting paid with government money so we have a right to know what this decision was based on! You probably don't have a good answer or a valid one that will justify your decision! I look to hear from you soon

Thanks

--

Edward Mitchell Jr
Visual Resource Director
Sight4SoreEyes
850 826-0698 office
850 423-0142 fax

From: "Ed" <jmit57chre@hotmail.com<<mailto:jmit57chre@hotmail.com>>>

To: <gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org<<mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org>>>

Cc: <jmit57chr@cox.net<<mailto:jmit57chr@cox.net>>>,
<cabanaeyes@cox.net<<mailto:cabanaeyes@cox.net>>>,
<sight4soreeyes@cox.net<<mailto:sight4soreeyes@cox.net>>>

Subject: 11 Days REALLY?

Date: Sat, 12 Apr 2014 19:08:19 -0500

Dear Council,

I am writing as a concerned recreational fisherman. Could or would you please explain how did you come up with 11 days from 45? Also would we would like to know how many of you bothered to get on a boat and check for yourself? How could you do research and say that the season would remain the same and then because of a frivolous lawsuit all of a sudden agree with commercial fishermen. What facts or statistics did they produce? Please make this public just as you made your decision. Its just mind-boggling that in a day and a half that you have come up with such a drastic decision. How did the number 11 equate? Is there scientific evidence out there that 11 days will give a significant effect on the red snapper population? Actually you are telling us that their information or data is more reliable than yours and if that is the case we should disband the council and count on the information of commercial fishermen. These are questions that need to be answered and made public! Maybe you will respond or maybe you won't, you haven't made public any statistics or data before, how and where it was accumulated and what kind of formula was used. Also the fact that no make-up days for weather or storms is totally against reason. Within the last 10 years we had Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina which took up enormous days of fishing and then you factor the gulf oil spill that took away much of 2 seasons, there is an over abundance of red snapper. I hope that you will respond and explain your decision. Thank you for your time!

Concerned Tax Paying Citizen,
Edward Mitchell Jr.

--

Edward Mitchell Jr
Visual Resource Director
Sight4SoreEyes
850 826-0698 office
850 423-0142 fax

Subject: New message from your mobile website, 03609da.mynetworksolutions.mobi

Date: Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 6:00:52 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Mobile Alerts

To: Gulf Council

Subject: Red snapper fishing

Message: I think ya'll are trying to stop we the people from fishing in the Gulf of Mexico. I think you have forgotten who owns all federal waters and lands . People will stand for just so much bull shit from the federal Government. I think the gulf council should quit making decisions that only benefit a few. I enjoy my fishing and I can promise you all that I am not going to be regulated out of what belongs to we the people. Enough is enough!!!!

Email: jsmyly@prystup.com

Phone: 3342955394

Subject: Red Snapper Fishing Season Shortening

Date: Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 1:37:31 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Hugh McElvey

To: Gulf Council

I follow the regulations as a faithful, believing fisherman should. That said, I fish off-shore for red snapper a week or two on our annual vacation. The cost of boat, fuel, bait, etc. is way past any possibility of catching enough fish to come close to paying for itself. It is our family time together. Now I read that the foreshortened season is cut again. We have a vacation home rented, have ordered a new boat and the entire family is coming for a fishing time together. We will have 3 days of fishing time for snapper, the grouper season is closed, trigger fish season is closed, Amberjack season is closed and we're spending thousands of dollars to fish. What are we supposed to fish for????? I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I have kids that want to catch fish so we are going to fish for red snapper, amberjack and anything else that will bite our baits. I'll let them go of course but a good number of them will die from being taken by porpoise, barracuda, sharks and the trauma of being dragged up a hundred feet or so and having their insides poke out the mouths. I don't want this to happen but it will. Why not let a fisherman keep at least one of each species now closed with an open season and then fish for another species?

I can't image what kind of system is in place at the national level to track fish actually caught. Supposedly it is from random sampling but I've been fishing saltwater for more than 40 years and have NEVER been "sampled". I suspect that the method of tracking is a mix of hocus-pocus and guesswork. More accurate data collection certainly needs to be performed. When I hunt in a number of states we call in our catch and get a confirmation number to put on our tags. The idea of a free saltwater tag will, at least, give an accurate idea of how many people really fish for the various species. I seriously doubt that such information exists as it is now. I agree that catches must be sustainable for future generations to enjoy but the way it is being done now is seriously out of touch with reality. In the panhandle area we fish there are huge numbers of red snapper, amberjacks and triggerfish. I do agree that grouper need tight controls at this time but suspect the commercial segment is catching a vast majority of them judging by all the grouper seen in fish markets and restaurants.

Thank you for reading a note from an aging, concerned fisherman,
Hugh McElvey
Citrus County Florida Resident

Subject: red snapper

Date: Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 1:11:38 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Carroll, Rod

To: Gulf Council

It's not even possible to meet the numbers.

Let's See!

4.312 million pounds Divided by 7 lbs (that's what say is the average weight for a red snapper)=616000 fish

616000 divided by 9 days= 68444 fish per day (if every day was fish-able)

68444 divided by 2 fish limit. Means it will take 34222 anglers catching 2 fish per day for 9 whole days to reach their limit.

Does anybody there think there will be 34222 recreational (Gulf!) anglers catching 2 fish per day for the whole 9 day season, or even anywhere close to that?

Why don't you just make it open on weekends when most people can fish? Instead of days in a row. There plenty of Red Snapper and have been. You might as well admit all it is, is about government control. Not about what's best for the fish or fisherman!

Subject: Recent Fishing Regulations Update

Date: Monday, April 21, 2014 at 9:23:51 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Ken Birdsong

To: Charlene Ponce

Dear Ms. Ponce:

Having been an out-of-state, visiting gulf coast fisherman for the past thirty-five years, I have become concerned over the past five to seven years with the increasingly stringent regulations imposed by the Management Council. With the implementation of this new red snapper limit, I believe the council has now gone from what has recently been an ignorant abuse of power and authority to a showing of utter incompetence. The red snapper population has been steadily increasing in numbers and size (which can be easily verified by the recreational fishing boats along the Florida panhandle) and has been stronger than I can recall in over twenty years. This new 11-day season with a two/person limit reflects nothing more than a strong-armed showing by a group of ignorant and incompetent individuals who are unable to objectively exercise the authority of their positions. In addition, it is forcing numbers of boat captains and supporting service companies out of work and damaging the Gulf Coast tourism industry.

The Management Council has proven to be another example of a governmental agency that is unable to effectively, efficiently and objectively manage the tasks set before it which will ultimately run the Gulf Coast fishing industry into the ground. It is unfortunate to consider the scores of captains, businesses, fishermen and tourists that will suffer because of this mismanagement.

Sincerely,

Ken Birdsong



Ken Birdsong

President

109 Westpark Drive, Suite 230

Brentwood, TN 37027

615.591.6822 o

615.517.8284 m

birdsong@greystonebd.com

Phyllis Miranda

From: David R. Butcher <drbutcherhsd@embarqmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2014 8:28 PM
To: Gulf Council
Cc: Editor@saltwatersportsman.com
Subject: Red Snapper Season

Sirs:
If you honestly believe that Red Snapper in SW Florida are sufficiently threatened to justify a 12 day recreational season, I would suggest that you close both commercial and recreational take for an extended period of time.


David R. Butcher
5312 Chippendale Circle
Fort Myers, FL 33919

Phyllis Miranda

From: THARB333@aol.com
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2014 12:05 PM
To: Nick Wiley; Charlene Ponce; Gulf Council; pamdana@yahoo.com;
jhutchinson@joinrfa.org; Roy Crabtree; Russell Dunn
Subject: NO ARS season in federal waters

9 or 11 days makes no difference. We have NO American red snapper season this year, and will have none until we are forced to buy back what was once ours to begin with. Grouper, both gag & red, will be next. After that, watch out mangrove snapper. Watch for EDF to dictate that even pin fish are being 'over-fished!'

Guys, the situation we are now seeing is absolutely nothing new. EDF, Pew, etc., have been working for years to infiltrate every aspect of our government. NOAA's 9-11 day ARS season has one and only one purpose, to lead us into catch shares. Think the Walton Foundation, better known as Walmart, has donated millions earmarked for the push for catch shares, out of the goodness of their hearts. Think again! Walmart's profit from selling us back our own fish is predicted to be in the billions.

We, the fishermen/women of this once great country are the vast majority. However, apathy is killing us. We are dictated too by the few because we have allowed it to happen. EDF, Pew, Etc. are united, very well funded, and extremely persistent. We are NONE of the above. 9 or 11 day ARS season; we have allowed it to happen! 

Phyllis Miranda

From: Randy Black <rblack@ARCCcorp.com>
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2014 9:49 AM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Other Non-Red Snapper Species

Good Morning,

I like many people are concerned about the management of Red Snapper and the shortening of the season as a result of the recent lawsuit decision however my question is really about other species such as Trigger, AJ and Gag Grouper and if those seasons could be made more liberal this year to still provide anglers some opportunities in the wake of the shortened snapper season? I know we will be in Gulf Sores, AL the weeks of 6/14-28 on a planned Red Snapper trip however now the season will open and close before we ever put the boar in the water and the make matters worse AJ, Gag and Trigger will all also be closed.

Thanks

Randy Black
Vice President and CIO
Information Services

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arc

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Louisville, KY 40220
<http://www.arccorp.com>

Phyllis Miranda

From: motleycru@att.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 8:12 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper

Please post to ALL Gulf Council members:

The recent ruling that was made in the court system is just another example of how broke your system of fishing regulations really is. A federal judge that probably never fished listens to a bunch of whiny, crybaby commercial fishermen and makes a bad decision. Even worse, the Council does not have good enough lawyers to defend their science, rules and regulations. Your science has been so bad for so long and you finally start realizing how wrong it is. Now you can't even use it to extend the red snapper harvest. For the last five years we have caught larger and more snapper every year. A fishery in decline would be showing consistently smaller fish and they would be harder to find, exactly opposite of what the fishermen are seeing.

To paraphrase the bible, my philosophy on the 418 commercial red snapper fishermen is this: Get the splinter out of your eye before you try to take one out of mine. You throw back dead red snapper because they are smaller than you want to keep, but you say as recreational fishermen we are overfishing. No one can even tell us for sure how many fish are being caught recreationally. As ethical fishermen the commercial people should not do that. I have every right to catch and KEEP red snapper. My rights should not be infringed upon to give these 418 people an opportunity to catch the same fish I want to. If these 418 people can't earn a living under the rules and regulations, find another line of work instead of hiding behind a court system to steal from what is rightfully mine. I work hard for my money and for the opportunity to fish.

Get your collective heads in the game and use the brains Jes-us gave you to make common sense decisions. Go out and fish in the Gulf and see what is really out there. I will take some of you on my boat this summer so you can really see what a great fishery we have.

Thank you for your time.

Gerald Motley

I'm an active Fisherman
in the Gulf of Mexico I catch
my ^Nearly quota of red Snappers
every year on the first day
of Jan. The other 364 days if
I don't red snapper I have to
lease. Last year I paid \$3.25
a pound to lease red snapper
exp ^Nfront. out of that \$3.25 I
had a recovery fee, ice bill, \$1.25
a pound but 40% of my catch
went to the boat. the math didn't
favor me or my crew. ~~but~~

~~but~~ We did All the work
this year I'm not going to lease
any red snapper. Because of the
N " " " " " " " " " " " "

Please help! Our fishing industry has been all but shut down. The American red snapper is a very aggressive fish that is taking over offshore reefs. This year, in Federal waters, the five gulf states will have an 11 day red snapper season. That will be a disaster to fish & fisherman alike. HELP!!!

ARS & Governor Scott

GULF STATES SAY NO TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT per RFA

Florida and Louisiana Join Texas In Fisheries Stand-Off

Federal agencies today can apparently do whatever they damn well please with support from the environmental community, and ultimately it's going to be up to states to stand up for their citizens, just like Governor Rick Scott of Florida."

Donofrio (RFA) on Friday praised Governor Scott for a letter sent to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker on April 17th calling for more support for recreational fishermen and major a overhaul of the federal fisheries law

"I am very disappointed...in how the federal system has been managing red snapper and other fish stocks," Governor Scott wrote, adding "The Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Act) lacks much needed flexibility."

Bob Harbison Native Florida Fisherman...for well over 1/2 a century

4907 Timberlan St.

Tampa, Florida 33624

(813) 962-0786

tharb333@aol.com

Phyllis Miranda

From: George <gcwpace@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 11:30 AM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Snapper season

Having just purchased a condo at Mexico Beach I am greatly concerned about not having a snapper season. I know that this will hurt the economy at Mexico Beach. I strongly support the continuation of snapper season and hope that this controlled can be removed from NOAA's authority. Mexico Beach is a fishing village and depends on fishermen for their economy.

George Williams
Charles Pace @ Associates
684 Bellview Rd.
Colquitt, Georgia 39837
Phone Office: 229-758-6666
Cell: 229-400-3412

Phyllis Miranda

From: Aaron Rascoe <arascoe@cpaideas.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 10:59 AM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Fishing

I have recently become aware of further restrictions that may be heading our way for the current and future fishing seasons. My family has enjoyed Florida recreation fishing for many years. I understand the need to monitor and regulate quotas for the betterment of future generations. However, this should come through periodical monitoring and not a complete shut down of the recreation fishing industry. This decision would have an extremely significant impact to the Florida gulf coast. We have the right to fish in the public waters, and to provide our families with the opportunity to enjoy the gulf waters. I truly hope that regulations are not tightened and our rights as citizens and families are not overruled by political and corrupt influences.

Sincerely,

Aaron Rascoe

Certified Public Accountant

arascoe@cpaideas.com



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Visit us @ www.cpaideas.com

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Phyllis Miranda

From: Kelly Cochran <gatorgrrl77@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 12:33 AM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Red Snapper Season 2014

You do realize not opening up Red Snapper in fed waters doesn't prevent people from specifically targeting them and tossing them in a cooler, right? Nah, that would take forethought and brains. You may want to look around your office, those seem more in danger than Red Snapper.

I keep thinking my opinion of your organization couldn't get lower. It turns out that I was wrong.(It happens.) This is my last year in NWF and I'll be happy to leave you and your overreaching BS research/science/regulations for a state that welcomes fishermen and their money.

Have fun posting FWC officers at every dock and marina this summer! Oh, I forgot...the government is broke. In more ways than one.

P.S. I won't be one of those that will take a closed season fish. I choose to voice my displeasure with my purse and will not be renewing my Florida fishing license, nor will I fish this summer. Just a drop in a large bucket, but there are a lot more like me out there. You're in trouble when you start making the women mad.

Have a blessed day.

Kelly Cochran

Phyllis Miranda

From: Ryan Maines <rmaingerem73@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 6:38 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Red snapper fishery

Curious as why Florida keeps getting smaller and smaller recreation limits on snapper but Texas is wide open with there rules from what I read doesn't make sense to me.I personally will quit vacationing in the panhandle if the catch limits keep getting smaller.. thxs for your time Ryan from ohio

Phyllis Miranda

From: Henry Hazard <hhazard@heritagebiblechurch.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 4:28 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Gulf Coast Fishing regulations

Please do not place any further regulations upon fishing in the Gulf of Mexico and for heaven's sake don't close the season on any fish. I am a recreational fisherman. Although I am unable to fish as often as I would like, I would like to have the freedom to fish and bring home my catch whether it is grouper, red snapper, or any other edible fish.

I plead with you, don't ruin the fishing industry in my home town of Panama City. Further regulations, especially closing the Gulf to fishing for good fish, will destroy jobs, not only for people in the fishing industry but also in the restaurant and tourist industries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Henry Hazard
3380 State Avenue
Panama City, Florida 32405

Phyllis Miranda

From: Pat Sabiston <thewriteplace@consultant.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 3:29 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Help Needed

Importance: High

In Bay County, Florida, we are very concerned about the allotted days for Red Snapper Season. Tourism, and recreational fishing, is a large part of our economic base. Please reconsider what you are doing, not only to our county, and the state of Florida, but also to the ecology when fish are allowed to grow too large. Balance is important in ALL things!

Pat Sabiston, Owner



Marketing Communications Consultants

4412 Fletcher Street – Panama City, Florida 32405

Phone: (850) 769-4345 – FAX: (850) 769-4348

E-Mail: thewriteplace@consultant.com

WebSite: www.thewriteplaceonline.com



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

Phyllis Miranda

From: Dallas Finch <dfinchconsulting@drfinch.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 1:23 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Gulf Red Snapper

Hello,

I am writing this letter to voice my concerns regarding additional and current restrictions on red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico. I live in Panama City, Florida and have a passion for offshore fishing specifically bottom fishing (reef fish). I truly believe in responsible and balanced conservation to ensure a resource that future generations will enjoy. The current regulations are absolutely absurd; red snapper are more plentiful and larger than ever before and yet data collected shows they are "over fished" and "underpopulated." My family owns a 29ft center console fishing boat that only sees the gulf a handful of times a year due to the limited fishing opportunities. Yes, there are other fish to catch outside of red snapper; however, due to their overabundance it is extremely difficult to catch any other species other than snapper. A majority of my family and friends work full time; therefore, we are only able to fish on the weekends. Once you calculate the number of weekends that are unfishable due to high seas and weather we only get maybe four to five trips in a year during the very short season. When I think about the current management and restrictions regarding red snapper, I get nauseated over the poor research and data collected to enact such unreasonable restrictions. Based on the census around the docks and fishing shops or anyone else who has ventured out into the gulf will tell you that the red snapper population is thriving to the point of even overpopulation. At this point I am standing up for my God given right to treasure and enjoy this resource that we have been blessed with. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Dallas Finch

Concerned Floridian and American

Phyllis Miranda

From: Dr. Zoe Segree, DC <segree@gtcom.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 9:41 AM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Red Snapper

I think it is wrong to close the red snapper season for recreational fisherman. It is our right as American's and tax payers to be able to go catch fish to feed our family. If any portion of the red snapper season is to be closed it should be the commercial sector. I know a commercial fisherman that recently caught over 2,000 pounds of red snapper, and you mean to tell me that I can't catch my two red snapper. Shame on you.

Phyllis Miranda

From: Stephanie Taylor <tybord39@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 12:53 AM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Snapper season 2014

To whom it may concern,

My family and I are very avid fisherman. We have to fish in order to provide for a family because of the economy. As a fisherman and not a scientist we can tell you there is an abundant amount of snapper in the Gulf of Mexico. So if any of you would like to come fish. Or watch us fish on any of our fisherman's boat and show you the amount of snapper there is that would not be a problem. The problem lies when you're trying to get another fish you can't catch it because of the abundant amount of snapper. And with the amount that you're allowed to get it doesn't take even 5 minutes to catch your limit. Then you can't catch anything else that you can keep the rest of the day because there are so many snapper there, and that's on any fishing spot not just one or two that's on all fishing spots.

What you all are imposing to do is almost like taking deer hunting away from hunters, which I am a hunter as well. If they were to do that then the deer would overpopulate and would cause numerous problems like car crashes and overpopulating in people's fields and taking over the farmers' crops. Taking away a snapper season would be doing the same thing to the gulf.

Snapper are what we fisherman call the Piranha of the sea. You put your bait down then it doesn't even have to get down to the bottom before they're already attacking it. Thus causing you not to even be able to catch any other fish like grouper, trigger or anything else on the bottom. I'm not a genius I'm just a fisherman but that tells me right there that there's too many of them out there. And if you don't start doing something about that then they're going to overpopulate the sea and there's not going to be any of the other fish out there to catch.

Now, we all believe in having a season a special time to do that, that's not the problem, the problem is the amount that you're allowing us to take. So if you would take it away all together would be detrimental not only to the fisherman, but to the other species of the ocean as well.

Please take this into consideration before you make a decision that is going to affect a lot of people's lives. A lot of people has been struck by the oil spills and everything else and it's not fair to take one more thing from these fisherman and these charter fisherman that depend on the snapper season to provide for their families as well.

Thank you for all you do. Please just take this all into consideration before you make your decisions.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Taylor

Phyllis Miranda

From: Donna <donnaandgary49@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 9:08 AM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Opposition of proposed 11 day Snapper season

I have attended most of the meetings in my area and cannot believe the council would consider shortening even more the Snapper season. There are so many snapper in the gulf they are decimating other species as they take over ALL THE REEFS, This is just another example of the over-regulation caused by government after millions of recreational fishermen have bought properties on the beaches, rent condos/hotels to go fishing, buy the bait, fuel, food and add to the very taxes that keep this council employed.

I will be encouraging all my friends and state regulators to dissolve the council if they can be so reckless and choose commercial interests over the very public people that pay your salaries and healthcare etc, again i encourage you restore all the recreation season on Red Snapper and stop this foolish assumption the Snapper population is in decline, i have witnessed both scuba diving and fishing the overpopulation of Red Snapper on every artificial reef in Florida and Alabama, sincerely, Gary Malin, yet another concerned recreational fisherman

I am imploring all my friends to write the council in opposition as well.

Sent from my iPad

Phyllis Miranda

From: Ken Parnell <Ken.Parnell@austalusa.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 1:32 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Written testimony opposing 11-day snapper season in Alabama

I oppose the 11-day snapper season in Alabama. As a diver, I witness the massive numbers of snapper first hand, a number greater than we have seen since the 1980's.

Thank you

Kenneth Parnell
Accuracy Control Foreman

AUSTAL

P.O. Box 1049, Mobile, AL 36633
1 Dunlap Drive, Mobile, AL 36602
Office: 434-8000 ext. 1306
Cell: 251-401-1677
ken.parnell@austalusa.com
www.austal.com

Phyllis Miranda

From: David Aldrich <daldrich@uabmc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 1:29 PM
To: Gulf Council

I am writing to oppose the current recommendation of a 11 day snapper season. I am a recreational fisherman. I think the projected catch of the recreational sector is much lower. A new policy is needed to record more accurate numbers. The Feds have clearly failed. They already manage healthcare, oil, gas, and banks which as we all know have been complete failures. And now they want to manage our fish? When do we put fish over people? Most fisherman, who fish for a living, will lose their ass off due to these new regulations. The management needs to be done by the states which over history has been a better safe standard overall. I really don't know what else to say. I guess I will work more and start playing golf again because my right to fish is almost gone. Very sad day.

David

Phyllis Miranda

From: Michael Jackson <mjackson@ez-tender.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 5:24 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Re: 2014 Red Snapper Season

With all due respect to the Gulf Council, this is complete and utter BS! It is painfully obvious that Red Snapper in the Gulf of Mexico are more abundant than ever. It is the current stock assessment that is suspect and requires a complete rework so as to gain a true, accurate and complete accounting of this abundant stock without external influence.

It is also time for an end to the environment 501 (3) (c) influence whose infiltration into our U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries and the Gulf Council processes has made a laughing stock out of what could (and should) be sound fisheries management.

I urge you to cease hiding behind what is touted as "best available science". It is not, and any insinuation by any member of the Gulf Council or National Marine Fisheries that it is should be an insult to others on the Council who know better.

If you truly believe that the Red Snapper stock is so vulnerable, then it is incumbent on you to close the fishery to both recreational and commercial interests immediately and until such time as a full and completely accurate stock assessment can be undertaken and proven as true and accurate.

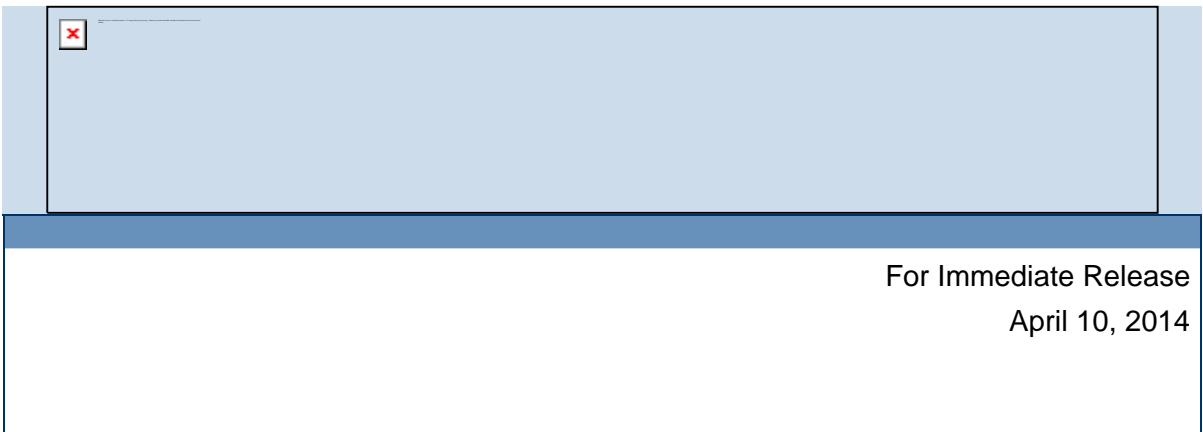
Mike Jackson
Clearwater, FL

On Thu, Apr 10, 2014 at 4:34 PM, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

<charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org> wrote:

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Don't forget to add charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



Council Requests Emergency Rule Resulting in 11-day Recreational Red Snapper Season for 2014

After receiving a briefing on a recent court decision in response to a legal challenge on management of the recreational component of the red snapper fishery, the Council took actions to prevent the recreational sector from exceeding its quota in 2014 and beyond.

For the short-term, the Council asked the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to implement an emergency rule that establishes a 20% buffer on the 5.39 million pound recreational quota - a buffer with only a 15% probability that the quota will be exceeded. The 20% buffer, which provides a low probability that the quota will be exceeded, results in a recreational annual catch target (ACT) of 4.312 million pounds, and an 11-day red snapper recreational season for 2014. The bag limit will remain 2-fish per person.

The 11-day season takes into consideration the incompatible state seasons and bag limits adopted by Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. The Council also voted to withdraw a framework action submitted in February that would rescind the Amendment 30B permit provision, which requires vessels with federal charter vessel/headboat permits to abide by federal regulations if more restrictive when fishing in state waters.

To address the issue long-term, the Council has asked staff to include accountability measure alternatives for the recreational allocation, such as buffers and overage adjustments, in the Allocation Amendment (Reef Fish Amendment 28).

Staff will also begin developing a scoping document that explores a possible IFQ-type program for the for-hire component of the red snapper fishery.

About the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council prepares fishery management plans, which are designed to manage fishery resources within the 200-mile limit of the Gulf of Mexico.

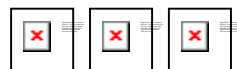
Submit comments and stay updated on fishery issues:

Check it out! Go to www.gulfcouncil.org and click on the thermometer in the middle of the page. From there you can read up on all the pending actions, watch the video presentations, read comments, and submit your own. All comments submitted through the online form are automatically posted on our web site for Council review. Other comments are manually posted every couple of days.

There is also a thermometer for each issue that lets you know where the Council is in the process for that particular amendment, whether it's the scoping phase, final action, or implementation.



You can also find information on our Facebook page, blog, and YouTube channel.



The Gulf Council has an APP for that - Download it for free!

[iPhone](#)
[Droid](#)



**Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management
Council**

[Charlene Ponce](#)

Public Information Officer

[888-833-1844 ext. 229](tel:888-833-1844)

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to mjackson@ez-tender.com by charlene.ponce@gulfcouncil.org |
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Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council | 2203 N. Lois Avenue | Suite 1100 | Tampa | FL | 33607

Phyllis Miranda

From: Mobile Alerts <alerts@site.mobi>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 5:51 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: New message from your mobile website, 03609da.mynetworksolutions.mobi

Subject: Red snapper 11 day season

Message: This rule just goes to show that this group is just another incompetent federal group!

Email: wareagle130@gmail.com

Phone: 6019424875

Phyllis Miranda

From: THARB333@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 6:06 PM
To: bo.gorham@aexp.com; oscar.ayala@myfwc.com; lewisdw47@hotmail.com; Nick Wiley; Charlene Ponce; Gulf Council; jdevolentine@aol.com; bear995@aol.com; Capt. Bradham; pamdana@yahoo.com; jhutchinson@joinrfa.org; Roy Crabtree; Russell Dunn; snapperking@bellsouth.net; steve.southerland@mta.hill
Subject: 11 day ARS season!

This is absolutely ridiculous. It looks like the EDF is now running the country.

Recreational Fishing Alliance

Contact: Jim Hutchinson, Jr. / 888-564-6732

For Immediate Release
April 10, 2014

GULF RED SNAPPER SEASON ALL BUT CLOSED New Federal Fisheries Disaster Forced Upon Recreational Industry

April 10, 2014 - The recreational red snapper season in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico has effectively been closed, with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Reef Fish Committee voting this week to restrict saltwater anglers to just *two fish per day for 11 days. (**Responding to the earlier bulletin, NOAA Fisheries has informed us that the red snapper bag limit in 2014 will be two fish rather than one; no change to the season however.*)

The decision to essentially end public access of a rebuilding red snapper stock was the result of a lawsuit by 21 commercial fishermen funded by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) brought against the federal government. A judge on March 26th found that NOAA Fisheries violated federal law by allowing anglers to fish 40 days for red snapper in 2013, leading EDF attorneys to a victory dance around what's left of the recreational red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico.

"We won," cheered EDF attorney Monica Goldberg in a widely circulated email following the judge's decision, while Adam Babich, a Tulane University professor who specializes in environmental law cases trumpeted the verdict as "good news."

However, for Gulf tackle shops and for-hire captains on the Gulf Coast with federal permits who will be unable to take their customers out for red snapper once the whopping 11 days are used up, the judge's decision and the response by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is not exactly something worth celebrating.

Since 2007, the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) has been lobbying Congress to address restrictive measures written into the last reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Inflexible rebuilding deadlines coupled with punitive accountability measures on the recreational fishing community have led to ever-shortening seasons on red snapper in both the Gulf and South Atlantic Region.

In addition to a federal fisheries law that ignores the unique needs of the recreational fishing sector, a federal requirement to overhaul and replace the recreational data collection methodologies by NOAA Fisheries is now 5 years past the due date, which RFA says is destroying the coastal angling community.

RFA executive director Jim Donofrio said he has continually explained to members of Congress how problems with the 2006 reauthorization of MSA would further erode the recreational fishing industry in terms of both rebuilding stocks like red snapper, as well as those considered rebuilt like summer flounder and black sea bass, but explains that these have been about the worst of times on Capitol Hill the past 6 years.

"Red snapper populations are exploding, and the 2014 quota in the Gulf is at the highest level ever, yet at the same time the recreational season in federal waters is the lowest ever and getting worse," Donofrio said. "Environmentalists are dancing on our graves while telling legislators that the law is working just fine, and folks wonder why RFA members are getting angrier by the day."

According to NOAA Fisheries, the recreational red snapper fishery has exceeded its sector quota in five of the last six years, with the exception being the 2010 season after the BP oil spill. Donofrio however said the science used by NOAA Fisheries to support that claim has already been proven inaccurate by the National Academy of Science.

"This panel of independent scientists in 2006 working with the National Research Council found the recreational data collection methodologies used by NOAA Fisheries to be worthless for real-time monitoring, explaining specifically how the random nature of the angler surveys had serious design flaws which used inadequate analysis methods," Donofrio said. "NOAA was sued by the environmentalists because they're 5 years late on providing congressionally mandated improvements in the recreational sector, but it's the American angler who is getting punished yet again."

While diligently working in Washington DC to overhaul the federal fisheries law in an effort to preserve the coastal angling heritage, RFA has also called for a joint congressional oversight hearing on Capitol Hill to address NOAA Fisheries' failure to meet the 2009 deadline for recreational data collection improvements.

"Time and time again we've seen members of the Commerce Department brought before the House Natural Resources Committee to testify specifically how they they've had a 2009 deadline that they did not meet, simply brushing off their failures as being less than optimal," Donofrio said. "Destroying the socioeconomic structure of our coastal fishing communities is certainly not optimal, I think it's criminal."

On the Atlantic Coast, NOAA Fisheries in 2013 unveiled an exciting new red snapper season for federal waters consisting of three consecutive days from August 23rd through the 25th.

"This is all politics, there's no science to this. Government accountability should be a non-partisan issue, and it's time for everyone in our community to demand answers of those responsible," Donofrio added.

"Short of that, let Commerce declare a recreational industry fishing disaster in the Gulf, so Congress can pay our marinas, tackle shops and full-time captains some money for the mess they let happen with their partners in crime at NOAA," he added

Phyllis Miranda

From: Mobile Alerts <alerts@site.mobi>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 6:37 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: New message from your mobile website, 03609da.mynetworksolutions.mobi

Subject: Red Snapper limits

Message: I am astounded that the council could be hoodwinked by the very people who claim recreational fishermen have overfished Red Snapper. Commercial fishermen crated a non-existent market for Red Snapper, then bought up rights and leases, rent them to real fishermen, then move to block recreational fishermen from catching but a pittance of what commercial guys catch, what the hell is going on??? You had better consider the amount of tax dollars generated by millions of recreational guys and how % of the small amount from commercial side, the money spent buying millions of boats, millions of gallons of gas, food, beach property, rentals, fishing fees, hundreds of millions more than commercial contribute to the economy. I implore you to think twice, act once to add some sanity to fishing and asking commercial guys how much we catch, what a joke!

Email: donnaandgary49@yahoo.com

Phone: 850-384-7939

Phyllis Miranda

From: Troy Gorlott <troygorlott@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2014 7:01 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Red snapper season

Thank you for putting a large dent in the economy of the gulf coast. Your plan for an 11 day red snapper is for lack of a better word "stupid". How many people will be hurt from this ? If it is your plan to reduce the number of fishermen well it's working .

I fish and dive this waters I have never seen the amount of red snapper that we have now . Something is going to have to give !

Troy Gorlott

Phyllis Miranda

From: Kent Alphonso <kja108@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 9:31 AM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: RE: 2014 Federal Gulf of Mexico Red snapper Season

Thanks Charlene, I will try and get on the call today.

From: Gulf Council [mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org]
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 7:01 AM
To: Kent Alphonso
Subject: Re: 2014 Federal Gulf of Mexico Red snapper Season

Ken;

That is correct – the season is now 11 days. Right now it looks like June 1 – June 11; however, there may be an effort to move the dates to allow for at least two weekends to fall within the 11 days. Dr. Crabtree is hosting a Q&A Session today if you'd like to call in. Here's the information:

On Friday, April 11, from 12pm to 1pm ET, Regional Administrator Dr. Roy Crabtree will host a conference call with interested parties on red snapper management in the Gulf of Mexico, including the 2014 recreational red snapper fishing season. Call 1-800-593-8999 and use password FISH SNAPPER.

Charlene

From: Kent Alphonso <kja108@hotmail.com>
Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 2:44 PM
To: Charlene Ponce <gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org>
Subject: 2014 Federal Gulf of Mexico Red snapper Season

Hi,

I have heard that the season has been changed to an 11 day season as opposed to the 40 day season you have posted on your website, first is that correct? Secondly, if so what are the dates of the season?

Thanks,
Kent Alphonso

Phyllis Miranda

From: Bob Bryant <bob.bryant@subocorp.com>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 9:43 AM
To: Gulf Council; Roy Crabtree; amber.vonharten@safmc.net
Subject: Red Snapper Season

Categories: AP-Data Collection

So NMFS gets sued and once again the recreational anglers get screwed. This latest in a long line of failures highlights the many issues and problems associated not just with the Gulf but the South Atlantic as well.

There is a single thread common to both of these regions and that is the directorship. I would ask on behalf of all the recreational anglers in the Gulf and South Atlantic regions, that Dr. Crabtree immediately tender his resignation (today's teleconference would be a good time) for the complete management failures.

Red snapper is but a small piece of the bigger issue, which is a complete and total unwillingness to listen to stakeholders, inability to admit when they are wrong, and a reliance on a data system that has been proved over and over again to be inaccurate and unreliable. The end result is bad decisions by the council and great economic harm to our coastal communities.

It is time for a change and that change needs to begin at the top. I am not saying that this is a fix for all of our issue, but faith in the fishery management coming from SERO is at an all-time low and the road to building this back will be long. As a businessman I hold people accountable for their failures and it is long past time for SERO to be held accountable for its failures and the beginning of this is for Dr. Crabtree to resign effective immediately.

Bob Bryant - President/CEO
Actuarial Systems Group
www.subocorp.com
(727) 420-0722

Phyllis Miranda

From: Mike Rowerl <mike@captainmikesfishing.com>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 9:49 AM
To: Mike Rowell
Subject: FW: Here is the latest news and my best explanation of what is happening with Red Snapper

Categories: Charterboat, AP-Data Collection

From: Mike Rowerl [mailto:mike@captainmikesfishing.com]
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 8:45 AM
Subject: Here is the latest news and my best explanation of what is happening with Red Snapper

Hello Fellow Fisherman

As bad as the news is about the short 11 day Red Snapper season, there may be a light at the end of the tunnel.

The current fisheries management plan "FMP" is very complex and has laws written into it that give fisheries managers very little, if any, flexibility with their decision making. Now that we have just about hit rock bottom, it looks like there may be some change in the current FMP in the future. This is a long story and it cannot be made short but I will try to paint you a basic picture.

Stock assessment's for Red Snapper, and other species, are made and the numbers are fed into a model. That model spits out a annual catch limit or ACL. Size and bag limits are determined and a prediction is made as to how many days it will take to fisherman to harvest the ACL. Samples of landings are taken and an estimate is calculated as to how many pounds of fish were harvested. There are accountability measure's in place to help insure the ACL target is not exceeded. If it is exceeded, there is a payback prevision that can take the overharvested fish out of the ACL for the following year.

One of the main problems with this system is the way the harvest levels are gathered. The recreational sector is made up of the for hire charter boats and privet boats. For the past several years this sector has over harvested their quota resulting in overfishing of some species.

In an attempt to help end overfishing and receive more days for the rec sector to fish, the for hire sector had their Captain and crew bag limit taken away. They also had a moratorium put in place for charter boat permits to stop the growth of the for hire sector. This may have slowed down the catch rate but it is not enough. The recreational sector is still growing and the data is still inaccurate.

Now plans are in place to split the for hire and recreational sectors. Each sector will be given their own ACL. The for hire sector will be required to have electronic recording methods that will record the number, size and species of every fish they catch every day. They will "hail in and out" every day and give a one hour notification to all law enforcement authorities that that vessel is coming to port and exactly what they have caught. This method of harvest data will insure the for hire sector will not overfish their allocation.

This is a similar method that is in place for the commercial sector and fisheries managers conclude it is a proven and very successful way to manage the fish and the sector.

Click the links below to get the latest news and a good explanation of what is happening with Red Snapper.

<http://bit.ly/1i2MRzX>

http://www.al.com/sports/index.ssf/2014/04/alabama_charterboat_pilot_prog.html#incart_river_default

<http://byrne.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/byrne-introduces-first-bill-granting-emergency-relief-to-fishermen>

Captain Mike Rowell

Phyllis Miranda

From: Mobile Alerts <alerts@site.mobi>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 10:35 AM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: New message from your mobile website, 03609da.mynetworksolutions.mobi

Subject: Red Snapper Fishery

Message: As both a commercial fisherman / charter fisherman/ recreational fisherman I am completely shocked at how this council conducts its business for the very people it is supposed to be working for. We the people. You have already turned the fishery into " Wall Street" through the IFQ program and now wish to destroy the recreational end of the fishery. I've been in this fishery for over 35 yrs and never thought I would ever see it so mismanaged ... With just a few people now controlling the "Majority" of the Red Snapper IFQ and now to take fishing days from the recreational season where Billions are spent by these fisherman in this fishery is totally unbelievable . It's a sad day to see what has become of the government agencies that are supposed to be in place to benefit the future generations of our great nation. As a commercial fisherman who fishes year round I have seen the Red Snapper population explode to record levels with more and larger fish than was ever present 35 yrs ago. I sincerely hope that we may see some good one day from this one sided gross mismanagement of our fishery resources. May you all be guided by better wisdom in the future.

Sincerely Doyle F. Gaylor
Email: dgaylor2@aol.com
Phone: 8502276084

Phyllis Miranda

From: Daniel Stripling <dlstripling@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 12:44 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Red snapper fishery

My job says I am an environmental engineer, but my lifestyle says I'm an avid recreational angler. During any given week from spring through fall, you'll find me fishing almost every day after work and most certainly on the weekends. The winter belongs to my wife:). Wild self caught seafood is the main source of protein for my family.

I grew up in the Tampa bay area, and catching a red snapper was extremely rare. When I moved to the panhandle in 2003, I was astonished at the snapper fishery. Regular catches of red snapper (several over 10 lbs) being caught inside Pensacola bay?? This was and still is a regular occurrence. You mean I can take my flats boat out 5 miles from the pass and catch red snapper up to 20 lbs on public artificial reefs, in 50 feet of water?? We got our limit every time of fish up to 20 lbs. Absolutely unreal. They were literally everywhere it seemed. But then the regulations got tighter, and we can't get away from them.

I challenge anyone who is deciding to cut the recreational red snapper limits to go offshore out of the Florida panhandle, and target any reef specie other than red snapper. Grouper, triggerfish, other snapper species, etc. I would be willing to bet you will have to wade through the red snapper to get to the others.

In the state of Florida, spotted seatrout are regulated in 4 different zones; redfish 3; snook 2; red snapper 2. What are these zones based on? Fisheries stability, fish populations, and expected harvest rate sustainability. There are obviously distinct sections of the state where the certain fisheries are stronger or weaker, and the regulations are set to reflect that. How then, can the gulf not be split into separate zones on a federal level? Why is it that the the entire gulf must follow one set of regulations/seasons for red snapper, when they clearly have different population zones?

No, you don't catch very many red snapper within 5 miles of Tarpon Springs. But Pensacola beach, Panama city beach, or Mexico beach? You will never have to go outside 5 miles to catch your limit, on public spots! Stumble across a private artificial reef and forget about that 10 lb fish because there are plenty of bigger ones around.

I agree that there are some parts of the Gulf that cannot sustain a long red snapper season, but there are other areas that easily can.

Please, before making this type of decision, take a look at snapper population by region. One all encompassing limit does not make sense. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully-

Dan Stripling
Panama City Beach, Fl

Phyllis Miranda

From: jerrya672@aol.com
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 12:58 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Fwd: Red Snapper season

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Mexico

After seeing the 11 day Red Snapper season that you approved yesterday I felt compelled to question your actions and ask how could you do this? Can you actually sleep at night? Do you feel good about trampling citizens rights? Are you from Mars?

As a charter boat captain I have a good idea how plentiful Red Snapper are in the Gulf and there is no credible evidence to support your actions. It is clear to me that the whole Management Council is corrupt therefore should be disband and replaced with members that will be fair and respect peoples fishing rights.

You have let everybody down, your home state, your states economy, tourist from all over the world, thousands of small businesses and tens of thousands of fishermen that are passionate about their sport.

You have become a mockery, Florida outdoorsmen see you for what you are, we just don't understand you. Are you communist? Ill advised? Or just plain stupid?

Out of the 11 days you've given us you can bet the average Floridians will have to work 7 or 8 of those days, and if you are lucky the wind and weather will prevent them from going fishing on the other 4 days. Once again I ask you do you feel good about dismantling Floridas Charter fishing fleet? Do you consider yourself welcome in towns like Destin, Pensacola, Panama City or Mexico Beach? If so you should not! Because you have hurt the citizens that live here and trampled on their rights.

Captain Jerry Alexander

Phyllis Miranda

From: Bob Bryant <bob.bryant@subocorp.com>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2014 1:59 PM
To: Roy Crabtree; Gulf Council
Subject: I am very angry

Categories: AP-Data Collection

After waiting almost 2 hours...I WAS IGNORED and not allowed to ask a question
I can only assume this was by design....

Incredible

Bob Bryant - President/CEO
Actuarial Systems Group
www.subocorp.com
(727) 420-0722

Phyllis Miranda

From: Mobile Alerts <alerts@site.mobi>
Sent: Saturday, April 12, 2014 3:52 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: New message from your mobile website, 03609da.mynetworksolutions.mobi

Subject: Red snapper

Message: What Is going on with the red snapper season? I'm sickened by the management of this fishery over the last 10 years. If there is a problem with the fishery, stop commercially fishing the snapper. How can a fish be taken away from someone and sold to another while it's still swimming in the water??

Email: paulrubin@msn.com

Phone: 8502948099

Phyllis Miranda

From: Ed <jmit57chre@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 12, 2014 8:08 PM
To: Gulf Council
Cc: jmit57chr@cox.net; cabanaeyes@cox.net; sight4soreeyes@cox.net
Subject: 11 Days REALLY?

Dear Council,

I am writing as a concerned recreational fisherman. Could or would you please explain how did you come up with 11 days from 45? Also would we would like to know how many of you bothered to get on a boat and check for yourself? How could you do research and say that the season would remain the same and then because of a frivolous lawsuit all of a sudden agree with commercial fishermen. What facts or statistics did they produce? Please make this public just as you made your decision. Its just mind-boggling that in a day and a half that you have come up with such a drastic decision. How did the number 11 equate? Is there scientific evidence out there that 11 days will give a significant effect on the red snapper population? Actually you are telling us that their information or data is more reliable than yours and if that is the case we should disband the council and count on the information of commercial fishermen. These are questions that need to be answered and made public! Maybe you will respond or maybe you won't, you haven't made public any statistics or data before, how and where it was accumulated and what kind of formula was used. Also the fact that no make-up days for weather or storms is totally against reason. Within the last 10 years we had Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina which took up enormous days of fishing and then you factor the gulf oil spill that took away much of 2 seasons, there is an over abundance of red snapper. I hope that you will respond and explain your decision. Thank you for your time!

Concerned Tax Paying Citizen,

Edward Mitchell Jr.

Phyllis Miranda

From: Mark Whitaker <marcus.whitaker@cordev.net>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2014 4:08 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: Red Snapper Season

I would like to make a comment on the Red Snapper regulations for the gulf coast. My family and I take a couple of trips a year to Mexico Beach with two other families. The first trip in June is always centered around the red snapper fishing. There are several of us that love to catch and eat red snapper. We used to take this trip in July but with the changing of the snapper season, we have had to move this up to middle of June. With tourism back stronger than ever since the oil spill, we have to plan this trip a year in advance. This leaves us no time to adjust to the ever changing red snapper season. I know this is a very complicated issue but I wish you would consider families like ours when you discuss solutions. Between our families, we spend approximately \$10K the week we are in Mexico Beach during June. I wish there was a way we could get permits or tags (even if we had to purchase) to catch our limits during our week of vacation. This way we would not get left out due to changing regulations and politics. We appreciate the efforts of your organization. I just wanted to give you my point of view. Thanks.

Mark Whitaker
ATS Site Manager
Cordev, Inc.
Fort Benning, GA

Phyllis Miranda

From: Russell Bell <Rusty@dixieroofig.net>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2014 4:51 PM
To: Gulf Council
Subject: 2014 Snapper

Dear Chairman Boyd,

This 11 day season is a SLAP in the face to all recreational fishermen. People like myself that keep a boat in Venice and pay for storage who run a business will have 3 to 4 days to fish unless I take off. This is a JOKE ! Maybe the CCA is not doing enough to protect the recreational fishermen of the Gulf that pump the money into it.

Sincerely,

Russell Bell
233 Estate Dr
Pineville, LA 71360

Subject: Recreational Red Snapper

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 6:47:35 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Frank Staudt

To: Gulf Council

Good morning,

I am sure this e-mail will fall upon deaf ears, but, I will get this off my chest right now. If the Red Snapper Population is in such great peril, why not close it totally? To allow commercial harvest for such a poor stock is ridiculous. If the recreational season is cut to 11-days, I say close it down totally. I plan to contact every elected leader for my region this morning, and mirror these statements.

I'm not sure where you're getting you "catch data" for your quota. I personally have not been asked about what I've caught. In my honest opinion, I believe your data is based off junk science, as total catch is not based off fact, it's based of your opinions and best guesses. There are more and bigger snapper than my 43 year old arms has ever caught. That's right...your data on the fishery is junk also. I've never seen the numbers that we are catching before, and the weights too.

Are you still sampling the stock at pre-Ivan spots? If so, start sampling where the fish are. You're just not looking in the correct reefs and natural bottom areas. I've never seen as many or this large of snapper in my lifetime. It is nearly impossible to catch anything BUT a red snapper!

Once again "We the People" are getting the shaft to BIG GOVERNMENT and COMMERCIAL SPECIAL INTEREST. Are you aware that you are killing the recreational market? There's huge financial repercussions coming to NW Florida in the form of tourism, boat sales and tackle shops. We the people will create a backlash effect. Not intentionally, but a product of your madness. This is out of control, you're out of control. It is time for this to be looked at on a national level. Your crooked council must be stopped, and I am going to do whatever I can to get my message heard beyond this e-mail.

Frank Staudt

Subject: (none)

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 11:16:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: cathy KEARLEY

To: Gulf Council

It is ridiculous to cut back the snapper season for recreational fishermen. This will hurt the fishing in our area and make the short season a madhouse. The number of snapper we have seen indicates a strong population.

Cathy Kearley
729 Oak Bluff
Daphne AL 36526
251 626 5668

Subject: Gulf Council TV : Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 11:07:27 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Cathy Kearley

To: Gulf Council

<http://03609da.mynetworksolutions.mobi/>

This is reference to the proposed 11 day snapper season. I am very much opposed to this proposal. I am also thoroughly confused about the entire procedure for establishing the snapper season. The last information that I saw reported that the season was going to be 40 days. I personally fished as much of the season as the weather and my schedule would permit last year out of the gulf shores area. The size and quantity of snapper that we caught indicated that the season should definitely be extended not shortened.

Denny Kearley
729 oak bluff drive
Daphne Alabama
2516265668

Sent from my iPad

Subject: Written Testimony Opposing 11-day Red Snapper Season in Alabama

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 9:10:35 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Chris Beaver

To: Gulf Council

CC: ZeiglerElderCare@yahoo.com

I am asking the Gulf Council to not approve the proposed 11-day Red Snapper Season for Alabama recreational fishing. Since the 11-day season proposal has just been publicized and I just found out about it, please waive the suggested three days before the start of the Council meeting for submission of this written comment.

Brief description of my background and Interest in this matter:

I am an angler and avid Saltwater fisherman, purchase a Saltwater fishing license every year from the State of Alabama. I fish for Red Snapper.

I am also a member of the Coastal Conservation Association, Mobile Chapter as well as a member of the Save our Mobile/Tensaw Delta, a group of outdoors-loving citizens that organized to maintain State control of our Delta to prevent Federal management and nationalization.

I am asking the Council to not approve the proposed 11-day season for Red Snapper for recreational anglers in Alabama. This short of a season will be devastating for recreational fisherman and hundreds whose livelihoods will be affected. At the least, a postponement and re-notice to the public is what I ask for.

cc: Attorney Jim Zeigler, Mobile, Al

--

Chris Beaver

Saltwater Angler

7411 Spaceview Dr. Saraland, Al 36571

251-518-8466

settinhookz@gmail.com

Subject: Request to Delay Decision onvAlabama 11-day Red Snapper Season
Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 3:50:05 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Zeigler Elder Care
To: Gulf Council
CC: jdute@al.com, prawls@ap.org, news5@wkrq.com

BEFORE THE GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Written Statement in Opposition to the 11-day Red Snapper Season for Alabama: Request for Delay in Decision April 10, 2014

I am asking the Gulf Council to postpone its scheduled vote on the proposed 11-day red snapper season for Alabama recreational fishing. Since the 11-day season proposal has just been publicized and I just found out about it, please waive the suggested three days before the start of the Council meeting for submission of this written comment.

The proposed change from a 40-day season to an 11-day season would be a devastating change for Alabama's recreational anglers. Because of the timing of the court decision, there has not been adequate notice to the public and to Alabama public officials.

Please do not make a final decision on this on April 10, 2014 but recess the meeting for a reasonable period to allow public notice and input. Please postpone a vote until after such notice and input period.

This vote comes only about three days from the general public's finding out about the 11-day proposal. An April 10 vote will not allow adequate notice and public input. It would certainly give the appearance of unfairness if not an actual denial of procedural due process.

Brief description of my Background and Interest in this Matter

I am an angler. I have a lifetime fishing license, including saltwater fishing, from the State of Alabama. I go red snapper fishing.

I am also the attorney for Save Our Mobile/Tensaw Delta, a group of citizens and outdoors-lovers who organized to maintain state control of our Delta and prevent federal management takeover and prevent nationalization.

I am asking the Council to not proceed now with approve the proposed 11-day season for red snapper for recreational anglers in Alabama. This short of a season

will be devastating for recreational fishermen and the hundreds whose livelihoods will be affected. I ask for at least a postponement and re-notice to the public.

Jim Zeigler

Jim Zeigler

3071 Teal Court

Mobile, Alabama

251-660-2060

ZeiglerElderCare@yahoo.com



TOP SHOTS

with Doug Olander, Editor-in-Chief

Posted on Nov 7, 2013 in [Top Shots](#), [Conservation](#), [red snapper fishing](#)

Prominent Fisheries Biologist: “We Can Do Better” Managing Red Snapper

by Doug Olander



[Enlarge Photo](#)

Doug Olander

Bob Shipp is a man in the middle. He's part of a system (the [Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council](#)) which has made rulings he has often disagreed with, increasingly so when it comes to one of the most [contentious fisheries](#) in the world: Gulf red snapper.

Bob is not one of those scientists who insist that red snapper population are suffering in the Gulf. In fact, he has written scientific papers showing that the dramatically increased “reef” structure in the form of oil rigs and platforms help account for what any angler or diver who ventures onto/into the Gulf knows: Snapper are thicker than fleas on the junkyard dog.

Bob e-mailed me a document he's written that I felt is well worth sharing. As much as I'd love to once again have a year-long open season throughout the Gulf with a generous bag limit, I think we all know that's unlikely. What Bob proposes here is not that, but it's so much better than what we have now, I think most anglers would give his plan a resounding thumbs up. I just hope lawmakers might have enough sense to do the same. See what you think.--
Doug

The recent turmoil over Gulf red snapper landings has cast a pall over stock assessments for this species. Folks on the water know that the population is healthier than it's ever been, and hopefully the new methodologies used in counting the catch will confirm this.

But where does that leave us? [I think we need to use some very simple but tried and true methods to manage this stock.](#) First a little history. During the nineties we had a seven fish bag limit for red snapper, and a year round season. Then in the early part of this century we went to a four fish bag limit and an April to October season. [During both of those periods the snapper stocks were improving rapidly.](#) More recently the bag limit was reduced to two fish, and the seasons progressively shortened. And the stocks continued to expand.

Now we have organized chaos. We have a very healthy stock and a near non existent season. We have rancor between stakeholders and tremendous uncertainty about the future management of this species.

We can look back on history and select a very conservative but reasonable management regime. I propose a straw man to begin the discussion. I propose a six month season (April 15- to October 15?) with a two (or three) fish bag limit. This is far more restrictive than those earlier periods when the stocks were expanding. But to make it even safer, [I propose that harvest be restricted to twenty \(or twenty-five\) fathoms or less. Red snappers range to one hundred fathom depths, so this would provide an additional safeguard to the stocks.](#)

We would monitor the harvest by fishery independent sampling and angler catch data (catch per unit effort). This system would stay in effect for three (or five) years, after which the restrictions could be adjusted if the monitoring data supported it.

What would this do? Well, it would end the conflict between the various sectors. There would be no need for sector separation (for-hire sector and private recreational), no need for pilot programs involving head boats and charter boats. It would enhance safety by eliminating the frantic derby fishery which results in bad weather fishing. In addition, states would likely remain compliant, and there would be no need for the complications of regional management.

The environmental groups would have a guarantee that the stocks are protected, with the creation of a virtual "marine protected area" for this species in depths greater than twenty (or twenty-five) fathoms. It would significantly reduce bycatch and release mortality with the longer season and twenty or twenty-five fathom restriction. The commercial sector would continue with their IFQ program, and this system would remove the onerous issue of reallocation, thus relieving the commercial sector of concerns of future reductions. Nor would the commercial sector have concerns about state takeover of red snapper management.

There would be no motivation for the inter-sector trading of shares which has generated so much ill will among stakeholders.

But perhaps most important it would bring stability to the fishery, allowing individuals and organizations to plan ahead. The socio-economic benefits would be immense.

How would this happen? First, Congress would have to exempt Gulf red snapper from the Magnuson Act. Then the Commerce Department would direct NOAA and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to develop a plan along the lines of the straw man described above. This would need to be in place by the at the earliest possible season.

I'm not so naïve to think this is likely to suddenly happen. But we continue to hear the cry to "think outside the box." We need to. As one environmental leader was quoted recently "red snapper management stinks." Come on folks, we can do better than this.

-Dr. Bob Shipp

Shipp has served eighteen years on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, three terms as chair, and is currently chairman of the Council's Reef Fish Committee. He is professor and past chair of the Department of Marine Sciences at the University of South Alabama.

Subject: Public Comment Submission

Date: Monday, April 7, 2014 at 9:44:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Bruce D

To: Gulf Council

If you need other personal information in order to file this as a public comment please so advise and I will send it.

April 7, 2014

To: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

FR: Bruce Daniecki email: bjd76@suddenlink.net

RE: Red Snapper

I am a private recreational fisherman and do not engage in Charter For Hire or Commercial RS fishing activity.

In light of NMFS' continued struggle to correctly set and monitor the Rec sector TAC, and the recent federal ruling on red snapper regarding *alleged* TAC overages by the Recreational Sector and impact to other sectors, I offer the following:

- Let's make clear that these overages can only be *alleged* as NMFS does not have an accurate or effective model to measure Recreational landings - this by its own admission.
- If the *alleged* overages did occur, given the fact the fishery has recovered so significantly such that there is the real possibility of RS damaging other stocks (notably trigger fish), NMFS assessment of the stock, if not at least the recent recovery rate, has been clearly understated.
- Given the expansive Recreational sector participation in the fishery as evidenced by NMFS *estimates* of continually exceeding the TAC – the Rec TAC must have been established on faulty assumptions/science. I recommend an immediate correction to an 80% Recreational and 20% commercial TAC to correct past errors and avoid any further exceeding of an obviously inequitable Rec allotment.
- Before any adjustment to the Recreational TAC or season, it is time to make some fair and overdue adjustments, including:
 - A more accurate and effective accountability of the stock, its recovery rate, and Recreational landings accountability – and not “Catch Shares”
 - Apply the same set of rules to all Sectors
 - All fish are measured whole weight to the TAC (not gutted for the Commercial sector – I'm ok for a model that accounts for the gutted weight being adjusted to a whole weight basis to allow them to clean their fish at sea).
 - Discard mortality rate is to be applied to the TAC, it applies to all Sectors based on their respective sector mortality rate (discard mortality is a significantly higher percentage and higher average weight for the Commercial sector).
- Commercial fishing permits and IFQs need to be managed/issued in an open lottery basis on

an every 2 year schedule

- Commercial fishing permits cannot be sold or leased; if not used by lottery winner they are returned to NMFS and converted to the Recreational allotment for that period
- Any federal or state income tax incentives for “fishing” income do not apply to anyone that earns in excess of \$60k per year – whether engaged in fishing full or part time
- Permit and license costs should be reflective of an individual’s take of the resource. For example, an average Rec fisherman pays \$35 for a salt water license and harvests maybe 10 RS, or the equivalent of \$.44 per RS pound. Since CFH and the Commercial sector benefit commercially, they should pay the same based on their (or customers) weighed landings. These additional funds go directly into building new RS habitat.
- Alternately, everyone has a 2 fish limit, can sell their fish, must report all landings, and when TAC is met, the season is closed. There are no commercial permits and IFQ – all one sector. A (former) “commercial” boat with 6 fisherman on it can catch 12 fish and can sell them and then go back out for more. A 2 day trip (max length) gets a 2 day limit, 24 fish in the above case. Same applies to a (former) Rec boat of course.

It is time the RS and other fisheries are managed in a *fair*, effective, and responsible manner.

Subject: (none)

Date: Monday, April 7, 2014 at 4:25:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Chuck Taylor

To: Gulf Council

DATE

Dear Honorable Members of the Gulf Council:

A Federal judge ruled the U.S. Government National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) violated the law by failing to properly manage the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper fishery. This ruling could have devastating effects on our local economy if the ruling includes the payback of the recreational quota overage. If NMFS interprets this as having to remedy their error immediately then we could possibly lose our 2014 and maybe even 2015 Red Snapper fishing season.

Our local economy depends heavily on the Red Snapper fishing season, as many tourists visit specifically to fish these Red Snapper. If our season closes, it could impact not only the Charter and Head boats, but marinas, restaurants, hoteliers and jobs.

The recreational anglers have been abiding by the laws that were set by the NMFS and should not be punished for mismanagement that they were directed to follow. According to the lawsuit's conclusions, there must have been some overarching understanding that the data they were seeing was not showing the correct growth of the Red Snapper, which in turn caused agencies to be less strict with their regulations. If this is the case, more accurate data must be obtained for fairness to the coastal communities that are affected.

In closing, I strongly urge NOAA and NMFS, that if payback is required of the quota overage that it is done slowly over time, versus shutting our season down. Red Snapper is a way of life to many local fishermen and brings tourists to fish these beautiful waters.

Respectfully,

G. Chuck Taylor, CPA

--

G. Chuck Taylor, CPA

**Managing Member
Registered Representative***

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Subject: Snapper

Date: Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 7:13:25 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: David

To: Gulf Council

What's to become of the local yocal who can only fish 30-40days for red snapper... U guys aren't too far from acting like our inept government ..not far at all

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Red Snapper Limits And Season(s)

Date: Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 9:46:50 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Jd Prine

To: Gulf Council

My name is Captain JD Prine of Panama City Beach FL. I'm a relatively new Charter Captain in this area, part-time 6-Pack charter, but I've been recreationally fishing these waters year-round for the last 6 years. To give you an idea of how much I'm out there and see what's going on, I average 800-900 hours per year on my small vessel. And yes, I have Federal Permits, my preferred fishing areas don't even start less than 25 miles offshore in any direction, 25-50 miles is a typical day for me. Point being I'm out there, always in Federal Water, and I'm out there A LOT more than even most full time charter boats, all year long, recreational fishing and some charter.

I too have concerns about our fisheries, all the species for that matter, I don't want to see them overfished either. That being said, in terms of the snapper population, there is NOT a problem and whatever methodology that's historically been used to calculate and project catch limits, it's obviously flawed and/or out dated. I'm out there year round, 11 of 12 months I go to great lengths at trying to STAY AWAY from snapper, and it can't be done. This the case for everyone for that matter, that fishes as often as I do. It's by far the most dominant species in the area, yet it's the most restricted, that makes no sense at all to me.

There is no problem with the "population" per se. That being said, I'd like to see the average size of the fish to be bigger. One idea I'd propose (and I've had very few disagree with this)..... Allow something with a bigger catch limit and longer season so people can fish longer, but incorporate a sort of slot limit as well. Say for example, three fish per day. Only one of unlimited size (one big sow), and two smaller fish in the slot (just grabbing a number here but say 16"-24"). This would "force" people to keep a lot of the smaller fish that often go wasted and die (or get eaten by dolphins) when people are "Head Hunting" (it happens, we all know it). And most importantly, it would cut the harvest of the big sows by half. Does that make sense? I've run that idea by several people including the Old Salts that actually taught me how to fish, in general it seems to make more sense than any other idea they've heard, based on what we see happening "real time" all year long. How long of a season? Well that's a tough one, I'll admit it, but I'd start with at least 2-3 months and see how it goes, along with an updated/more accurate method of keeping track of it all.

Smaller fish are getting wasted, all year long for that matter. Bigger fish (not more fish) are being weighed in overall, yet projected catch limits and seasons are based on "poundage" not "fish count". Guys, that system just simply does NOT work. I'm just assuming that's the way it's done, that's what I'm told anyways.

And as to all the hubbub b/n commercial and recreational quotas.... Doing my best to look at it objectively with no bias to my side of the fence, but honestly I think more priority should be given to the recreational/charter sector if anything. I'm not at all saying take anything away from the commercial side, but certainly don't take anything away from US either!? I'm not worried about the commercial side, nor the people that they supply too. When push comes to shove, if we got into a scenario in which the species was in fact in jeopardy (which they are not), and people abroad (or even close by) want to eat snapper? Well, they can come down here and catch them themselves and contribute to the local economy in doing so. I've never been a believer in the concept of "spread the wealth", nor am I a believer in "spread the fish" if it means taking away from the local anglers, recreational and charters alike. If that means snapper is more expensive or harder to obtain in New York City (or wherever), so be it.

Lastly, this idea I just heard about regarding closing down the snapper season all together for 2014-15, to make up for "allegedly" being over harvested last year.... That's absolutely insane. I don't care what your stats are saying, based on what I am seeing out there, "real time with my own eyes", they were NOT, and are NOT overfished. In a nutshell, as is/right now, 11 months of the year I look at snapper as nothing more than PESTS, I can't keep them off of me no matter how hard I try or where I go. And as a result, often we're killing more than we're protecting (injury or dolphins), so why not keep some more of them? No season, a more restricted season, that is not the

answer to the problem when certain aspects of "the problem" do not even exist.

Thank you for listening.

Capt. JD Prine

Subject: Red Snapper

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 12:14:38 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Jake Dowers

To: Gulf Council

I'm wondering where y'all get y'all's numbers on the red snapper being over fished? I live in Louisiana and I spear fish the oil rigs out of Cameron, Freshwater City, and Venice.

Every rig I stop at is loaded with red snapper from 30-100 miles out, I'm confused as to why y'all would wanna shorten the season on us here in Louisiana/Texas/Mississippi/Alabama, there is no shortage this way.

Do y'all put divers in the water to assess these things or y'all just guess at it?

If y'all wanna do anything hammer the commercial fisherman, but leave us recreational fisherman alone.

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Gulf Red Snapper

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 10:27:22 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: John Lee

To: Gulf Council

Council, Rec. sector went over quota due to abundance of same. We need a break. Give us more days, not less.

Thanks, Capt. John Lee
Big Time Charters
Mexico Bch., FL

Subject: Red Snapper Season

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 10:21:07 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: michael mallory

To: Gulf Council

Good Afternoon,

I am very disappointed to see the new Red Snapper regulations that will go into effect. The council has been bullied by the commercial fisherman into making such drastic changes that will effect so many people on the gulf coast. The fisheries in the Gulf have an over abundance of Red Snapper which is more than enough for both the commercial and recreational fisherman. The council has become nothing but a pawn for commercial fisherman and are now taking full advantage of all recreational fisherman. I could definitely understand if the Red Snapper population were dwindling, but it is very much the opposite. We have seen a drastic increase in Red Snapper. I urge you all to take into consideration all the people that will be greatly effected by this change.

Thank You,

Michael Mallory
850-867-8107

Subject: SAVE OUR RED SNAPPER FISHING SEASON

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 10:16:58 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: JAMIE SHEPARD

To: Gulf Council

CC: Bay Cty Chamber_Carol Roberts

Fishing is a way of life for recreational fishermen and those who service this industry in northwest Florida, and in Bay County in particular. Red snapper season specifically draws fishermen and their families from all over the Southeast, supports recreational fishing charters as well the ancillary businesses. Consequently, red snapper season has become a considerable source of revenue for our local economy.

No one wants to protect this precious resource more than we do.

We have the technology, the ability, and most important, the motivation to monitor fish populations and recreational harvesting with sufficient accuracy to both maintain the fish population and sustain our local economies. **We need clear policies and best practices, not prohibition.**

As an active member of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce as well the Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce, I strongly urge the Council to implement sound and reasonable policies to protect recreational fishing for those whose livelihoods rely upon it as well for those who come to our shores to enjoy it.

We can do this if we work together.

JAMIE SHEPARD

Marketing & Business Facilitator

RSAE (*an engineering services firm not related to the fishing industry*)

Panama City Beach, FL

850.774.8946 JamieShepard.RSAE@gmail.com

Subject: Red Snapper Fishing

Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 9:24:11 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Dan Carteaux

To: Gulf Council

Greetings from Panama City Beach;

As a local resident, recreational fisherman, and voter, it is difficult to understand why the possibility of a moratorium on for snapper is even being considered.

Our economy is substantially dependent on the money generated by fishing and is a key part of our tourism-based income. In an already depressed economy, this type of decision can become a fatal blow.

Having fished most of the Emerald Coast's waters, I've caught and released more red snappers than every other fish combined by at least a 5-to-1 margin year round. You simply can't get past the snapper to the other fish because they are so numerous and seemingly overpopulated.

The people of the Gulf Coast are watching this issue very closely. They are concerned about their local economies, their access to fish in local waters, and their right as citizens of Florida and the United States. We are hopeful that the council will have its voice heard at the national/federal level and can convince NOAA to cease and desist on this issue.

Best of luck in your efforts.

Regards,

Dan Carteaux
PCB

--

dc

Subject: Red Snapper Conservation and Use

Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 12:51:52 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Webb Warren

To: Gulf Council

We have seen a continual erosion of access to the Red Snapper fishery at the recreational sector. At the foundation of US wildlife management is the availability, conservation and restricted commercialization of our natural resources. We are seeing that a 'species in peril' is increasingly, proportionally, being commercialized while the recreational sector is forced out. This policy direction is inherently flawed. If you want to 'save' a species, the commercialization of that sector should be eliminated. If a species is genuinely threatened, why is it commercialized? Read what has been successful throughout the history of the US, starting with Teddy Roosevelt, and adopt a model that protects the recreational component of a fishery.

From a personal level, I used to spend thousands of dollars a year just to get on the water and enjoy time with friends and family targeting trophy snapper. Now, I am lucky if I spend \$125 per year targeting snapper. Minimizing access to that species has drastically reduced my overall time on the water and time with friends/family as there is little opportunity to target quality species, despite the species being readily available to catch. I have sold my boat. I have not had friends/family come down to enjoy the fishery in 6 years, all because of the restricted access....access that continues to shrink for me while the commercial sector grows.

The rich fisheries of the Florida panhandle used to be accessible by all, now it is increasingly being restricted by the few. Please reverse this course. It simply has gone too far and this new 'game' of fishery management is now being controlled by the minority of commercial fisherman.

Webb Warren
114 Pearl Ave
Panama City Beach, FL 32413

Subject: Red Snapper Fishing Season

Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 10:32:45 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Rusty Hudson

To: Gulf Council

Please consider the impact closing Red Snapper season is going to have on the local economy along coast of Florida, as well as the impact on the very lives of the people who work here and depend on the fishing industry to provide for their families. Thank you.

Russell Hudson

Louisiana Data / from Federal Survey
4-9-14
info prepared by Pam Anderson

Depth	Fork Length (mm)	Weight (kg)		Fork Length (in.)	Weight (pounds)
30-60 Feet	431.1688742	1.51594702		16.975186	3.34190023
60-120 Feet	443.5610749	1.677337948		17.4630008	3.69778311
120-180 Feet	465.4686248	1.919224299		18.3254998	4.23092995
180-360 Feet	493.4303797	2.298951899		19.426354	5.06803944