



Kevin Anson, Chairman

January 24, 2016

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Ave, Suite 1100
Tampa, FL 33607

Dear Chairman Anson,

On behalf of the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance (Shareholders' Alliance), please accept the following comments on the following issues to be discussed at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) meeting in Orange Beach, Alabama this week.

Amendment 36 (Red Snapper IFQ Modifications)

- **We believe that many of the potential actions in this Amendment 36 scoping document will impose undue economic and social harm on commercial reef fish fishermen and therefore we must oppose most of these items.** Restrictions on program eligibility, caps on allocation and share holdings, restrictions on share and allocation transfer, forced divestment and mandated redistribution of future allocation gains run counter to the goals of the individual fishing quota (IFQ) program and the results of the Five Year Review. These complicated and controversial proposals often result in actions that do more harm than good, frequently hurting more individuals than expected, especially a full decade into a successful and relatively stable management program. We urge the Gulf Council to consider whether these “solutions” really solve the intended “problem” at hand (and whether such a problem actually exists), and to articulate the unintended/intended consequences of these disruptive proposals.
- **If Amendment 36 moves forward, we could support inclusion of actions to improve enforcement of IFQ species (Action 7) and to close and redistribute accounts that have never been activated (Action 5), and strongly suggest additional Reef Fish Advisory Panel (AP) input on these actions.** We would recommend that in order to truly address regulatory discards, any redistributed allocation be put to use by industry-funded Quota Banks that promote conservation and accountability and are built around a specific goal of reducing red snapper regulatory discards in the Gulf of Mexico. These two proposed measures align with the goals of the IFQ program and the Five Year Review, as well as improve enforceability of management actions, promote conservation and accountability, should be simple to implement, and foster collaborative problem-solving within the industry.

Amendment 33 (Reef Fish LAPP).

- **We support the Gulf Council directing staff to proceed with the Amendment 33 document.** At this point, it's unclear whether or not an IFQ program would solve some of the problems seen with various reef fish species or that it would improve the performance of certain components of the fishery. But we do believe that the Reef Fish AP deserves the chance to review an updated document to decide whether or not to recommend moving forward and to start discussing IFQ issues like an updated list of appropriate species, allocation baselines, reporting requirements, access, leasing, monitoring, and enforcement.

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Amendment 39 (Regional Management).

- **We continue to support Action 2 Alternative 2 - regional management for private anglers.** This alternative is endorsed by a vast majority of the charter/for-hire sector, and is also supported by the Reef Fish AP. The charter/for-hire fleet wants to remain under federal management and the protections it affords their businesses; they should not have this program imposed on them against their will.
- **We also support any move to eliminate the Sector Separation sunset provision, either through Amendment 39 or a separate stand-alone measure.** We believe this successful, lawful program should continue to demonstrate gains to the fishery.

Red Snapper ACT Buffer.

- **We support the continuation of the 20% buffer accountability measure (AM) as required by law.** The recreational sector has substantial sources of uncertainty, including but not limited to the thirteen factors addressed in the Gulf Council document Tab B No. 4(b). That, coupled with the fact that there has only been one year of data on the buffer effectiveness and that the second year of data predicts a recreational ACT overage, demonstrates the need to maintain this necessary provision.

Reef Fish Amendments 41 and 42.

- **We support the Gulf Council continuing to move forward with Amendment 41 and 42 to develop charter/for-hire and headboat red snapper and reef fish management plans.** Doing so will afford these groups the opportunity to develop accountable management plans that work for their businesses and promote sustainable harvesting.

Shrimp Permit Moratorium (Amendment 17A).

- **We support the continuation of the Gulf's shrimp permit moratorium for 10 years (Preferred Alternative 2b).** Expansion of the shrimp fleet at this time could have negative consequences in the reef fish fishery, especially with bycatch, that could jeopardize rebuilding and protection of reef fish species.

Ad Hoc Private Angler Advisory Panel AP.

- **We support the immediate development, implementation, and population of this AP.** The chance for private anglers to come together in an organized, public and transparent setting to discuss solutions for their fishery is long overdue. We've been told that there have been a series of meetings outside the Gulf Council process to discuss private angler options; however, not knowing when these meetings were happening, where they were happening, who organized them, how they came together, who was in the room, why those individuals were chosen, who chose them, what the charge was, what the goals and objectives of this group are, and what the results of these meetings are, it's not really possible to tell whether progress is being made or not. We look forward to the AP vetting these and any other legitimate ideas through a public, transparent, and accountable Gulf Council AP process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Eric Brazer, Deputy Director
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance

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January 25, 2016

Mr. Kevin Anson, Chair
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Ave.
Tampa, FL 33607

Dear Mr. Anson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Gulf of Mexico fisheries. Here are our comments and recommendations on recreational reef fish issues before the Council this week:

1. Simplify red snapper regional management by devoting it to the private angling component – select Alternative 2 in Action 2 as preferred.

Regional management for red snapper has been endorsed primarily by private anglers and the Gulf states. Many recreational for-hire operators across the Gulf of Mexico have voiced a preference for a Gulf-wide federal management plan, and we agree that the for-hire component should be removed from any consideration of a regional management plan. Amendment 39 provides an opportunity for states to design management measures that work best for the private anglers in each region, and we suggest that the Council consider the potential benefits of management tools like tags and angler management organizations for private anglers. These approaches could provide year-round fishing opportunities, better data on fishery performance that could reduce uncertainty buffers, and reduced risk of overages that undermine the rebuilding of red snapper.

2. Continue progress on allocation-based management plans in Amendment 41 and 42.

Amendment 42:

The Gulf Headboat Collaborative pilot program demonstrated that an allocation-based management plan for headboats can be a significant improvement over status quo. Allocated the same proportion of red snapper and gag their customers would normally catch in derby seasons, headboats participating in the pilot program:^{1,2}

¹ Abbott, J.K. (2015). The Gulf Headboat Collaborative: Preliminary Findings from Year 1. Presentation to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Biloxi, MS. March 31, 2015.

² NMFS Southeast Regional Office (2015). "Headboat Collaborative Pilot Program 2014 Annual Report." March 2015.

- Spread out their allocations of red snapper and gag over the year to allow year-round fishing and improved economic stability for headboat operators;
- Provided more than twice as many anglers (+100%) with opportunities to fish for red snapper and gag;
- Significantly reduced discards of red snapper and gag (by 43% and 59%, respectively);
- Successfully stayed under catch limits and facilitated superior monitoring and enforcement by using daily electronic logbooks, vessel monitoring systems, and quota transferability within the pilot program.

The headboat pilot program was a success for headboat businesses, their angler customers, and conservation. While the two year pilot expired on December 31, 2015, the Council now has an opportunity to build on this success and extend a similar management approach to all 68 Gulf of Mexico headboats participating in the Southeast Region Headboat Survey (i.e., Beaufort Survey).

We recommend that the Council **move forward Amendment 42** as quickly as possible with these features:

- Species to include: Amendment 42 should develop a multispecies allocation-based management approach, consistent with recommendations from the Council's Reef Fish Headboat Advisory Panel. At a minimum this should include the five major reef fish species for which there are recreational allocations (red snapper, red grouper, gag, greater amberjack, and gray triggerfish). These species are important to headboat businesses and their angler customers, and many are facing the same management challenges as recreational red snapper.
- Initial allocations: Headboats have reported their landings through trip-level logbooks for many years, so it will be straightforward to establish initial allocations based on their own landings histories.
- Structure: Quota shares and allocation should be distributed to individual headboat operators with for-hire reef fish permits. A cooperative structure made sense for 19 headboats in a pilot program, but going forward on larger scale individual allocations and accountability will make management and enforcement more simple, effective, and efficient.
- Transferability: Shares and allocation should be freely transferable and divisible among permitted headboats. Quota transfers allowed pilot program headboats the flexibility to reduce discards and extend fishing seasons over the year. Amendment 42 should extend these benefits to all Gulf of Mexico headboats.

Amendment 41:

The benefits demonstrated by the headboat pilot program should also be extended to the charter component of the recreational reef fish fishery. Amendment 41 lays out four goals: increased flexibility, reduced management uncertainty, improved economic conditions, and increased fishing opportunities for charter customers. These goals are critical to reversing the failure of status quo management and are the right guideposts for developing a successful management plan for the charter for-hire component.

We recommend that the Council **move forward Amendment 41** with these considerations:

- Management approach: The two fishing quota programs listed in Action 1, Alternative 2 (Individual Fishing Quota and Permit Fishing Quota) are likely to provide the most benefits to participants and the most efficient management for regulators and law enforcement. A cooperative structure is impractical given the large number of charter operators across the Gulf, and stand-alone tag management would forfeit the predictability and efficiency of individual allocations.
- Initial allocations: Given the lack of vessel-level landings history, Amendment 41 lays out several equitable means of distribution. We do not recommend one alternative over any other, but the Council should consider all of the implications of weighting allocations by estimated regional landings from prior years. Weighting allocations by estimated regional landings may result in uneven initial allocations across the Gulf, but not doing so may mean that initial allocations are less representative of recent fishing trends.
- Transferability: For any initial allocation scenario selected, quota transferability will be advantageous to rebalance fishing opportunities, extend fishing seasons, and reduce discards. The Gulf Headboat Collaborative pilot program demonstrated clear benefits of quota transferability. We recommend that Amendment 41 provide these benefits to the charter component.

We recommend that the Council reconvene the reef fish headboat and red snapper charter for-hire advisory panels before the April 2016 Council meeting to provide more detailed guidance on these management options.

3. Move forward on populating and convening the Private Angler Advisory Panel.

A federal court upheld the creation of the private angling and for-hire subsectors in the red snapper fishery. The Council should focus on improving management to benefit anglers in both. As was done in the commercial sector and is now on-going in recreational for-hire efforts, the gathering of stakeholder input and development of options should be done in an inclusive and transparent process. Closed door meetings by self-selected stakeholders cannot replace the advisory panel process. We strongly encourage the Council to move forward with a robust process to engage a wide cross-section of anglers across the Gulf in an open, inclusive and constructive advisory panel.

Thank you for considering our comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Jones

Director, Gulf of Mexico Oceans Program

January 24, 2016

Kevin Anson, Chair
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 North Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

RE: Ocean Conservancy's Comments on Actions Before the January, 2016 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting in Orange Beach, Alabama

Dear Mr. Anson,

Ocean Conservancy¹ is writing to provide comments on a number of issues that will be discussed by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council ('GMFMC', 'the Council') at its upcoming January meeting in Orange Beach, Alabama. The specific items and our recommendations are summarized below, and are expounded upon in greater detail in the following sections:

- **Amendment 39** – The Council should **select Action 2, Alternative 2 as preferred and vote to finalize Amendment 39**. Applying regional management solely to the private recreational component of the fishery will allow state managers to develop regulations that are tailored to the private recreational component and will create accountability, facilitate rebuilding, and increase access for private recreational fishermen.
- **Red Snapper Recreational Annual Catch Target ('ACT') Adjustment** – The Council should heed the advice of the Scientific and Statistical Committee ('SSC') and **make no changes to the existing 20% buffer** between the recreational red snapper Annual Catch Limit ('ACL') and ACT. This buffer is crucially important to the continued rebuilding success of red snapper and should not be changed until suitable accountability measures are implemented for the recreational fishery.
- **Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel** – The Council should **form this Advisory Panel ('AP') without delay**. This AP will provide the Council necessary advice and direction for better achieving management and fishermen objectives.
- **Amendment 33** – The Council should **resume work on creating Limited Access Privilege Programs ('LAPPs')** for reef fish not currently under such a program, including greater amberjack and gray triggerfish, as this would promote greater accountability in the commercial fishery and would ensure continued rebuilding progress for these stocks.

Please note that we have also submitted a separate letter detailing our support for and recommended changes to the Modifications to Charter Vessel and Headboat Reporting Requirements Amendment.

¹ Ocean Conservancy is a non-profit organization that educates and empowers citizens to take action on behalf of the ocean. From the Arctic to the Gulf of Mexico to the halls of Congress, Ocean Conservancy brings people together to find solutions for our water planet. Informed by science, our work guides policy and engages people in protecting the ocean and its wildlife for future generations.

Amendment 39 – Regional Management of Recreational Red Snapper: Council should select Action 2 Alternative 2 as preferred and vote to finalize Amendment 39.

Ocean Conservancy recommends that the Council selects Action 2 Alternative 2 as preferred, making regional management apply exclusively to the private recreational fishing component while also eliminating the three-year sunset provision instituted under Amendment 40 (Sector Separation).

Regional management provides a real and meaningful chance for private recreational fishermen from throughout the five Gulf states to fish under regulatory conditions that cater directly to their local needs. Fishermen from each state fish at different times of year, with different techniques and different local knowledge, out of ports that range in character and culture from Naples to Venice to Brownsville. Allowing the states to develop individual conservation equivalent plans that are customized to the unique fishing traits of private fishermen in their waters could ultimately result in more days on the water for anglers, greater accountability from the private recreational component, and decreased likelihood that the recreational component will exceed its share of the overall red snapper quota season after season. Fewer quota overruns and greater stability in the fishery means rebuilding stays on track and catch limits can increase as the stock rebounds.

Approving Amendment 39 with any alternative other than Action 2 Alternative 2 as preferred jeopardizes the important management progress that has been made for recreational red snapper fishing. Any other alternative in Action 2 would in essence remove the management framework that is showing signs of management success, including more fishing opportunities and greater accountability in the Charter-for-Hire fishery.

In addition, Sector Separation provides the potential for additional improvements in conservation and economic performance of the Charter-for-Hire fishery via development of new management approaches. The Council has recognized this by developing Amendments 41 and 42 with the goal of implementing specific management measures for the Charter-for-Hire and Headboat segments of the recreational red snapper fishery. These amendments are currently underway, and removing Sector Separation would in essence render the potential conservation gains that could be realized through unique Charter-for-Hire and Headboat management provisions null and void.

Furthermore, selecting Action 2 Alternative 2 removes the three-year sunset provision set out in Amendment 40, which will allow for the long term benefits of Sector Separation to be realized by both components of the recreational fishery. As each component works to implement component specific management measures that are narrowly tailored to their unique needs, fishermen, whether they are clients on charter vessels or members of the boat-owning public, should see greater access in increased seasons as quota overruns are reduced and rebuilding progress continues.

Red Snapper Recreational ACT Adjustment: Council should not make any changes to the current buffer for recreational red snapper at this point.

Ocean Conservancy recommends that the Council heeds the advice of the SSC by maintaining the current buffer in place for the recreational red snapper fishery. Further analysis and additional data is needed to determine what sort of adjustment could be made to fine tune the buffer, however it is clear that to do so now, especially in light of the SSC's clear recommendations, would be premature.

The ruling in *Guindon v. Pritzker* mandated that accountability measures be developed and applied to the recreational red snapper fishery in order to comply with the MSA.² Council responded to this ruling in 2014 by implementing a 20% buffer by way of emergency rule. For 2015 and onward, Council

² *Guindon v. Pritzker*, 31 F. Supp. 3d 169 (D.D.C. 2014).

implemented a 20% buffer and a post-season payback measure for longer term compliance with the *Guindon* ruling and with the MSA.³

As a result of the 2014 emergency rule, that season was the first since 2011 that recreational catches stayed below the ACL.⁴ While the 2015 season data is not yet complete, there are indications that the overall recreational ACL will not be exceeded, however it does seem possible that the private recreational component of the fishery has already exceeded the ACT.⁵ These results are promising, however based on the history of quota overages there is still lingering uncertainty that overages could persist notwithstanding these early results.

In light of this residual uncertainty as highlighted by the SSC, the Council should wait for more data from upcoming seasons before adjusting the recreational buffer. This approach will also allow time for critical analysis to be conducted that could determine which component of the recreational fishery under Sector Separation might be responsible for any fishing down of the buffer that could be occurring, which would allow for reliable calibration of the buffer for future seasons.

The is echoed by the SSC, which reported at its January, 2016 meeting that “with only one year of Sector Separation, there is little data on which to base any analysis” and that the buffer should be “re-evaluated in 3 or 4 years when there will be more data under sector separation.”⁶ This is prudent advice from the SSC, and we recommend that the Council follows it on this issue.

Ad-Hoc Private Recreational AP: Council should populate and charge this AP without haste.

Ocean Conservancy urges the Council to officially form this AP so that it may begin work as soon as possible to develop solutions that will work to increase access and promote achievement of management goals in the private recreational fishery. This AP will give citizen-fishermen from the private boat owning public the opportunity to recommend directly to the Council management options and alternatives that can make a difference for their fishery, with the ultimate objective of increasing the length of the existing 10-day season while ensuring that rebuilding of important recreational stocks continues.

Amendment 33 – Reef Fish Limited Access Privilege Program: The Council should resume work and develop LAPPs for Greater Amberjack, Gray Triggerfish, and other reef fish stocks not currently under a LAPP

Ocean Conservancy recommends that the Council reinitiates consideration of LAPPs for stocks not currently under a LAPP under the reef fish Fishery Management Plan (‘FMP’). The conservation benefits of LAPPs in conjunction with the red snapper rebuilding plan have been well documented in the commercial snapper-grouper fishery, where for example quota overruns for commercial red snapper have not occurred and bycatch was reduced since the Individual Fishing Quota (‘IFQ’) program for that stock was implemented in 2007.⁷ In contrast, greater amberjack and gray triggerfish

³ Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Recreational Accountability Measures for Red Snapper*, <http://gulfcouncil.org/docs/amendments/Final%20Recreational%20AMs%20for%20Red%20Snapper%2010-6-2014.pdf> (accessed January 19, 2016).

⁴ NOAA Fisheries, *Gulf of Mexico Recreational Landings and Annual Catch Limits 2014*, http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/recreational_historical/gulf_recreational_historical/2014/index.html (accessed January 19, 2016).

⁵ NOAA Fisheries, *Gulf of Mexico Recreational Landings and Annual Catch Limits 2015-2016*, http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/recreational_gulf/index.html (accessed January 19, 2016).

⁶ Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Briefing Materials for January 2016 – Standing and Special Reef Fish SSC Meeting Summary*, at 14 [http://gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/BriefingMaterials/BB-01-2016/B%20-%20204\(a\)%20Standing%20%20Reef%20Fish%20SSC%20Meeting%20Summary%2001-2016.pdf](http://gulfcouncil.org/council_meetings/BriefingMaterials/BB-01-2016/B%20-%20204(a)%20Standing%20%20Reef%20Fish%20SSC%20Meeting%20Summary%2001-2016.pdf) (accessed January 19, 2016).

⁷ Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Amendment 40 at 36*, http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/commercial_gulf/index.html (accessed January 19, 2016).

have been managed utilizing traditional management measures including trip limits and seasonal closures. Both fisheries have often exceeded their ACLs – the commercial greater amberjack fishery exceeded its quota seven of the eight years between 2008 and 2015, while the commercial gray triggerfish fishery has exceeded its quota in just two of eight seasons between 2008 and 2015.⁸

Furthermore, both species are currently failing to meet rebuilding objectives and deadlines. Greater amberjack is overfished and undergoing overfishing, and recently concluded a ten-year rebuilding plan without being rebuilt.^{9,10} Although the Council has implemented regulations that will ostensibly rebuild the stock by 2019,¹¹ a new Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act ('MSA') mandated rebuilding plan has not been formalized, and based on historical rebuilding failures there is considerable uncertainty as to whether or not the stock will indeed rebuild. Similarly, gray triggerfish, which is under a rebuilding plan ending in 2017, is also not making adequate rebuilding progress and Council has been charged with developing a new rebuilding plan by November 2, 2017.¹²

The persistent quota overruns for greater amberjack and gray triggerfish could be curbed by developing a well-designed LAPP and implementing effective rebuilding measures for these stocks. A LAPP for these stocks will have the added benefit of potentially eliminating or reducing annual quota closures, preventing derby fishing, reducing market gluts, minimizing price volatility, and curtailing effort shifting.

To ensure Amendment 33 applies equitably to all commercial fishermen that target these species, Ocean Conservancy recommends as an initial action the Council sends the amendment to the Reef Fish Advisory Panel. By sending the amendment directly to the stakeholders that will be impacted, the Council will obtain important insight and advice that will make sure these LAPPs are developed fairly and result in the greatest benefit to all.

We appreciate the opportunity to give comment, and please feel free to contact the undersigned with any comments or questions.

Best regards,

s/ Jon Paul (J.P.) S. Brooker, Esq.

Policy Analyst, Fishery Conservation Program
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⁸ NOAA Fisheries, *Gulf of Mexico Commercial ACL Monitoring*, http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/commercial_gulf/index.html (accessed January 19, 2016).

⁹ NOAA Fisheries, *Status of the Stocks as of September 30, 2015*, http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/fisheries_eco/status_of_fisheries/archive/2015/third/final_fssi_quarterly_map_q3_2015.pdf (accessed January 19, 2016).

¹⁰ Southeast Data Assessment and Review, *SEDAR 33*, http://sedarweb.org/docs/sar/SEDAR%2033%20SAR-%20GAJ%20Stock%20Assessment%20Report%20FINAL_sizereduced_5.15.2014.pdf (accessed January 19, 2016).

¹¹ Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, *Modifications to Greater Amberjack Allowable Harvest*, at 11, <http://gulfcouncil.org/docs/amendments/Greater%20AJ%20FINAL%20VERSION%207-10-15.pdf> (accessed January 19, 2016).

¹² Southeast Data Assessment and Review, *SEDAR 43*, http://sedarweb.org/docs/sar/S43_SAR_FINAL.pdf (accessed January 19, 2016).

January 25, 2016

Dear Chairman Anson and Members of the Gulf Council:

Following the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) release of the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy in 2015, representatives of the angling community in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) came together to discuss opportunities for better management of the recreational sector, while ensuring the broadest possible input from the largest sector of reef fish participants in the Gulf. After two in-person meetings, the professionally facilitated Gulf Angler Focus Group (GAFG) has officially been formed.

Gulf Angler Focus Group

The GAFG is a professionally facilitated group composed of unaffiliated private anglers, national angler organizations, for-hire operators, bait and tackle shop owners, fishing tackle manufacturers, tackle distributors, and marina owners – working in consultation with all five state fisheries managers from the Gulf region. The GAFG's purpose is to develop a package of consensus recommendations by the recreational sector for reasonable access and the sustainable harvest of Gulf reef fish fisheries, with an emphasis on the red snapper fishery, for consideration in management decisions by the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council (Council) and NMFS. In addition to providing a format to include the broadest representation of the recreational sector, the GAFG provides a neutral and productive setting for those representatives to fully explore management options for the sector.

Over the course of the next twelve to eighteen months, the GAFG will focus on several key areas to enhance and improve recreational fisheries management. These areas include recreational harvest data collection, biological data collection, stock assessments, recreational management options, regional management, season lengths, allocations and sector separation.

In addition, the GAFG will provide comments on proposed actions at each Council meeting, beginning with the meeting slated for January 25-28 in Orange Beach, AL. At this meeting the Council will consider taking action on two issues identified as priorities at the most recent GAFG meeting – continuing discussions of an Ad Hoc Private Recreational AP and final action on Reef Fish Management Plan Amendment 39.

Ad Hoc Private Recreational AP

The GAFG recommends that the Council defer any action on the further development of an Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel in light of the GAFG's organized, neutrally facilitated, and broad-based effort to develop consensus recommendations for the recreational fishery on key management issues in a timely manner consistent with the NMFS National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy Guiding Principles and the findings of the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management. The inherent challenge of incorporating the diverse perspectives of the recreational sector from Brownsville, TX to Key West, FL and the reservations of the majority of private recreational anglers in the Council process would preclude any Council ad hoc committee from truly reaching consensus management option for Gulf anglers. This position was unanimously supported by the GAFG.

Amendment 39

Anglers continue to support the concept of regional management and the need for flexibility in state management of the recreational component of the red snapper fishery. However, Amendment 39 as currently amended does not accomplish its original intent of allowing the states the flexibility to truly manage the recreational component in the red snapper fishery. The GAFG recommends that the Council revisit and re-evaluate the original vision of Amendment 39 and seek agreement on how to ensure the original purposes of the amendment are met. This position was unanimously supported by the GAFG.

In closing, the current management of red snapper has failed in providing acceptable access for the recreational sector. We recognize that angler participation in the Council process has been minimal, due primarily to intractable meeting opportunities and to a lack of trust in the Council process in general. However, the recreational community has now come together voluntarily and at their own expense to provide the Council with consensus management recommendations from a full spectrum of anglers. We trust that in good faith, the Council will allow this process to develop fully and to ultimately provide valuable input that would not be available through a formal Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel at this time.

Sincerely,

Ken Anderson
Owner/Operator
M/V Capt. Anderson

Pam Anderson
Operations Manager
Capt. Anderson's Marina

Hughes Andry
Sportco Marketing
Fishing Tackle Industry

Jim Donofrio
Executive Director
Recreational Fishing Alliance

Chris Horton
Fisheries Program Director
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Mike Nugent
Fishery Representative
Port Aransas Boatman Association

Kellie Ralston
Florida Fishery Policy Director
American Sportfishing Association

Ted Venker
Conservation Director
Coastal Conservation Association

Bob Zales II
President - National Association of Charterboat Operators
Northwest Florida Director – Florida Guides Association

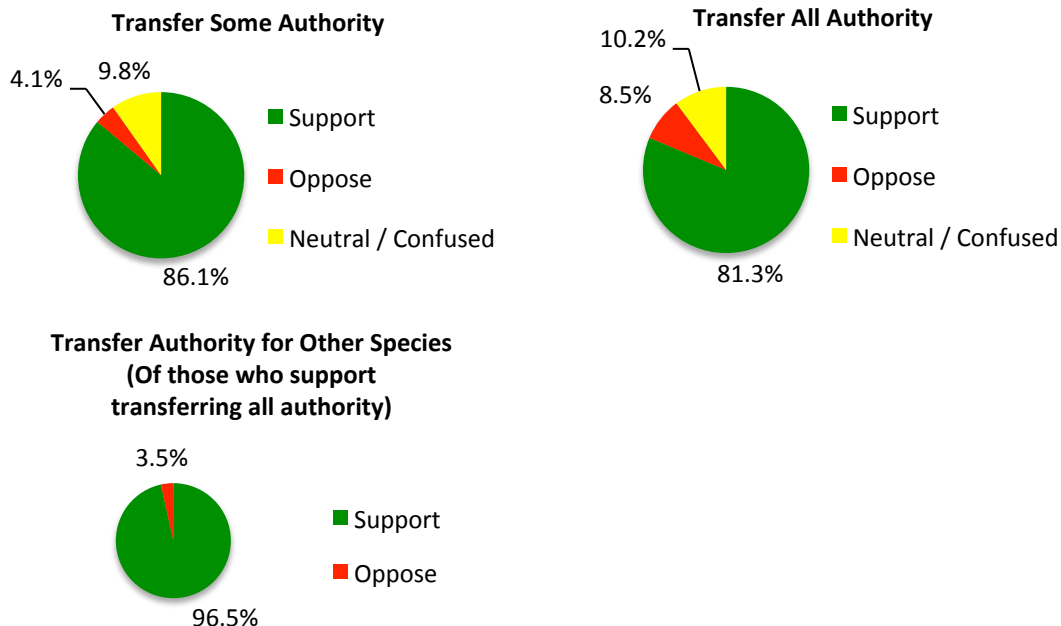
Gary Zurn
Owner/Partner
Big Rock Sports

January 15, 2016

Dear Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council members and staff,

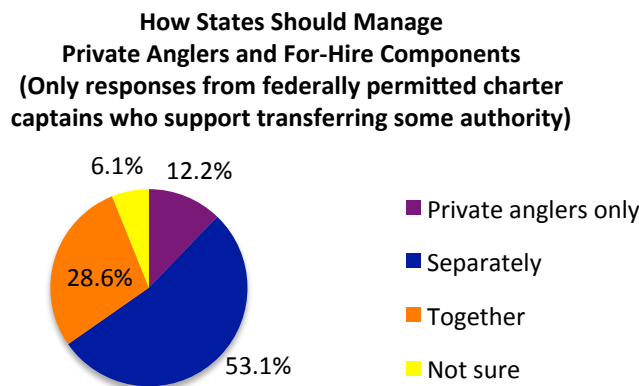
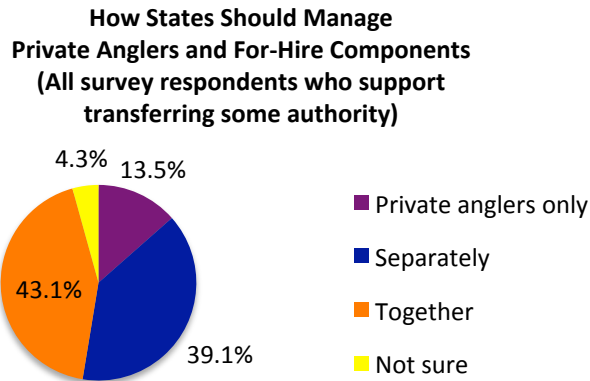
As the Council prepares to take final action on Amendment 39 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan at its upcoming meeting in January 2016, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) would like to submit public comments on behalf of our recreational fishing community for Council members and staff to consider. These comments are the results of an online survey we sent to recreational fishermen who fish for reef fish offshore of Louisiana to find out what they think about Amendment 39 and regional management of red snapper. These comments represent the opinions of nearly 6,000 recreational fishermen who fish red snapper.

According to their responses, recreational fishermen, regardless of being a private angler or a charter captain, residing in Louisiana or elsewhere, **overwhelmingly support transferring some management authority** for the recreational red snapper fishery from federal authorities to state agencies like LDWF. In fact, most also support transferring all authority for recreational red snapper to the states. The vast majority of these supporters would like to transfer authority for other species like grouper and amberjack to the states as well. Only a small fraction of survey respondents prefers to keep management as is.



The survey also sought recreational fishermen's feedback on how regional management should apply to the private angling and for-hire components of the recreational fishery, currently managed separately under federal authority. Of the survey respondents who support regional management, opinions were mixed—about 40 percent prefer the states to apply the same management measures to private anglers and charter boats and about 40 percent prefer the states to manage these recreational fishery

components separately. A small percentage prefers the Council to continue managing federally permitted charter boats. Considering only responses from federally permitted charter captains, about half would like the states to manage them separately from private anglers and about a third prefers to be managed together with private anglers. A small percentage would like to continue to be managed under federal authority.



The full survey methodology and results are included with this letter. We also received numerous pages of comments through the survey; these comments are included as well. As the Council determines the best solution for future management of the recreational red snapper fishery, LDWF urges them to consider these survey results and comments, keeping in mind that they are the actual opinions of a large number of recreational fishermen with a vested interest in this fishery.

Sincerely,

Randy Pausina
Assistant Secretary for Fisheries, LDWF

**Results of an Online Survey of Louisiana Recreational Offshore
Landings Permit Holders**

Soliciting Views of Proposals to Transfer the Authority for Managing the Gulf of
Mexico Recreational Red Snapper Fishery from the Gulf Council to State Agencies

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Office of Fisheries

October 2015

Results of an Online Survey of Louisiana Recreational Offshore Landings Permit Holders

Introduction

In the fall of 2015, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries conducted a survey of a population of anglers who indicated an intention to fish recreationally in the offshore waters off the Louisiana coast. The objective of the survey was to assess what this segment of stakeholders thinks of efforts to transfer authority for managing the recreational red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) from the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) to various state agencies.

Currently, a mixture of authorities manages red snapper fisheries in the Gulf. Anglers catching red snapper in state territorial waters operate under rules and regulations designed, administered, and enforced by state agencies. Those fishing for red snapper in federal waters do so under the rules and regulations put in place by the Gulf Council. Because red snapper are most frequently caught within federal waters, the rules and regulations set by the Gulf Council affect the majority of the recreational fishing activity targeting the species.

Recent controversies regarding the state of Gulf red snapper stock and the management measures implemented by the Gulf Council for red snapper have contributed to concerns among some stakeholders about the efficacy of the Gulf Council's management efforts. In attempts to rebuild the red snapper stock, the Gulf Council has imposed recreational fishing seasons that some perceive as inappropriate.

Some stakeholders, objecting to the Gulf Council's management practices, have expressed a desire to transfer authority for managing the recreational red snapper fishery from the Gulf Council to state agencies. They believe that state agencies may be more effective than the Gulf Council in managing the fishery because they may be more aware of and more responsive to local environmental and socioeconomic conditions. Though fishery managers may have heard any number of comments from individuals expressing a preference for transferring red snapper management authority to state agencies instead of the Gulf Council, the extent to which these views are held by saltwater anglers and other relevant stakeholders was unknown.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Offshore Angler Survey 2015

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries designed and implemented the Offshore Angler Survey 2015 using an online survey instrument to assess Louisiana offshore saltwater anglers' preferences for maintaining red snapper management authority with the Gulf Council or transferring some or all of that authority to state agencies. The survey also collected demographic information about this segment of saltwater anglers and information regarding their recreational fishing activity.

Survey Instrument

Data were collected through an online questionnaire using the SurveyMonkey platform. The questionnaire opened with the following statement that was intended to introduce the survey recipient to the relevant issues:

RED SNAPPER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS:

Under current law, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) – working with NOAA – manages the red snapper fishery in federal waters. The Council and NOAA determine a quota for the amount of red snapper that recreational fishermen can catch each year in both state and federal waters of the Gulf.

The recreational red snapper quota is split between two groups of recreational fishermen in federal waters:

- 1) Private anglers and state charter boats
- 2) Federally permitted charter boats.

Considering the quota, the Council and NOAA set seasons for red snapper in federal waters as well as bag and minimum size limits for federal waters.

State agencies like LDWF set management measures (season length and bag and minimum size limits) for the recreational red snapper fishery in their respective state waters. These measures apply only to recreational fishermen in state waters.

The first of two principal policy-related questions asked survey subjects if they would prefer the current assignment of all authority for red snapper in the Gulf or a change that transferred some authority to state agencies. Those who indicated a preference for change were asked a follow-up question soliciting their preference for three specific alternatives for managing different groups of recreational fishermen.

The second of the principal policy-related questions pertained to a proposal to transfer all authority for red snapper management in the Gulf from the Gulf Council to state agencies. Those who indicated support for this measure were asked a follow-up question that asked if they would support a similar transfer in management authority for other species such as amberjack and grouper.

The questionnaire also asked if the respondents were charter boat or head boat owners or captains. Those who were owner or captains were given two alternative categories: those with a federal charter for-hire permit or those with no federal charter for-hire permit. Those who were not charter boat or head boat owners or captains were considered “private anglers”.

To gauge recreational fishing activity among offshore anglers, survey subjects were asked to estimate how many days they had fished in freshwater and in saltwater to date in 2015. They were also asked to indicate their gender, to provide their age and ZIP code, and given an opportunity to write comments or suggestions.

Survey Population

A population of offshore anglers in Louisiana waters was identified using the database of individuals who held a Louisiana Recreational Offshore Landing Permit (ROLP), a permit that is legally required to possess or land tunas, swordfish, billfish, snappers, amberjacks, groupers, hinds, cobia, wahoo, and dolphin recreationally in Louisiana waters. A ROLP is mandatory for all individuals, 16 years old or older, fishing from any vessel other than for-hire vessel (such as a charter boat or head boat), and for all captains or operators of for-hire vessels. (Customers or passengers on for-hire vessels are not required to hold a ROLP)

The ROLP is valid for one year from the date of issue and is available at no charge on the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' website. All individuals obtaining a ROLP are asked to provide his or her name, physical address, and e-mail address.

These e-mail addresses provide a convenient means to contact a segment of anglers who are more likely than the general population of anglers to be affected by red snapper management practices. This segment of anglers includes individuals who pursue red snapper fishing as for recreation (private anglers) and those who derive income from the recreational fishery (charter boat and head boat captains and owners). It does not, however, include individuals who fished for the designated species exclusively as a passenger or customer of a charter boat or head boat.

Survey Response

Records for each of the 20,164 ROLP holders obtained between June 1, 2014 (the beginning of the 2014-2015 license year) and September 3, 2015 were downloaded. The population included residents of 47 states, five Canadian provinces, and at least a half dozen foreign countries.

All duplicate e-mail addresses were removed to assure that a single person did not answer the survey multiple times. In addition, 40 e-mail addresses for individuals with known associations with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and six addresses from individuals who had previously expressed (in past survey efforts) a desire not to participate in future surveys were also removed.

E-mail invitations were sent via the SurveyMonkey website to the remaining 19,036 e-mail addresses (Table 1) on Thursday, September 25, 2015. A reminder was sent to all those who had not yet responded on Friday, October 2, 2015. A final reminder was sent on Friday, October 9, 2015 with a notification that the survey would close the following Monday. At 9:00 p.m. on Monday, October 12, 2015, the survey was closed.

The survey administrator identified 529 e-mail messages as having "bounced". These were treated as non-deliverable and removed from the sample, resulting in an adjusted sample size of 18,507.

The survey received 5,938 responses for a raw response rate of 32.1 percent. Of the 12,466 who opened the questionnaire, 47.6 percent responded. Ninety-three percent of those who clicked through the questionnaire submitted a response.

Table 1. Survey Recipients and Respondents of the LDWF Offshore Angler Survey 2015

Number of Recipients	19,036
Number of “Bounced” Messages (Treated as Non-Deliverable)	529
Adjusted Number of Recipients:	18,507
Respondents	5,938
Raw Response Rate	32.1%
Number Who Opened the Questionnaire	12,466
Number Who Did Not Open the Questionnaire	5,571
Number Who Clicked through the Questionnaire	6,383
Number Who Opted out of the Survey	470

Age, Gender, and Residence of Survey Respondents

The questionnaire included three questions¹ (age, gender, and ZIP code) that provide limited demographic information about the anglers who obtained a ROLP, fished in offshore waters, and answered the policy-related questions at the core of the survey. They demonstrate that most of the respondents are male, Louisiana residents, and between the age of 40 and 59 years old.

Analysis of the demographic questions revealed that a small number of survey respondents were younger than 16 years old. These individuals held a ROLP despite not being required to do so. They were subsequently removed from the sample, reducing the sample size to 5,929.

The average age of the survey respondents who identified their ages was 46.6 years old (Table 2). Half were in their 40s (24.9 percent) or 50s (25.1 percent) (Figure 1). About 22 percent were between the ages of 16 and 29 and one fifth (20.6 percent) were in their 30s. Eighteen percent were sixty or older.

The majority of survey respondents were male. Only 8.3 percent of the 5,516 respondents who identified their gender were female (Figure 2).

The place of residence for respondents was determined by ZIP code. Three quarters were identified as residents of Louisiana (Table 3). Twelve percent were residents elsewhere in the Gulf region. About 5.5 percent were identified as residents outside the Gulf region, and 7.3 percent provided invalid ZIP codes or no ZIP codes.

Table 2. Age of Respondents to the LDWF Offshore Angler Survey 2015

Number	Average	Median	Minimum	Maximum
5,532	46.6	47	16	85

¹ Though the great majority of respondents answered these questions, each of these items had fairly high non-response rates perhaps in part because they were situated on the final page of a three to five page online questionnaire. Some respondents may have tired of the survey by the time they encountered these questions and quit the survey before answering them. Indeed about 5.9 percent provided no answers at all for each of the demographic questions (age, gender, or ZIP code).

Figure 1. Age of Respondents to the L.D.W.F. Offshore Angler Survey 2015

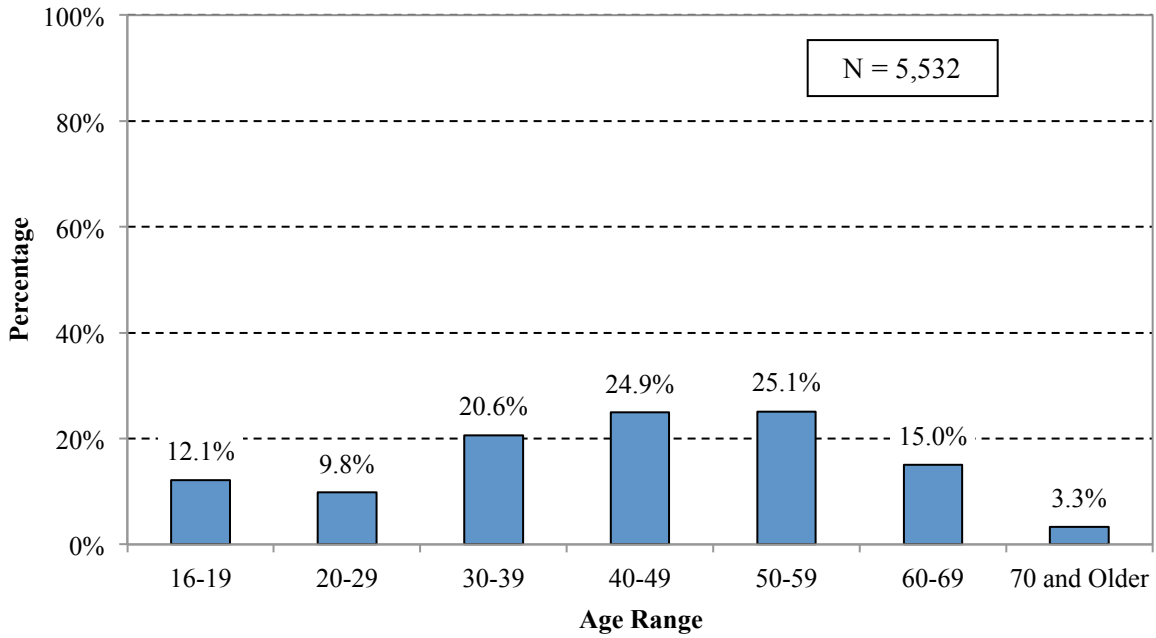


Figure 2. Gender of Respondents to the L.D.W.F. Offshore Angler Survey 2015

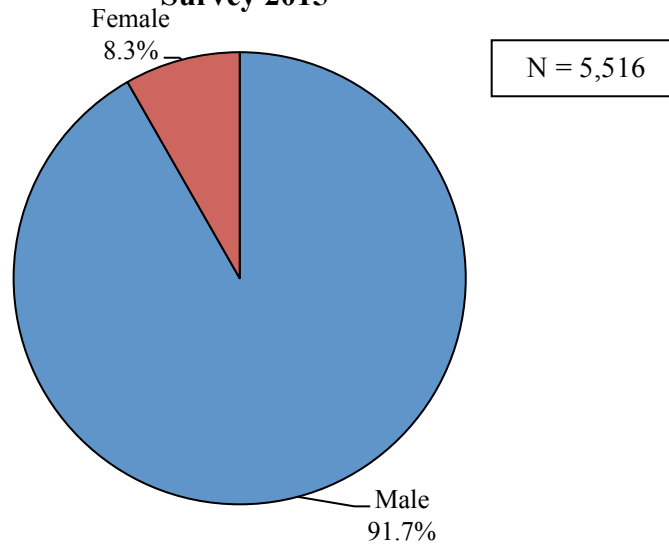


Table 3. Place of Residence for Respondents to the LDWF Offshore Angler Survey 2015

Location	Number	Percentage
Louisiana	4,459	75.2%
Gulf of Mexico Other than Louisiana	712	12.0%
Alabama	60	
Florida (Gulf Coast)	26	

Mississippi	355	
Texas	271	
Outside the Gulf of Mexico Region	327	5.5%
Arkansas	39	
California	5	
Colorado	8	
Florida (Not on the Gulf Coast)	25	
Georgia	40	
Illinois	15	
Indiana	8	
Kansas	6	
Kentucky	11	
Michigan	9	
Minnesota	6	
Missouri	20	
North Carolina	11	
North Dakota	3	
Oklahoma	25	
South Carolina	31	
Tennessee	34	
Virginia	5	
Two Each (Iowa, Montana, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming)	16	
One Each (Arizona, Canada, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey Ohio, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Military A.P.O.)	10	
Invalid ZIP Code or No ZIP Code	431	7.3%

One-eighth (12.3 percent) of the respondents who were identified as Louisiana residents lived in East Baton Rouge Parish (Table 4). Another 9.5 percent lived in nearby Ascension (5.8 percent) or Livingston Parish (3.7 percent). Almost one-quarter resided in Jefferson (9.5 percent), Orleans (6.2 percent), or Saint Tammany Parish (8.6 percent). Twenty-nine respondents provided a ZIP code that appeared invalid but started with a three-digit prefix found among Louisiana ZIP codes.

Fishing Activities of Survey Respondents

The survey included several items related to the frequency and nature of the respondents' fishing activity. Two questions solicited an estimate of the number of days they went fishing in freshwater and saltwater. Another question asked whether the respondent was the owner or captain of a charter boat or head boat.

Table 4. Parish of Residence for Respondents Identified as Louisiana Residents

	N	Perc.		N	Perc.		N	Perc.
Acadia	48	1.1%	Jefferson	425	9.5%	St. John The Baptist	28	0.6%
Allen	5	0.1%	Jefferson Davis	18	0.4%	St. Landry	61	1.4%
Ascension	257	5.8%	La Salle	3	0.1%	St. Martin	45	1.0%
Assumption	16	0.4%	Lafayette	382	8.6%	St. Mary	65	1.5%
Avoyelles	17	0.4%	Lafourche	180	4.0%	St. Tammany	384	8.6%

Beauregard	23	0.5%	Lincoln	16	0.4%	Tangipahoa	103	2.3%
Bienville	1	0.0%	Livingston	174	3.9%	Tensas	1	0.0%
Bossier	24	0.5%	Morehouse	2	0.0%	Terrebonne	198	4.4%
Caddo	40	0.9%	Natchitoches	3	0.1%	Union	2	0.0%
Calcasieu	185	4.1%	Orleans	275	6.2%	Vermillion	116	2.6%
Cameron	14	0.3%	Ouachita	39	0.9%	Vernon	5	0.1%
Concordia	3	0.1%	Plaquemines	145	3.3%	Washington	12	0.3%
De Soto	3	0.1%	Pointe Coupee	33	0.7%	Webster	2	0.0%
East Baton Rouge	549	12.3%	Rapides	50	1.1%	West Baton Rouge	43	1.0%
East Carroll	1	0.0%	Red River	1	0.0%	West Carroll	1	0.0%
East Feliciana	36	0.8%	Richland	3	0.1%	West Feliciana	19	0.4%
Evangeline	10	0.2%	St. Bernard	20	0.4%	Winn	1	0.0%
Franklin	3	0.1%	St. Charles	139	3.1%	No Parish Identified	29	0.7%
Iberia	130	2.9%	St. Helena	3	0.1%			
Iberville	42	0.9%	St. James	26	0.6%			
N = Number Residing in Specific Area Perc. = Percentage of Louisiana Residents								

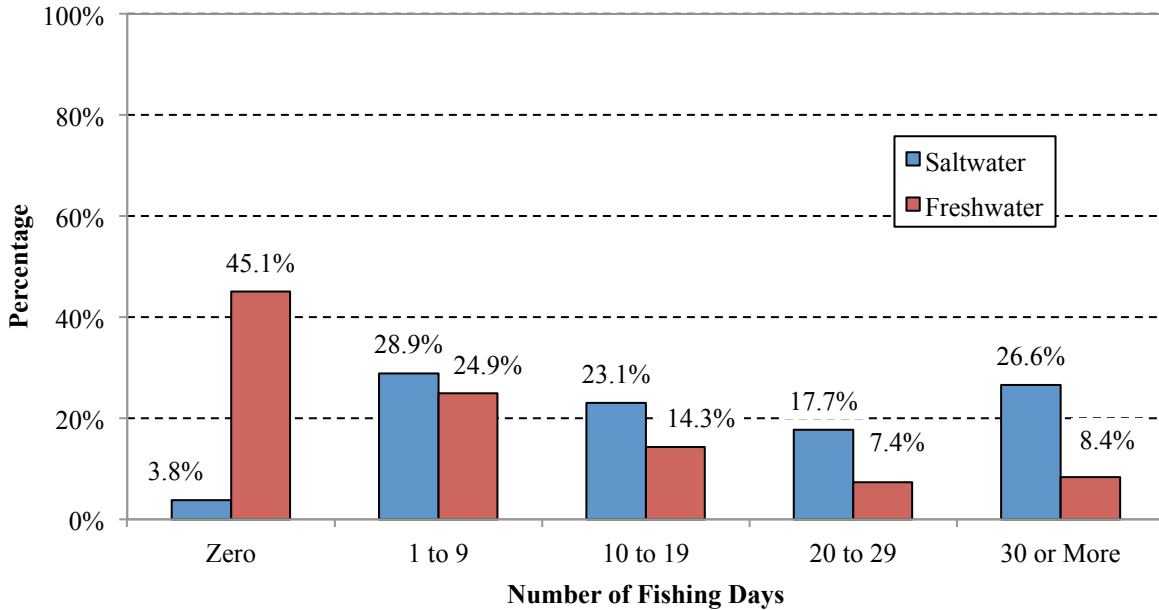
The questionnaire included a two-part question that asked the respondents to estimate the number of days they had gone fishing so far in 2015. (A small number of respondents (7) provided numbers that indicated that they fish every day or nearly every day – such as 340 or 365 days – but which exceeded the number of days in 2015 up to the date of the survey. For these, the number of fishing days was set to 267 because the survey launch date was the two-hundred-sixty-seventh day of the year.)

The average number of days fishing in saltwater so far in 2015 among the respondents answering the question was 22.6 days (Table 5). The median was 15 days. About 29 percent fished in saltwater between one and nine days (Figure 3), 23.1 percent between 10 and 19 days, and 17.7 percent between 20 and 29 days. Over one-quarter (26.6 percent) fished in saltwater for more than 30 days.

Table 5. Days of Fishing So Far in 2015 among Respondents to the LDWF Offshore Angler Survey 2015

	Number	Average	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Saltwater Fishing Days	5,523	22.7	15	0	267
Freshwater Fishing Days	5,521	8.6	2	0	267
Total Fishing Days	5,517	31.2	22	0	267

Figure 3. Number of Days Fished in Freshwater and Saltwater by Respondents to the L.D.W.F. Offshore Angler Survey 2015



Compared to their activity in saltwater, respondents were generally less active in freshwater bodies. The average number of days spent fishing so far in 2015 in freshwater was 8.6 days (Table 5). The median was two days. Forty-five percent had fished zero days (Figure 3) in freshwater to date in 2015.

The total number of days spent fishing so far in 2015 was estimated as the sum of freshwater fishing days and saltwater fishing days. Though this figure may overestimate the total number of days spent fishing for individuals who went fishing in both freshwater and saltwater on a single day, it does provide a measure of overall fishing activity. The total fishing days for the 5,517 respondents who provided both freshwater and saltwater fishing day estimates was, on average, 31.2 days (Table 5).

Another survey question asked respondents if they are a charter boat or head boat captain or owner. Those who were captains or owners were given two options: a charter or head boat with a Federal Charter for Hire permit (“Federal Charters”) or a state charter or head boat with no Federal Charter for Hire permit (“State Charters”).

Less than four percent of the 5,560 respondents who answered this question were charter boat or head boat owners or captains (Table 6). About 2.7 percent were state charters and 1.1 percent held federal charter boat permits. The 96 percent who were not charter or head boat owners were labeled “private anglers” for the purposes of this survey.

Table 6. Responses to LDWF Offshore Angler Survey 2015 Question: “Are You a Charter Boat or Head Boat Owner or Captain?”

	Percent	Number
No (“Private Anglers”)	5,351	96.2%
Yes and I have a Federal Charter for Hire Reef Fish Permit (“State Charters”)	61	1.1%
Yes but I am a state charter boat and do not have a Federal Charter for Hire Reef	148	2.7%

Fish Permit (“Federal Charters”)		
	Total	5,560 100%

Respondents’ Preferences on the Distribution of Red Snapper Management Authority

The survey contained two main questions regarding the respondents’ preferences for distribution of the authority for managing the Gulf recreational red snapper fishery to the Gulf Council or to state government authorities. Each of the main questions had follow-up questions for respondents’ whose answers indicated a preference for some sort of change from the existing management system.

Question 1. Preferences for Alternative Distributions of Red Snapper Management Authority

The first policy-related question presented to all respondents asked whether they preferred the current distribution of all red snapper management authority for red snapper (to the Gulf Council) or an alternative that would transfer at least some authority to state government agencies. The question included in the online question read as follows:

Question 1. Some people are proposing to move some of the authority for managing red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico from the Council to state agencies.

Moving authority for managing red snapper to different agencies would not necessarily result in more fishing days for red snapper but might give states more flexibility to adjust to local conditions.

Which of the following would you prefer?

Respondents were presented four mutually exclusive responses. In addition to a “no change” response and “change” response, they were allowed to indicate whether they were undecided or unable to provide a definite response because they did not feel they understood the issue.

A large majority of the 5,909 ROLP holders who answered this question indicated a preference for some sort of change in the distribution of red snapper fishery management authority. Eighty-six percent (Table 7) marked a preference to “transfer some authority for managing the recreational red snapper fishery to state agencies”. About four percent preferred maintaining the current system that assigned all authority to the Gulf Council and NOAA. About seven percent were neutral or undecided and 2.7 percent did not understand the issue.

Table 7. Preferences for Alternative Distributions of Red Snapper Management Authority among LDWF Offshore Angler Survey Respondents

	Number	Percent
No change – Allow the Council and NOAA to continue managing all red snapper in the Gulf.	241	4.1%
Change – Transfer SOME authority for managing the recreational red snapper fishery to state agencies.	5,090	86.1%
I am neutral or undecided	418	7.1%
I am not sure I understand the issue.	160	2.7%

Total	5,909	100%
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Question 2. Preferences for Distributing Management Authority for Different Recreational Sector Components to State Agencies among Those Indicating a Preference for Transferring Some Authority to State Agencies

A second question in the survey was presented only to those respondents who had indicated a preference for transferring some authority for managing the recreational red snapper fishery to state agencies. Those who preferred some change in the distribution of management authority were asked whether they preferred a division of management authority between the state agencies and the Gulf Council or the transfer of all management authority to state agencies. The questionnaire item and its mutually exclusive responses were as follows:

If you preferred transferring some authority to state agencies, please tell us which of the following you would prefer:
(Please check one only.)

- State agencies would only manage the group with private anglers and state charter boats. The Council and NOAA would continue to manage the group with federally permitted charter boats.
- State agencies would manage both groups separately, i.e. each group could have different management measures (seasons, bag limits, etc.).
- State agencies would manage both groups together as one, i.e. both groups would have the same management measures (seasons, bag limits, etc.).
- I am not sure.

A large majority of the respondents who indicated a preference for transferring at least some authority to state agencies in the previous question expressed in the second question a preference to transfer authority for all components of the recreational fishery to the states. A narrow plurality of those answering this question (43.1 percent) would prefer state agencies to manage private anglers, state charter boats, and federal charter boats under a single set of management measures (such as seasons and bag limits) (Table 8). A smaller but comparable share (39.1 percent) would prefer state agencies to manage all of these segments under distinct management measures for the federal charter boats and private anglers and state charter boats. Approximately 13.5 percent preferred a division of management authority that would retain authority for federal charter boats to the Gulf Council and NOAA but move authority for private anglers and state charter boats to state agencies.

Table 8. Preferences for Distributing Red Snapper Management Authority for Different Recreational Sector Components to State Agencies among Those Who Indicated a Preference for Transferring Some Authority to State Agencies

	Number	Percent
State agencies would only manage the group with private anglers and state charter boats. The Council and NOAA would continue to manage the group with federally permitted charter boats.	673	13.5%
State agencies would manage both groups separately, i.e. each group could have different management measures (seasons, bag limits, etc.).	1,947	39.1%
State agencies would manage both groups together as one, i.e. both groups would	2,146	43.1%

have the same management measures (seasons, bag limits, etc.).		
I am not sure.	213	4.3%
	Total	4,979 100%

Question 3. Support for a Proposal to Transfer All Red Snapper Management Authority to State Agencies

The second policy-related question presented to all respondents to indicate the degree of their support for or opposition to a policy to transfer all red snapper management authority from the Gulf Council to state government agencies. The introduction to the question included the following:

Another proposal would move all authority for managing red snapper in the Gulf from the Council to state agencies. This would mean that a state agency would manage the red snapper fishery in both state and federal waters off that state. This would apply only to red snapper. Management authority for other species would remain as is.

This proposal would not necessarily result in more fishing days for red snapper but might give states more flexibility to adjust management measures to local conditions.

The question asked respondents to “indicate to what extent [they] support or oppose a proposal to move ALL authority for managing recreational red snapper ... from the Council to state agencies” using a five-point scale from strongly oppose to strongly support with a neutral alternative at the mid-point.

Approximately 80 percent of the 5,665 respondents who answered this question indicated some measure of support the proposed transfer of all management authority over red snapper to state agencies. Nearly 65 percent were strongly supported the proposal (Table 9) and 16.4 percent were moderately supported it. About 8.5 percent moderately or strongly opposed the proposal and 10.2 percent neither supported to opposed it.

Table 9. Support for or Opposition to a Proposal to Transfer All Authority for Managing the Recreational Red Snapper Fishery from the Gulf Council to State Agencies

	Number	Percent
Strongly Oppose	240	4.2
Moderately Oppose	242	4.3
Neither Oppose nor Support	578	10.2
Moderately Support	931	16.4
Strongly Support	3,674	64.9
	Total	5,665 100

Question 4. Support for Moving Management Authority for Other Species among Those Indicating Support for the Proposal to Move Red Snapper Management Authority from the Gulf Council to State Agencies

A fourth question in the survey was presented only to those respondents who had indicated that they moderately or strongly supported moving all authority for managing the recreational red snapper fishery to state agencies. This question asked whether they would “also support moving management authority

for other species such as amberjack and grouper from the Council to state agencies”. Respondents were given two mutually exclusive alternative responses (“yes” or “no”).

The respondents who favored transferring red snapper management from the Gulf Council to state agencies also favored a similar transfer for other species. Nearly 97 percent of those who moderately or strongly supported the proposal to move all red snapper management authority supported moving management authority for other species to state agencies (Table 10).

Table 10. Support Moving Management Authority for Other Species Such as Amberjack and Grouper among Respondents Who Supported Moving All Recreational Red Snapper Management Authority from the Gulf Council to State Agencies

	Number	Percent
Do Not Support Moving Authority for Other Species (“No”)	158	3.5%
Support Moving Authority for Other Species (“Yes”)	4,415	96.5%
Total	4,573	100%

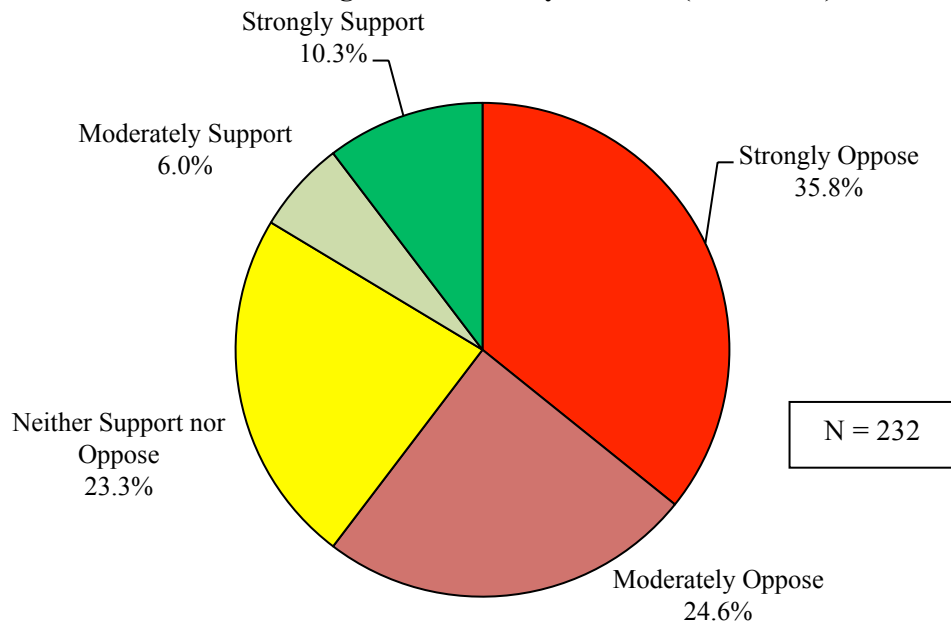
Comparison of Respondents’ Answers for Question 1 and Question 3

The survey contained two questions that solicited the respondents’ perspectives on shifting authority for managing the recreational red snapper fishery from the Gulf Council to state agencies. Question 1 sought their preferences for maintaining the current distribution of all authority to the Gulf Council or for switching to a system in which at least some of that authority would be held by state agencies. Question 3 asked for the extent of their opposition to or support for a proposal to move all management authority to the states. A comparison of the answers that respondents gave in response to Question 3 among those who gave particular answers for Question 1 might show certain consistencies or possible differences in their response patterns.

Opposition to or Support for Moving All Authority to State Government [Question 3] among Respondents Who Preferred Allowing the Council and NOAA to Continue Managing All Red Snapper in The Gulf (“No Change”) [Question 1]

Two hundred thirty-two (96.3 percent) of the 241 respondents who marked the “No Change” in Question 1 (to allow the Gulf Council and NOAA to continue managing all of the red snapper fishery) also answered Question 3, which solicited their support for or opposition to a proposal to move all authority to the states. About 60 percent also said they moderately or strongly opposed moving all authority to the states (Figure 4), a pattern of responses that is perhaps the most consistent with expectations.

Figure 4. Support for Proposal to Move ALL Authority to State Agencies (Question 3) among Those Who Said They Preferred "No Change" in the Matter of Transferring Some Authority to States (Question 1)



Somewhat surprisingly, 23.3 percent of those who said they favored keeping all authority with the Gulf Council in Question 1 said they neither supported nor opposed the proposal to move all authority to the states. Perhaps most unexpectedly, one-sixth of those who said they favored allowing the Gulf Council to manage the fishery in Question 1 said they moderately or strongly supported shifting all authority to the states

Part of the reason for this seeming inconsistency, if not contradiction, may lie in the alternatives presented in Question 1, keeping all authority with the Gulf Council versus transferring only some authority to the states. Perhaps some respondents entertained doubts about the desirability or efficacy of splitting authority. They may have preferred maintaining the current system that gave all managing authority to one entity (the Gulf Council) over dividing authority between two entities. Perhaps they were more willing to shift authority to state agencies when, as in Question 3, all the authority was transferred to one alternative body.

Opposition to or Support for Moving All Authority to State Government [Question 3] among Respondents Who Preferred Transferring Some Authority for Managing Red Snapper to State Agencies (“Change”)[Question 1]

Of the 5,090 respondents who indicated a preference for transferring at least some authority over red snapper management from the Gulf Council to state agencies (Question 1), 4,908 (96.4 percent) gave answers for the question soliciting their support for or opposition to transferring all such authority to state agencies. Ninety percent of those who said they supported moving at least of that some authority in Question 1 strongly or moderately supported moving all management authority to state agencies when

answering Question 3 (Figure 5). About six percent who favored moving some authority opposed moving all authority to states. About four percent were undecided (“neither support nor oppose”).

Opposition to or Support for Moving All Authority to State Government [Question 3] among Respondents Who Were Neutral or Undecided about Transferring Some Authority for Managing Red Snapper to State Agencies [Question 1]

Three hundred seventy-seven (90.2 percent) of the 418 respondents who said they were neutral or undecided about transferring some authority for red snapper management (Question 1) also provided answers for the item soliciting their support for or opposition to the proposal to move all authority to state agencies (Question 3). Nearly two-thirds (64.2 percent) of those who were neutral or undecided on the first question also gave answers indicating some degree of neutrality (“neither support nor oppose”) on the proposal to move all authority to the states (Figure 6).

Interestingly, about one-quarter of those who were undecided or neutral on the matter of transferring some authority to the states moderately or strongly supported the proposal to move all authority to state agencies. About 11 percent moderately or strongly opposed such a proposal.

Figure 5. Support for Proposal to Move ALL Authority to State Agencies (Question 3) among Those Who Said They Preferred "Change" in the Matter of Transferring Some Authority to States (Question 1)

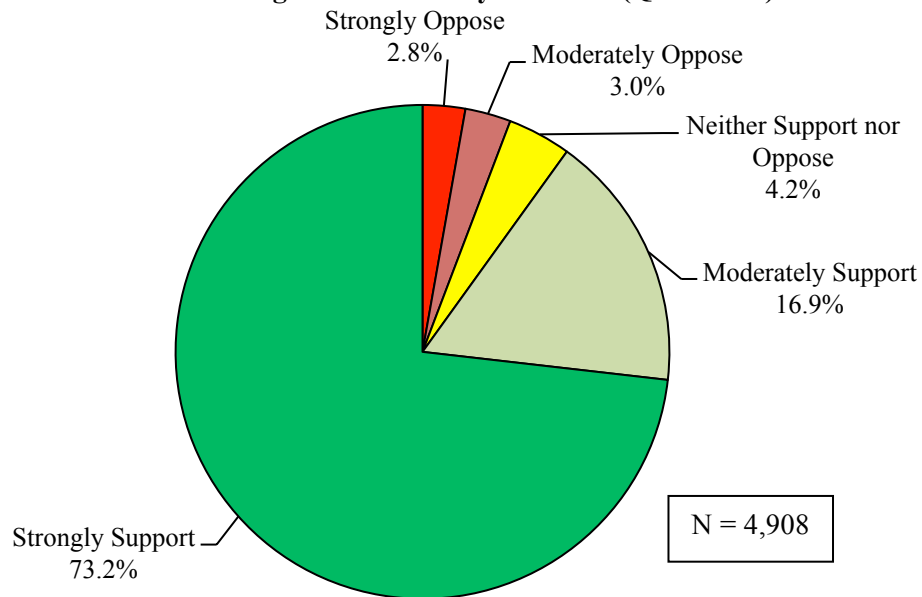
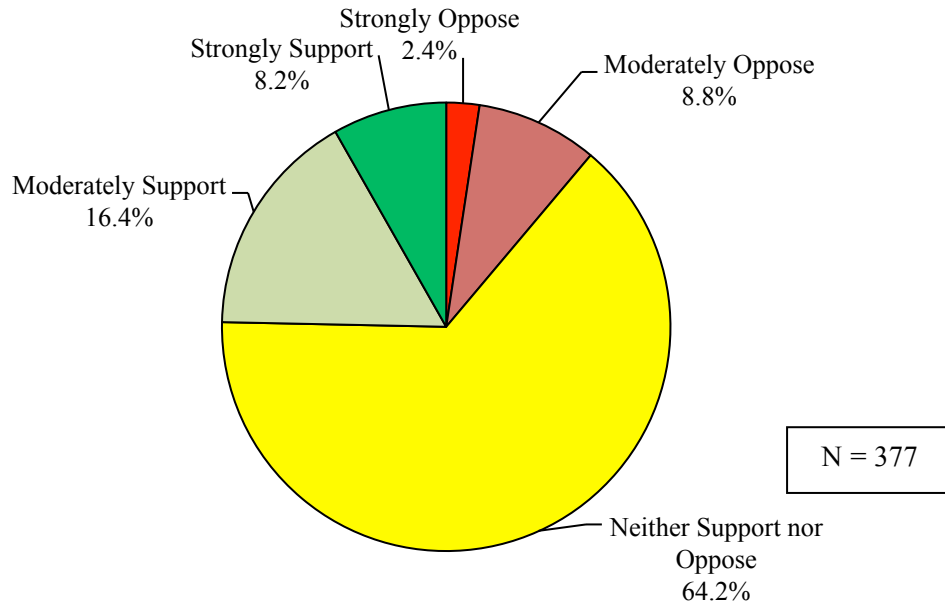


Figure 6. Support for Proposal to Move ALL Authority to State Agencies (Question 3) among Those Who Said They Were "Neutral or Undecided" in the Matter of Transferring Some Authority to States (Question 1)

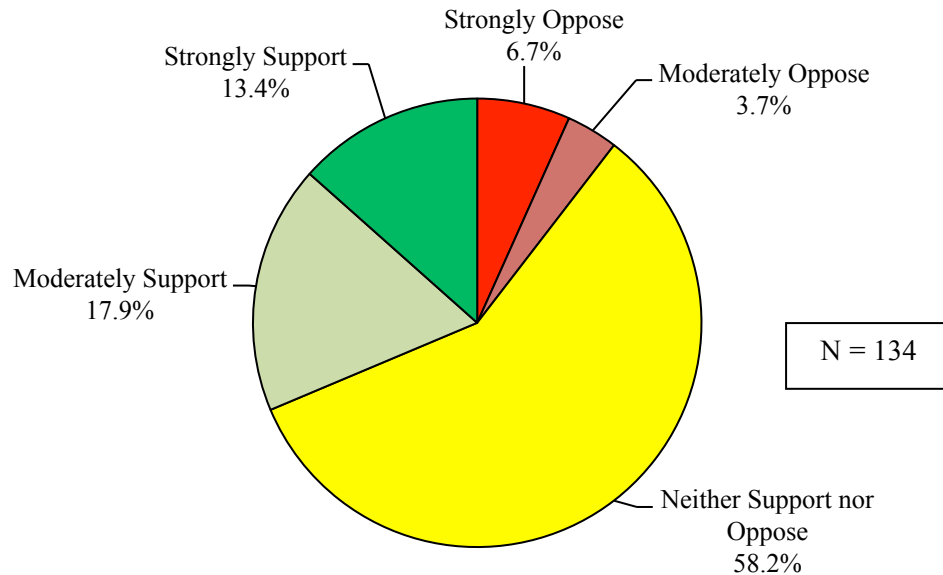


Opposition to or Support for Moving All Authority to State Government [Question 3] among Respondents Who Did Not Understand the Issues of Transferring Some Authority for Managing Red Snapper to State Agencies [Question 1]

One hundred thirty-four (83.8 percent) of the 160 respondents who said they did not understand the question about transferring some authority for red snapper management (Question 1) provided answers for the item soliciting their support for or opposition to the proposal to move all authority to state agencies (Question 3). The majority of these respondents said they neither supported nor opposed the proposal shifting all authority to state agencies (Figure 7).

Over 30 percent of those who did not understand Question 1 found they were able to express moderate or strong support for the proposal and 10 percent moderate or strong opposition to the proposal to move all authority from the Gulf Council to state agencies. One might speculate that these individuals could more readily form an opinion regarding the proposal described in Question 3 than the more uncertain alternatives outlined in Question 1.

Figure 7. Support for Proposal to Move ALL Authority to State Agencies (Question 3) among Those Who Said They Were "Did Not Understand" the Matter of Transferring Some Authority to States (Question 1)



Conclusion

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Offshore Angler Survey 2015 measured a strong degree of support among its respondents for transferring authority for managing the Gulf recreational red snapper fishery from the Gulf Council to state agencies. Those who favored transferring at least some authority to state agencies were roughly equally divided in their opinions over whether state agencies should manage private anglers, state charter boats, and federal charter boats under one set of management rules or under separate sets. Almost all of those who supported a proposal to move authority for managing red snapper to state agencies were in favor of similar transfers of authority for managing other species.

Due to the complexity of the survey instrument, this survey, like many others, bears a possibility for a certain degree of avidity bias, that is, a tendency to draw responses from survey subjects with a strong opinion on the matter in portions that are disproportionate to their share among the population. The online questionnaire contained two to four questions on fairly complicated fishery management issues. Anglers who had views favoring or opposing the current red snapper management system may have been more likely to take the survey than those who were neutral or had no opinion or knowledge of the matter.

Further, though the sample contains a diverse array of recreational fishery stakeholders (private anglers, state charter boats, and federal charter boats), it may not necessarily encompass all persons, firms, and other entities that are affected by red snapper management decisions. The survey subjects did not include, for example, hoteliers, bait and tackle shop owners, marina operators, and commercial fishermen, each of whom may have a different set of perspectives on these matters. Moreover, the sample was drawn entirely from persons who resided in Louisiana or fished in Louisiana waters. The views of persons fishing in other states are not necessarily reflected in this survey.

Appendix 1.

Patterns of Survey Responses among Respondents Who Were Private Anglers and Those Who Owned or Operated a Charter Boat

Patterns of Survey Responses among Respondents Who Were Private Anglers and Those Who Owned or Operated a Charter Boat

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they were private anglers or charter boat owners or operators. The survey sample included 5,344 private anglers, 61 charter boat owners or operators with a Federal Charter for Hire Reef Fish Permit, and 148 charter boat owners or operators with no Federal Charter for Hire Reef Fish Permit. Three hundred seventy-six did not provide answers to this question.

Question 1. Some people are proposing to move some of the authority for managing red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico from the Council to state agencies. Which of the following would you prefer?

	Private Anglers		Charter Boats with Federal Permit		State Charter Boats with No Federal Permit	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No change – Allow the Council and NOAA to continue managing all red snapper in the Gulf.	207	3.9	9	14.8	5	3.4
Change – Transfer SOME authority for managing the recreational red snapper fishery to state agencies.	4,650	87.2	49	80.3	133	90.5
I am neutral or undecided	348	6.5	3	4.9	7	4.8
I am not sure I understand the issue.	127	2.4	0	0.0	2	1.4
Total	5,332	100	61	100	147	100

Question 2: [Presented Only to Those Who Indicated a Preference for “Change” in Question 1]

If you preferred transferring some authority to state agencies, please tell us which of the following you would prefer:

	Private Anglers		Charter Boats with Federal Permit		State Charter Boats with No Federal Permit	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
State agencies would only manage the group with private anglers and state charter boats. The Council and NOAA would continue to manage the group with federally permitted charter boats.	626	13.5	6	12.2	16	12.1
State agencies would manage both groups separately, i.e. each group could have different management measures (seasons, bag limits, etc.).	1,813	39.1	26	53.1	54	40.9
State agencies would manage both groups together as one, i.e. both groups would have the same management measures (seasons, bag limits, etc.).	2,023	43.6	14	28.6	57	43.2
I am not sure.	181	3.9	3	6.1	5	3.8
Total	4,643	100	49	100	132	100

Question 3. Please indicate to what extent you support or oppose a proposal to move ALL authority for managing recreational red snapper in the Gulf from the Council to state agencies.

	Private Anglers		Charter Boats with Federal Permit		State Charter Boats with No Federal Permit	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Oppose	216	4.1	9	14.8	8	5.4
Moderately Oppose	226	4.2	3	4.9	6	4.1
Neither Oppose nor Support	532	10.0	5	8.2	10	6.8
Moderately Support	879	16.5	7	11.5	14	9.5
Strongly Support	3,485	65.3	37	60.7	110	74.3
Total	5,338	100	61	100	148	100

Question 4. [Presented Only to Those Who Marked “Moderately” or “Strongly Support” in Question 3.]
If you moderately or strongly support this proposal, would you also support moving management authority for other species such as amberjack and grouper from the Council to state agencies?

	Private Anglers		Charter Boats with Federal Permit		State Charter Boats with No Federal Permit	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No	151	3.5	3	6.8	2	1.6
Yes	4,194	96.5	41	93.2	121	98.4
Total	4,352	100	44	100	123	100

Appendix 2.

Patterns of Survey Responses among Respondents in Different Geographical Areas

Patterns of Survey Responses among Respondents Residing in Different Geographical Areas

Each respondent’s place of residence was determined by the ZIP code they provided. Four hundred thirty two respondents did not provide a usable ZIP code.

Question 1. Some people are proposing to move some of the authority for managing red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico from the Council to state agencies.
Which of the following would you prefer?

	Louisiana		Other Gulf States		Outside Gulf	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No change – Allow the Council and NOAA to continue managing all red snapper in the Gulf.	169	3.8	30	4.2	21	6.4
Change – Transfer SOME authority for managing the recreational red snapper fishery to state agencies.	3,928	88.3	611	86.1	252	77.3
I am neutral or undecided	263	5.9	45	6.3	39	12.0
I am not sure I understand the issue.	88	2.0	24	3.4	14	4.3
Total	4,448	100	710	100	326	100

Question 2: [Presented Only to Those Who Indicated a Preference for “Change” in Question 1]

If you preferred transferring some authority to state agencies, please tell us which of the following you would prefer:

	Louisiana		Other Gulf States		Outside Gulf	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
State agencies would only manage the group with private anglers and state charter boats. The Council and NOAA would continue to manage the group with federally permitted charter boats.	516	13.2	82	13.4	48	19.1
State agencies would manage both groups separately, i.e. each group could have different management measures (seasons, bag limits, etc.).	1,557	39.7	233	38.2	86	34.3
State agencies would manage both groups together as one, i.e. both groups would have the same management measures (seasons, bag limits, etc.).	1694	43.2	273	44.8	108	43.0
I am not sure.	153	3.9	22	3.6	9	3.6
Total	3,920	100	610	100	251	100

Question 3. Please indicate to what extent you support or oppose a proposal to move ALL authority for managing recreational red snapper in the Gulf from the Council to state agencies.

	Louisiana		Other Gulf States		Outside Gulf	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Oppose	178	4.0	32	4.5	18	5.5
Moderately Oppose	176	4.0	29	4.1	23	7.1
Neither Oppose nor Support	410	9.2	72	10.1	53	16.3

Moderately Support	700	15.7	126	17.7	67	20.6
Strongly Support	2,988	67.1	453	63.6	165	50.6
Total	4,452	100	712	100	326	100

Question 4. [Presented Only to Those Who Marked “Moderately” or “Strongly Support” in Question 3.]

If you moderately or strongly support this proposal, would you also support moving management authority for other species such as amberjack and grouper from the Council to state agencies?

	Louisiana		Other Gulf States		Outside Gulf	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No	130	3.5	18	3.1	7	3.0
Yes	3,542	96.5	556	96.9	225	97.0
Total	3,672	100	574	100	232	100

Appendix 3.

**Patterns of Survey Responses among Respondents in Different Saltwater Fishing Activity
Classes**

Patterns of Survey Responses among Respondents Residing in Different Saltwater Fishing Activity Classes

Five classes of respondents were generated based on the number of days they reported fishing in saltwater to date in 2015. Two hundred nine had fished no days in saltwater; 1,595 fished between one and nine days; 1,274 between 10 and 19 days; 977 between 20 and 29 days; and 1,467 30 days or more. Four hundred six did not identify how many days they fished in saltwater in the year to date.

Question 1. Some people are proposing to move some of the authority for managing red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico from the Council to state agencies.

Which of the following would you prefer?

	No Days		1 -9 Days		10-19 Days		20-29 Days		30 or More	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No change – Allow the Council and NOAA to continue managing all red snapper in the Gulf.	13	6.3%	91	5.7%	43	3.4%	20	2.1%	55	3.8%
Change – Transfer SOME authority for managing the recreational red snapper fishery to state agencies.	138	66.4%	1,239	77.8%	1,158	90.9%	916	93.9%	1,356	92.7%
I am neutral or undecided	40	19.2%	195	12.3%	54	4.2%	28	2.9%	38	2.6%
I am not sure I understand the issue.	17	8.2%	64	4.0%	19	1.5%	12	1.2%	14	1.0%
Total	208		1,589		1,274		976		1,463	

Question 2: [Presented Only to Those Who Indicated a Preference for “Change” in Question 1]

If you preferred transferring some authority to state agencies, please tell us which of the following you would prefer:

	No Days		1 -9 Days		10-19 Days		20-29 Days		30 or More	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
State agencies would only manage the group with private anglers and state charter boats. The Council and NOAA would continue to manage the group with federally permitted charter boats.	23	16.9%	219	17.7%	139	12.0%	126	13.8%	137	10.1%
State agencies would manage both	59	43.4%	491	39.6%	494	42.7%	315	34.5%	526	38.9%

groups separately, i.e. each group could have different management measures (seasons, bag limits, etc.).										
State agencies would manage both groups together as one, i.e. both groups would have the same management measures (seasons, bag limits, etc.).	43	31.6%	472	38.1%	471	40.7%	445	48.7%	654	48.3%
I am not sure.	11	8.1%	57	4.6%	52	4.5%	28	3.1%	36	2.7%
Total	1,239		1,156				914		1,353	

Question 3. Please indicate to what extent you support or oppose a proposal to move ALL authority for managing recreational red snapper in the Gulf from the Council to state agencies.

	No Days		1 -9 Days		10-19 Days		20-29 Days		30 or More	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Oppose	16	7.7%	67	4.2%	48	3.8%	33	3.4%	69	4.7%
Moderately Oppose	13	6.3%	99	6.2%	56	4.4%	31	3.2%	36	2.5%
Neither Oppose nor Support	61	29.5%	280	17.6%	77	6.0%	55	5.6%	64	4.4%
Moderately Support	39	18.8%	319	20.0%	218	17.1%	128	13.1%	190	13.0%
Strongly Support	78	37.7%	830	52.0%	876	68.7%	728	74.7%	1,106	75.5%
Total	207		1,595		1,275		975		1,465	

Question 4. [Presented Only to Those Who Marked “Moderately” or “Strongly Support” in Question 3.]

If you moderately or strongly support this proposal, would you also support moving management authority for other species such as amberjack and grouper from the Council to state agencies?

	No Days		1 -9 Days		10-19 Days		20-29 Days		30 or More	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No	5	4.3%	44	3.8%	41	3.8%	24	2.8%	39	3.0%
Yes	111	95.7%	1,101	96.2%	1,052	96.3%	828	97.2%	1,246	97.0%
Total	116		1,145		1,093		952		1,285	

Please write your comments or suggestions here.

- In the past years we would travel to different coastal areas of the state to fish but today we finding ourselves looking for other actives. This is all due to the fishing limits and the seasons set on the different species.
- FIX THIS MESS.
- Commonsense rules
- Fishing this year in snapper season was really ridiculous. The red snapper are so plentiful that you can hardly engage another species . The snapper or aggressive and don't give opportunity for all the species to get a hold of your lone.
- I feel the gulf states can manage their fishery more efficiently and effectively than the federal government can as we are more equipped and have access to more REAL information than some guy in Washington
- I think it is disgusting what you people are trying to do to commercial fisherman. You are clearly working for the CCA and I think that is wrong. If all you want to do is manage recreational fishing within 3 miles that would be fine but you guys keep trying to shut down commercial fishing and that is wrong so you cannot be trusted with natural resource management.
- I think the resource deserves the attention of the government, both state and federal. Both should listen to the opinion of the majority of the stakeholders, which would exclude the few commercial fisherman, and their lobbyists, who try to continue to derive a living from a natural resource, while doing nothing to insure its longevity, The sport fishermen seem to have the resources best interest at heart, and continue to fund the preservation of the many species we address here today.
- I would prefer the red snapper season be closed period, until it can be opened up for reasonable period (min 30 days) with a reasonable limit (4 min). Commercial guys should absolutely NOT get preferential treatment.
- Individual states should manage the fisheries
- Need more days to fish and larger limits
- Red snapper are abundant. The season is too short The fisheries can support a larger limit.
- The biggest problem I see working offshore on production platforms is that the commercial boats come in and wipe out 90% of the small population of snapper throwing them back in the water to die the recreational angler does not have the opportunity to fish in this manner because of it cost associated and the small window in which we get to fish the gulf of Mexico. There should be better regulations on commercial fisheries. I am an avid diver in the Gulf of Mexico I have dove on structures that I previously worked on and a population of red snapper has been severely hurt by taking the larger fish out the population along with killing the smaller fish in the population under the structures. Myself would like to see all commercial fisheries shut down
- The commercial and sporting should be the same system as trout:: 5 per person every day you fish, no matter where you are on the water!!
- "In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem." January 20, 1981: From Reagan's Inaugural Address.
- 10 day snapper fishing season is a joke. I'm a recreational fisherman with a full time job. 10 days, really?
- 100% State!
- 10th amendment...state should make the rules. The seasons are ridiculous now. Red snapper are plentiful. At least let us local Louisiana anglers enjoy more red snapper and amberjack. We should at least be able to enjoy our fisheries and keep for than two [expletive deleted] snapper. It really is absurd. Clearly the government is looking out fotestr (sic) commercial interest.

Somebody needs to look out for the guy that finished work for the week and wants to go catch some fish for his friends and family to eat. Oh....a civil war was fought over states' rights. That sums up my opinion on whether the feds should have any say in our limits/quotas/harvests....especially with the parasitic Alabama/Florida commercial and charter fishers trying to pillage our stocks.

- 2 fish limit on snapper is a joke. Having a season is wrong as well.
- 2 snapper a day is ridiculous. I cannot catch grouper in 300' of water because the snapper or amberjack eat my bait before it can make it down.
- 3 fish limit for red snapper and longer season. I have only got to fish offshore a total of 7 days in the past 45 years
- 9 days of fishing + bad weather = zero trips
- A 10 day fishing season is absurd to catch 2 fish. Something needs to change to allow recreational fisherman a little more freedom.
- A governing body close to home is better than a ten square mile area governing every one. States can also look at other programs to see what is the best management practice. One managing body does not have that opportunity. We all want to conserve our fisheries, let the states experiment and find the best conservation practices and others will follow.
- A less than 2 week season with 2 fish limit is ridiculous. In this part of the state you have to travel at least 60 miles or more out into the gulf to catch decent fish. That's a lot of time, energy, and money spent for 2 fish
- A limit of two is ridiculous, move the authority to people who actually know the Gulf
- A longer season or allow 14 days per angler , regardless of season
- A move to state control is clearly the best move for fisheries management
- A one size fits all management plan is obviously not the answer. Something must be done. The current seasons and limits are a mockery to fishery science.
- A red snapper tagging system would work best in my opinion. Much the same as deer tagging is done. That way adverse weather conditions during the 10 day "snapper season" wouldn't prevent my ability to harvest my share. This would also allow for better harvest collection data.
- A week long federal red snapper season is ridiculous. It is not worth the time or money to make a trip for 2 fish either. Something needs to be done about this. We catch red snapper on bare hooks. They are definitely not elusive or endangered
- Add days and increase limits
- All charter boats/captains should be treated as commercial fishermen, not recreational for all fish caught on their boats.
- All authority to manage species quotas and limits, etc. should be controlled by the state agencies.
- All gulf management should be on the state level.
- All I know is that we the states need more say in how to manage our resources.
- ALL MANAGEMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE STATE, NO MATTER THE SPECIES.
- All personal question are not your concern
- All seems to be working. Plenty of snapper out there...
- All states should be able to manage their own fisheries. Not a Bunch of bureaucrats from Washington DC
- All the council does with all that money is pocket it and they don't know anything about our gulf and they don't care about the people at all. At least the state understands and cares about our people and fisheries.

- All these questions are fine, state laws on red snapper are wrong when a Federal agent will check you, if federal is closed they will write you a ticket. If state is open, should not get a federal ticket. Can this problem be addressed.
- All things considered, the recreational red snapper fisherman deserves higher than a 2-day limit.
- All were asking for is to go fishing, enjoy it entertain our grandchildren and bring fish home after burning \$400 of fuel
- allow better bag limits for rec fishing and limit commercial fishing for red snapper
- Allow for larger limits and longer seasons on red snapper fishing in federal waters. If red snapper were really in danger we would not be hooking them on every drop while rig fishing for other species. If it is necessary to have such strict limits then lower the yearly limits on commercial fishermen. We recreational fishermen spend too much money into the local economy to be limited to 2 red snapper per person for only a one week season in federal waters. These restrictions seem more about politics than conservation.
- allow more snapper to be caught & more days to fish it is too costly for 2 fish limit when commercial boats slaughter small fish six or eight fish would be fair
- allow more weekends etc. spaced out for red snapper
- Allow more weekends for rec red snapper
- Allowing the state to be in charge who remove the uncertainty as to the rules and regulations that currently exist
- Along with the well documented issues with red snapper, the management of triggerfish in the Gulf is completely broken! Western Gulf of Mexico anglers are being deprived of opportunity due to Florida landings. Since biology indicates that these fish make no major movements after reaching 6 inches in length it makes no sense to limit harvests in LA and TX based on FL landings!
- Also we should consider a Gulf of Mexico fishing license and the fee goes to the state your live in
- Although all Federal and State agencies are strapped for cash, the State agencies have a better handle on their respective resources and are less likely to succumb to national lobbying groups that have a negative impact on both charter and Recreational anglers.
- An over population of Red Snapper along the Louisiana federal waters is harming other species. There are much less grouper and trigger due to over population of Red snapper
- Any Red Snapper caught is legal catch regardless of size and counted in daily limit of 6.
- Any rules that place decisions closer to the principals affected rather than in the hands of distant bureaucrats are preferred.
- Anyone who dived down there can tell you there is NO SHORTAGE of red snapper in our Louisiana waters
- Anyone who has rig fished off of the LA coast knows that the current regulations on red snapper are asinine. There is absolutely no scientific data to backup these strict regulations. We are blessed as citizens of Louisiana to live so close to the rich waters of the GOM, yet because politicians have an agenda and an ego to protect we are not allowed to enjoy the resources that are literally in our back yard. If the red snapper population was truly what the concern of these governing agencies then they should have laws which are more strict about the waste from commercial fishing vessels, which often leave miles of dead red snapper floating on the surface where they are fishing.
- Appreciate the opportunity to give input.
- April to September season need to return , the rough seas limits offshore fishing greatly
- As a diver I see more red snapper than any other fish. The seasons and limits are miss informed data skewed to help the commercial fishing.

- As a diver you can see how both the gulf council and the Obama admin have tried to ruin the recreational fishery. There are so many red snapper on rights, that's Obama didn't blow up, that it has become extremely difficult to catch different species. A 10 day federal season is a joke.
- as a diver, I see a health red snapper population. Also, it is not advisable to regulate the entire gulf when the fish population varies greatly from Florida to Texas. Louisiana is very aware of its fishing population. Decreasing limits in Louisiana because there is a problem in Florida does not make sense. The structure is vastly different.
- As a diver, I see what type and amount of fish are off of the Louisiana coast, namely the oil platforms that serve as vertical reefs. Red snapper are terribly abundant and need no seasons and higher catch limits to help manage there ever increasing numbers. Amberjack are also abundant enough to not have seasons, and I think the limit could be raised up to two per person. Grouper are a species that have been hurt by the ever increasing numbers of red snapper. I feel they could be helped by keeping the current seasons and bag limits.
- As a parent it is becoming harder and harder to justify owning a boat and spend time in the outdoors with my kids an family. All due to the fact that the government is so out of touch with the Louisiana fishery.
- As a rec fisherman /and also as a professional angler in the fresh water side one set of rules should be the same for all people commercially or as the regular tax paying citizen who funds the people who get to make these silly quota schedules
- As a recreational fisherman, the rules and regulations are difficult to keep up with as it is; seasons, species, sizes, etc. Keep it simple, would be best approach - move authority to state, that way we would only have those regulations to be aware of.
- As a side note, I primarily fish offshore in federal waters. In the past 4-5 years, I've noticed a significant increase in red snapper, so much that is has become harder to catch other species. From the sea floor to even top water, you can catch snapper and it has actually become a nuisance. When trying to catch other species, we are catching nothing but snapper during off season and some of those fish are dying and there's nothing we can do about it. There is an overpopulation of red snapper and it is affecting the environment out there.
- As a spear fisherman we get to see how many fish are there. the council has done a very poor job. we have many more fish than they think
- As a spear fisherman who can actually see how many fish are in the water I must say the snapper population is stronger than ever, plenty of fish and big fish too it's a shame that the recreational fisherman only get 9 days to fish and most of us work on the weekdays and are only able to make maybe one trip if we're lucky on the weekend weather permitting!!
- As a sports fisherman I do not fish too often because of the small limits of fish that you can have. the limits make it too expensive to enjoy fishing.
- As an angler I would like to see more federal water fishing days for red snapper
- As an avid angler I would like the opportunity to catch more red snapper. There is not one rig within 7 miles off the coast that I could go to and not catch snapper. They are everywhere and we constantly throw them back a lot of times dead.
- As an avid spear fisherman there are large schools of red snapper as well as amberjack & grouper under the platforms that I have dived under in Louisiana offshore waters. I feel effective fishery management must be done on an individual state level with coordination with other Gulf states on an effective strategy to expand fisheries.
- As an offshore boat owner and see what actually takes place offshore , I feel there needs to be a complete overhaul of the commercial red snapper fishing as well as recreational side and the amount of small snapper caught and just thrown back with a lot dead, is sad.
- As I have stated in previous years, I am still upset about our snapper fishery and other offshore fisheries not being open congruently. While fishing offshore I see more red snapper and triggerfish than any other species out there. Why these are the strictest when it comes to

regulation bewilders me. I was devastated to catch the largest trigger I had ever seen and have to throw it back. Hopefully, if the gulf council transfers regulatory authority to the state we can see some improvement on what makes this sportsman's paradise.

- Assessing management needs for fisheries should be specific to the local environment.
- At this point in time I trust the States more than the Federal Government. I believe the states are closer to the people and therefore are more responsible and fair. I also believe that the states are more knowledgeable and are better trained in trending methods etc.
- Award more weekend fishing days even if the amount of days does not change for the season.
- Bad weather and shallow water depth out of Cameron, La. makes it impossible for small boats to fish for Red Snapper with only a 10 day season. The assumption that every salt water angler fishes for Red Snapper is totally false. Only a handful of salt water fisherman can fish for this species out of my area because a 50 mile run is required to reach deep enough water during the 10 day season.
- Banish all NOAA authority and their business partners restaurant owners and commercial interest
- Because of the short season, I did not fish for Red Snapper at all from 2013-2015
- Because of weather, seas, etc. For recreational fishermen, there is just not enough allowed days.
- Being an offshore fisherman my whole life, this move is something I strongly support.
- Bigger limits on red snapper& longer seasons
- Bigger snapper limits or longer seasons!
- Bring back the open all year red snapper fishing in state waters
- Bring it all home, season, limits and permits.
- Can't get past snapper to catch other species.
- Catching too many red snapper during closed season. Red snappers are over populated Went amberjack fishing and seen nothing but worms in them. So conclusion is longer amberjack and red snapper seasons and limit of red snapper and amberjack should increase. Thank you come again.
- Caught the biggest snapper I ever landed this summer along with my daughter. I would have thrown them back if I could have kept a few more smaller ones. We landed 75 snapper and keep 14 on one trip with not all of them surviving. I also would have liked to have caught trigger fish, we love to eat them but the snapper eat the young one so they almost don't exist anymore. Thanks for all of you'll hard work.
- Central Gulf of Mexico has an over -abundance of Red Snapper, so bad in some areas you can't get your bait down for other fish.
- Change the Federal law, give all decisions to each state. The folks up in DC are not in touch with reality, that is its political and not functional and honest.
- Change the limit on red snapper, it's ridiculous
- Change the stupid conditions that exist!
- Change to state management needs to happen right away while I still am able to make offshore trips. There are more red snapper than I have seen in 30 years of fishing.
- Changing the limit from only allowing 2 red snapper per person would be amazing! :)
- Charter boats should not be allowed to have more days during the federal snapper season than recreational boats.
- Citizens who go catch their own fish for consumption should have the first and largest share of the quota
- Commercial and charter should not receive more time or quota than recreational fisherman.

- Commercial and sportsman should have same access to all fishers
- Commercial fisherman only account for a small portion of the fishing public but get all the attention. We would be better off with the general public getting a large share of the fish. Who pays all the bills and buys all the gear? Not commercial guys.
- Commercial fishermen have NOAA in their pocket. Stop the madness!
- Commercial fishing of red snapper, tuna, amber jack, groupers should not be allowed at all. This is indiscriminately killing fish population and American jobs. Very few jobs are supported by commercial fishing. Blue fin and other tunas must not be exported to Japan and other countries, must remain for sale in the USA, let Japanese eat tilapia sushi. Who is making millions of tuna exports not American fishermen. Sharks are not endangered in GOM at all 95% you catch are red snapper, sharks and sharks hanging of red snapper. Commercial fishing of sharks should be allowed to reduce number of sharks. Red snapper should be allowed for fishing 10-15 times per year when we can go fishing not 9 days in the row. We are working people can go fishing only on weekends. Conflict of interest of fishing council members should be investigated rumor is that some members have direct investments in commercial fishing. All in all fishing council is making more damage to jobs killing marine, hotels and other jobs related to recreational fishing letting long liners to kill millions of fish indiscriminately. All in all these fishing regulations geared just against recreational fishermen are overkill and outrage.
- Commercial interests should not have more of the total quota than recreational, fewer benefit from commercial fishing compared to money generated from recreational fishing
- Commercial lobby has influenced the responsible agencies more than recreational group. the red snapper laws should follow what we did with red fish and commercial charters do not get special treatment like they do today. Additionally the measurements of the catch by each group is totally bogus based on what we see on the water along LA coast. Florida commercial group has biased everything and it needs to be stopped.
- Commercial quota should have no impact on the recreational quota. If any should be penalized it should be commercial fishermen for the amount of Red Snapper that they reject (thrown back left to flounder on the surface and die) due to them not meeting the size that is most profitable for them. Their quota should be allotted in number in fish rather than metric tons. It seems to me that weight is way too vague and error prone measurement to manage this fishery. If the fishery was open all year or majority of it I do not see the recreational guys harvesting unsustainable numbers of fish. Weather gets too bad and cold for everyone to fish. Hunting and football seasons are in full swing during the fall and winter causing everyone to forget about fishing. I think a good season for snapper if not all year would be March to October.
- Complex issues, good luck handling them.
- Concerned that being a federal reef Permit holder that if management were to switch to the state what would happen to permits. Would the still be required ? If permits were deemed useless or of no value I would oppose such issue.
- Consider changing from size and number limits on snapper to just the first limit caught, this would eliminate dead fish being returned to the water and may let some breeders live to reproduce.
- Continue letting recreational fishing of red snapper 10 miles out on the weekend. There is not a shortage of red snapper in the gulf.
- Continue the good work, I will abide with whatever the rules are. Thanks
- Continue to allow a 2 snapper and 1 AJ limit for recreational fishermen year round. The economic benefit will be tremendous!
- Control should be given to the states who are hands on with the knowledge of fish being caught and the amount of fish in the gulf region near Louisiana.
- Could only fish red snapper for 2 days or one weekend I feel if we only have 7 days make them

weekends the state would benefit more ice gas boat slips would be purchase and the fisherman would feel good about purchasing a boat instead I hear them say it don't pay to own a boat
Thanks

- Creel limits should be based on tags similar to deer hunting. buy your tags and when you are out, you stop fishing or buy more. That way I can fish for snapper when I am available and not when the season is declared. A season is not needed. This would help the sport of fishing and decrease pressure on other species when fishing out of the declared season since you can use your tag anytime.
- Current bag limit is ok, red snapper populations have been healthy, would like to see longer season.
- Current management is not working. Changes must be made.
- Current regulation are not in line with the amount of red snapper population I can make that comet after diving multiple offshore platforms
- Current rules tend to consider other states conditions and not the individual states and their habitats. If the individual states species were counted in the individual states (and recently) Louisiana fisherman limits would not be so low.
- Current snapper management is absurd. Change is necessary.
- Current snapper populations should indicate a moderate increase in season length and daily limit, 60 days & 3red snapper per day should protect the population, this would assume we have more than 3 miles to fish, current disagreement of state line really stinks, thank you
- Current system is seriously flawed, states have proven that they can collect more accurate data than feds currently use. It's a no-brainer to anyone outside of the federal government.
- cut back on charter takes!!! just let us fish w/o interference. anytime govt. is involved it gets screwed up.....
- Cut commercial fishermen size and limit .raise recreational
- Cut the politics out. You people do not even understand fishing.
- Daily limits need raising due to the short season. Bad weather and high seas greatly affect the recreational fisherman's ability to fulfill the snapper season.
- Definitely plenty of red snapper when I go spear fishing around the platforms, there should at least be more days to fish snapper and may be even higher limits
- Different states have different fish populations depending on various environmental factors. There is more pressure placed on various fish species in some states due to people population density. LA has a vast number of oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. These as we know, create favorable habitat for red snapper. Not all states have this structure & consequently do not have the number of red snapper to be harvested. Consequently, it just makes sense for the LA Wildlife & Fisheries to manage this valuable resource. Thank you for an opportunity to express my view. I have been fishing the Gulf for 40 years.
- disabled and no longer fish
- Do not get to fish enough
- Do not let the commercial sector fish red snapper year long. They get a lot of undersize fish with no regard to conservation. Manage the commercial sector with tighter restrictions
- Do not let the Feds have anything to do with managing OUR fisheries
- Do whatever is best to regulate recreational seasons to allow more fishing time
- does it really matter state of federal politicians both will sell us out
- Doesn't make sense to be fishing in Federal waters and you catch a Red Snapper when the season is closed in those waters and having to release a fish. Even after following correct procedures you have to watch the fish float away on its side. Same water, same rules and season.

- Don't draw lines or utilize tags. Keep access open and opportunistic fishing opportunity open. Utilize real time reporting prior to landing to count fish and close the season. Ensure enforceability.
- Don't fish near as much offshore due to current regulations.
- Don't go snapper fishing I State water in fear of being ticketed by Feds
- Don't see the states having funds to enforce further out than they already do. nor do I see the fed government giving them funds to do it
- Due to illness I haven't fished as much as I usually do but really enjoy the sport. I think a local hands-on agency could do a much better job in maintaining out fish populations than someone sitting in DC who really doesn't know the Gulf of Mexico. Look what they did with our Redfish and Speckled Trout. Our sizes and quantity of fish have increased substantially.. Well done State of Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries!
- Due to snapper being plentiful, we should raise the limit of red snapper to 5 and keep any size because the small ones that get thrown back will die soon after being released.
- Due to the by catch kill of undersized fish pulled from deep water, I strongly recommend that the fisheries adopted a system whereby the angler is required to keep the first X number of fish caught regardless of size.
- Due to the fact that I have to go at least 30 miles offshore to catch red snapper, and the season is so short it makes catching 2 red snapper a very expensive meat. Federal standards for rec. anglers are very unfair.
- Due to work and other obligations, I was only able to fish 4 days during the federal red snapper season and kept 8. Institute a red snapper tag where anglers are required to report within 48 hrs size and number of fish. Charge \$2 a tag to pay for the program. Hunters have to purchase tags for deer. Similar program would make tracking our catch much more accurate. From my side of the state, I have to make a 30 mile run out to the rigs to catch snappers. The 10 mile rule doesn't help me any.
- During this year's snapper season we hooked up to a platform and caught our limit of snapper in about 45 min. Had 6 people on the boat. All of the snapper caught had completely empty stomachs except for what we had used as bait. They were ravenous and once hooked a large amount of snapper followed the hooked fish to the surface trying to steal its food. Every platform we went to this year in 40' or more of water while trying to catch other fish we wound up catching snapper and having to release them. No matter what precautions we took I know some of them died. There is an abundance of snapper now because of proper management but the limits need to be increased or the number of days needs to be increased. Is there any thing the Feds have ever done that had worked right? No Let the states take care of this.
- Each state should be able to manage its own resources.
- Each state along the gulf coast is individually complex. The states should be responsible for governing their own waters when it comes to size or possession limits. Our Louisiana scientists and biologists work around the clock on the coast to make sure they have accurate information to support their decisions on making the rules and laws best they see fit to preserve our waters. Each state should be handled on a case by case basis for factors such as numbers of fishermen and habitat.
- Each state has different habitat and associated ecosystem, how can one agency manage the entire gulf coast. States are better suited to manage their own fishery!
- Each State in coordination with their Biologists & gathered information would be more efficient to regulate these Quotas than ANY Federal non educated board !
- Each State needs to be able to manage its offshore fisheries. They would be able to manage more effectively.
- Each state should be in charge of its own fisheries as a whole. The feds have demonstrated that

they are incapable of managing the gulf properly.

- Each State should be managing their own resources.
- Each state should control fishing off their own coastal and federal waters, because each state has different fishing and breeding grounds.
- Each State should control its own regulations on fishing inshore and offshore !!!
- Each state should regulate for private fishermen not the Feds.
- Each state's fisheries differ, their fore It is my opinion that state agencies should have jurisdiction in regulating laws for their tax payers.
- Eliminate politics and trust the data and true science.
- Eliminate the red snapper commercial harvest and all your problems will be solved.
- Every authority that goes to state or national level gets held up by politics, and after all their studies they still don't understand local conditions.
- Every fishing trip I have found an abundance of Red Snapper. Every year their size is increasing, 10lbs plus.
- Every time I go fishing it is getting harder and harder to catch anything other than red snapper! As for amberjack and grouper I feel that NOAA is doing a fair enough job to let them keep that.
- Every time I have been fishing this year, we were catching legal Red Snapper at the first set of rigs out from Grand Isle. I have been fishing in Grand Isle for the 11 years and have never seen Red Snapper this close to shore in the Grand Isle waters. Offshore at the 15 mile rigs the Red Snapper are plentiful and there is no problem catching ones limit.
- Every time we have gone out we have caught and released more snapper than any other fish.
- Extend snapper season!!
- Extend the recreational red snapper limit.
- [Expletive] NOAA
- Fed government is completely incapable of managing the gulf waters.
- Fed regs discourage rec fishing. Commercial fisherman do not own the fish any more than the recs.
- Federal agencies can't effectively manage fisheries.
- Federal allows 10 days to snapper fish for recreational fishermen with all 10 days in a row which allows only 1 weekend. This is so ridiculous because the average person has to either only fish 2 days or take off work. At least split the 10 days over more weekends. At least 2. Or make it 12 days with 4 Friday-Sunday's. And to really make it nice, put one of those weekends 4th of July weekend. Also, giving the "free" weekend to fish without a license during the snapper weekend is [expletive deleted] for the people who always buy licenses or have a lifetime. Everyone should have to pay for the weekend.
- Federal and state agencies should regulate trolling offshore which kills millions of red snapper, and go to a tag system allowing each angler 30 red snapper a year. This way on a bad weather day people don't risk their lives in the gulf because they only have ten days to fish. Red snapper should be made a recreational fish and this would not be such a political issue. There are billions of dollars spent on offshore fishing. The 2 or 3 hundred families who feed themselves commercial fishing red snapper need to find another way to make a living. The money anglers spend on fishing should have incredible power in state and federal elections. The line for protecting US waters should be extended far in to the gulf so international boats are not allowed to fish our waters. We also need independent studies to see how many red snapper are actually in the gulf.
- Federal and state should closely monitor commercial harvests and either extend the days for recreational snapper or increase the bag limit to at least 5 in federal waters
- Federal decisions are often made by sampling species in other states and saddling us with their

results.

- Federal department does know what is best for the gulf!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Federal Government data inaccurate. Let states have complete control.
- Federal management has been a disaster and its highly political. This fishery belongs to the state
- Federal management is a complete failure. We are at the apex of seeing other species of reef fish decline due to the overpopulation of red snapper (triggerfish, amberjack, etc.). There is only so much biomass a reef can support and red snapper is a dominant species.
- Federal management is a crime against private anglers
- Federal management of red snapper has been a disaster, to put it mildly. Anything that removes them from the equation is a good thing, in my opinion. State regulated fish and game have always been better off than federally regulated species, in my opinion.
- Federal management of the Gulf as a whole unit is severely flawed. Snapper love structure. LA has lots of structure and reefs to support robust snapper fishery. Give it to the states please!!! The apocalypse did not occur by LA managing its state waters. In fact there are more snapper now in state waters than I have seen in my lifetime. You can't catch anything else anymore because the snapper do not allow a bait to sit long enough.
- Federal mgt of fisheries is seriously flawed and unresponsive to private interests. State mgt is much more focused, objective and responsive.
- Federal Regs are bull and the numbers they report are not accurate for the amount of Snapper out there.
- Federal regs have destroyed offshore fishing in SWLA. A 10 day snapper season is absurd & rarely would weather permit a small offshore boat to fish during such a short window. Weather permitting, 12-13 trips/yr was the most I ever made years ago, when fishing was allowed 365d/yr (and I was free to go every Fri, Sat, & Sun). One trip this year saw only 3 boats offshore, and the second trip saw only 1 other recreational boat all day. In years past boats would be at every rig, and coastal boats launches would be filled with trailers. Saw only about 4-5 trailers this year during the federal snapper season. Even though there are a lot of licensed fishermen in southwest LA, very few ever venture offshore anymore. It's just not worth it. About the only thing left to catch is Spanish mackerel. What a shame.
- Federal regulation does not work. It is time for the states to control their territory as stated in our constitution.
- Federal regulators are blind to the fact that shrimp trawling kills the majority of snapper fry as by-catch. I HAVE WATCHED THIS TERRIBLE LOSS WITH MY OWN EYES!!
- Federal seasons and bag limits are NOT based off the fish populations of the waters that are fished by every individual states' fishermen. Every state individually should have limits and seasons that they can sustain based on that state's fish populations.
- Federal side manages just about everything poorly.
- Federal vs state disputes for mineral rights and tax money allocation shouldn't involve fishermen and their families. Snapper is one of the most abundant fish on the shelf, a 2 fish limit and such a short season is not the right way to settle an argument in Washington DC.
- Federal water needs allow to extent red snappers fishing longer.
- Federal waters are too restrictive for recreational fishermen. I like the way the State spreads out the days. I live 7 hours from the gulf and may only get one trip annually under current federal rules.
- Federal waters comprise the majority of the area which recreational offshore anglers fish. We leave the dock from state waters and return to the same dock within state waters. Let our states control our fisheries.
- Feds are clueless, snapper are overpopulated and poorly managed.

- Feds are out of touch too much bloated bureaucracy in DC
- Feds are worthless. Their methodology is either broken or corrupt and it is hard to tell which. Transfer all authority to States and eliminate the problem.
- Feds can't manage a whorehouse much less red snapper too many red snapper as it is. They are about all we can catch now!!
- Feds have no clue
- feds [expletive deleted]
- Feed the council members of the Gulf Fisheries Management Council to the "endangered" red snapper. Boom - two birds with one stone.
- Feel state control would manage more effectively because of better data and timely reaction, less politics, more science.
- First, it is true that a higher volume of red snapper are found in areas occupied by oil rigs (e.g. Louisiana) more so than in areas without them (e.g. Florida). However, these oil rigs (1) are not natural habitation points for red snapper, (2) overestimate the total number of reef fish by placing them in single-point congregations rather than the whole of the gulf, and (3) only temporary structures which will eventually be moved for navigation purposes. Second, the Magnuson Act allocates the regulation of these offshore fisheries to the Federal Government because the Federal Government is the protectorate of those waters. To put it in simpler terms, if the states were to assume control of fisheries management within 200 nautical miles, they should also be ready to defend the border with military force. It is wrong to assume that states have any right to control management of the waters beyond 9 nautical miles. Finally, with that said, let's focus our forces where they can be effective. The state waters of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama should NOT be 3 miles and should be extended to match other states. This is in direct contrast to states like Florida that have a 10 mile border inside which states can and do effectively regulate fisheries. This legislation is much easier to change than the Magnuson Act and contains much validity. Patience should be afforded to the science and the policy in this venture. One of the few legislations in this country that has been effective are fisheries policies. Numerous species such as redfish, brown shrimp, blue crab, eastern oyster, and sea turtles have been well protected under fisheries policy. It would be silly to turn our backs on an efficient and effective action.
- First, it needs to be decided what is state waters and what is federal waters. This would take care of some the confusion on when and where we can fish and not worry about if we legal or not.
- Fish populations vary greatly from state to state. The federal government methods of measuring are not accurate. The states fix the red drum fisheries they would do the same with red snapper. Fishing snapper for money poses a greater threat to fisheries. Recreational fisherman are conservative and drives tourism to the local economies
- Fished the first 7 days of federal snapper season, could have sank the boat with red snapper.
- Fisheries resource belongs to all citizens. A small number of Commercial permit holders are profiting off a resource belonging to everyone.
- Fishing is a God giving right regardless if bream bass trout red snapper We have to protect and conserve all species for next generation but to take one type fishing is like taking it all not what God intended
- Fishing is becoming a thing for the rich or retired. there are more weekday's allotted to accommodate them. The working man only has sat and Sunday. Snapper season is a prime example.
- Fishing regulations not only need to factor the sustainability of the species but the reliable use of that fishery No matter how you may argue that is what is being done. It does not appear to be true. Are there any measurable benchmarks for what is a healthy population? The take for

migratory water fowl and for harvest of alligators show two very good examples of successful management of the resource

- Fishing should be controlled by state not fed to keep laws direct or close to does who fish. Quota should be set by the total amount available not by amount of catch. There is no way to monitor personal catch as many trips are canceled because of weather. People should have larger limits and monitor crop. Also your crabbing laws are completely wrong there will be no crabs for years if you continue. Please contact [Name Withheld] at [E-mail address withheld]@yahoo.com if you would like a solution. Please keep in mind fisheries are for everyone and no person has the right to stop anyone from fishing. Maybe limit but not stop. Government should make laws for the people by the people. Not as it is done today. Thanks
- First if red snapper numbers are so low we can't take two per day shut it down for a year or two and let the number build back up. Second Shut down commercial fishing down for 5 years or altogether.
- Fix it!
- Florida isn't the same as Louisiana.
- For years I have watched the red snapper population continue to grow due to "unrealistic" regulation. We caught huge red snapper this season in 30' of water and more in deeper waters. Seeing the population flourish the way it has I can't understand the 2 fish limit nor can I understand the short seasons that have been in effect.
- Freshwater fishing - Arkansas Saltwater - Louisiana
- From Social Security, Fanny Mae, Freddy Mac to Obama Care I believe the feds have proven their inability to manage anything correctly
- From the little I know about this particular situation it does not sound like the Fed's are listening to our state reps on the amount of red snapper available without ruining our fisheries for the regular ole fisherman. I would give the state a try but scared of our government. Something is always in it for them. Government really does not look out for Americans anymore. GOOD LUCK !!!
- From the offshore fishing that I have done in recent years resulting in the ease of reaching the current limit in red snapper, as well as, information obtained from spear fishermen on the tremendous number of red snapper seen when diving, there is no reason that the limits should be as low as they currently are in Louisiana waters or in federal waters off the coast of Louisiana
- From what I have seen the commercial fishermen are the ones hurting the fishing! Just go and watch from the sidelines!!!!!!!!!!!! !
- From what I have seen there is an abundance of red snapper in the gulf and believe the limit of two per person should be raised.
- [Expletive deleted] off you regulatory [expletive deleted]
- Get accurate data and make informed decisions. We can all have much more educated discussions on what to do and how to do it, if we had accurate data.
- Get Federal Government out of state affairs
- Get federal government out of management
- Get Federal out of everything in Louisiana.
- Get rid of the head boat charters. They are raping our fisheries.
- Get state funded universities more involved and put a stop to the taking out offshore platforms. Use them for real time data collection.
- Get the authority back to the State.
- Get the Federal government out of control of our wildlife and fisheries
- Get the federal government out of GOM regulation. They are only concerned about lining their

pockets and not scientific evidence.

- Get the federal government out of our lives. They have become a disease on American taxpayers.
- Get the Feds and the UN out of our lives! Sooner the better.
- Get the feds out of fishery management.
- Get the Feds out of it.
- Get the Feds out of management
- Get the Feds out of our fisheries and let the states manage it in a cooperative and scientifically sound manner
- Get the Feds out of our fishery management!
- Get the Feds out of our gulf
- Get the Feds out of the states' business. Only govt dept that works well is the military
- Get the Feds out!
- GET THE FEDS OUT! they are uninformed on red snapper numbers and are [expletive deleted]over the recreational angler.
- Get the Feds out. They do not have the knowledge of fish population in waters offshore of our state to manage this resource.
- Get the NOAA out of the management business. NOAA should gather the data and the states should do the managing.
- Get the politics out of the equation and manage our national resource for ours AND future generations' benefit.
- Get this right!
- Get this to the Polls in some form or fashion. The coastal parish voters will support a move to state agencies!!!
- Give control to the State.
- Give it to the states! The federal government has NO clue!
- Give Louisiana all the control!
- Give more authority to the local folks
- Give recreational fisherman more days and limit. There are so many red snapper rigs now hard drop line and catch anything else
- Give recreational fisherman the same benefits as charter fishermen, the 10 days is not enough!
- Give State agencies management rights
- Give the power back to the state!!
- GIVE THE RECREATIONAL FISHERMAN MORE DAYS TO FISH RED SNAPPER AND AMBERJACK.TOO MUCH OF OUR RESOURCE IS GOING COMMERCIAL!!
- Give us more days to fish!!! We do have to work!! and we have weather to deal with
- Give us more than 9 days to fish Red Snapper - stop taking your surveys of these fish in State waters, as all of the fish are in deeper Federal Waters. There is more than enough Red Snapper in the GOM for the anglers in Louisiana to have at least a 30 season every year for Red Snapper.
- Give us our snapper back!!!!
- Giving the State all red snapper management may result in another 14 Inch disaster as in the spillway. I remember what happened before the Feds took control of the red-snapper. I simply don't trust the state management anymore.
- Glad to see you guys doing this and being proactive!
- Go Fish!!

- Go get emm
- Go gulf states!!!
- go state
- Going fishing for 2 red snapper is a joke after burning that much gas and time snapper is very plentiful in Louisiana waters and I've hardly ever had a problem catching them limit should be raised and time to catch should be longer. Our problem lies with outlaws coming in to U.S. waters and long lining illegally for fish not recreational fishermen!
- Going offshore fishing has not been on the list to do because of all the seasons on fish and limits that change all the time. I keep my fishing to inshore and state waters fishing.
- Going to a regional approach verse a Gulf coast approach to the fish management is better. This give a better observation of the local catch and management. The quantity of fish in Florida may not be the same as in Louisiana, and thus will determine the fish catch allowed. Local control is better.
- good idea to move to state agencies. They will be able to keep better track of the fisheries and numbers of fish that are being caught rather than federal control
- Good luck
- Good luck with this, and the line between federal and state water will be a big hurdle.
- Govt. Making it too hard to fish/too many lic./reporting
- Great job managing red snapper!!
- Great job, keep up the good work
- Great trips/10 day fed/ out of Cameron Good days out of Grand Isle/ state water:/ so many legal size having to put back both places
- Gulf council is fatally flawed. Red snapper fishing is all about the mighty dollar. Still trying to figure out how commercial fishermen don't pay for a resource that belongs to ALL of us. I'm surprised someone hasn't come up with commercial hunting. The gulf states need to manage all fisheries from land to 100 miles offshore. State agencies need to find another source of revenue besides the federal government.
- Gulf council management has been mismanagement. The recreational fishermen have been unjustly abused. Favor always rests with the commercial fleet. The recent separate charter boat quota is an insult and abomination. Management of all reef fishes should go to state.
- Gulf of Mexico fishing Regulations need to be set, using hard data, from the Gulf of Mexico, not from the Atlantic.
- Had a blast
- Had a great productive trip. Will be going again. We caught and released a Marlin. Why no limit on those?.....Aren't they rare?
- Had knee surgery this spring and have not been able to go offshore this year
- Has there ever been any consideration given to having a tagging system for red snapper? an angler would buy up to 10 tags per year for \$5.00 each and every fish caught would be tagged. this would limit the number of fish caught and would provide more flexibility to fishermen.
- Have clear laws when both state and federal seasons are open. One game warden told us the state laws supersede the federal while another told us the federal laws trumped the state laws. Confusion by the authorities is awful.
- Have fished all over the gulf and each state has a different fisheries that ca not be effectively managed as a group
- Have not been fishing due to family medical situation. I usually fish a lot. Thanks.
- Have not gone offshore fishing this year due to the short seasons and low limits on red snapper. It is not feasible to spend the money.
- Have snapper season set on weekends to better help the working

- Here is my dilemma, I work 30/30 and am an advocate snapper fisher , we love bringing kids and friends , if the 10 day season falls when I am at work I get no snapper fishing for friends and family I have several \$100,000 invested in equipment I can't utilize if a certain number of day are allowed to fish , I should get to choose those days, last 9 day season the first five where to rough to fish then I had to return to work. I don't do the state waters because there is still no clarity and tickets are still being advise and there is no map to define that 10 mile line plus I fish out of COCODRIE which snapper are start at 25 miles out .please figure a way to assign days to fish not from date to date...
- Hope everything works for people's best interest.
- Hope state gets the control soon!
- hope that the states can manage their own fisheries for the recreational fisherman
- Hoping all involved realize state management is always best I i all things but especially as they concern coastal waters and states!
- How does the agency come up with quota. Red Snapper are so plentiful, it's hard to catch other species at most rigs
- How many red snapper are caught then must be thrown back hoping they live, most don't !! Recreational fisherman should be allowed to keep these fish instead of letting them be thrown back & eaten by other fish !!!
- How can 386 people control 51 % of red snapper fishery?
- I absolutely believe that recreational fishermen are not hurting the red snapper population. I also believe that government agencies should not have their control over issues that can be managed by the state.
- I ABSOLUTELY SUPPORT STATE MANAGEMENT. WE ARE NOT FLORIDA!
- I advocate for Red Snapper to be managed similar to Waterfowl where the sale of snapper is outlawed.
- I agree that the states should be involved but the snapper will be over fished if they have total control. Just talk to the spear fishermen. They noticed the quick drop in snapper around the rigs in Louisiana state waters this past year. The commercial side should not have main access to the fish either. The common sport fisherman would like to catch and eat his own. I worked offshore starting in 1976 and I remember how it once was and we are not back to that yet!!! The snapper are just getting a good start. Let them have a chance for a few more years to thrive!
- I agree with most daily bag limits on all fisheries in Louisiana except for the red snapper season for non-commercial fisherman. The season is too short for the amount of snapper in federal waters. I just fish recreationally and if the weather is bad or we have to work we miss the whole snapper season.
- I along with the rest of my family have been disgusted with what the Gulf Council has done with the Federal Red Snapper Fishery. State management will be a great step in the right direction.
- I also don't like how they have the brackets for private and state charter boats, private sector doesn't get that many day to fish because of work or weather condition in gulf not coinciding with the allotted time for snapper season. State charter captains fish for a living so they have ample opportunity to catch snapper in the allotted season also to me they are a commercial entity in the fishing sector because they are paid for their service so they should fall under the commercial quota and not the recreational quota. In turn would help the private sector because it would lengthen the snapper season
- I also feel that the charter boats need to be considered commercial and the private angler separate. If you are making money on red snapper, then you are commercial.
- I am a certified SCUBA diver and have been diving the oil rigs in the gulf for about 5 years.

We consistently see more red snapper than anything else.

- I am a certified scuba diver. The amount of red snapper that they have in the gulf waters off the Louisiana coastal is unreal. I also think they need to reconsider the removal of the oilfield platforms in the gulf. These platforms support and abundant amount of sea life.
- I am a diver and see the amount of species on a first hand basis and believe they are not being managed properly. Red Snapper for one of course we all know is in no danger. Also do not agree with sector separation. Recreational fishermen have a huge economic impact and if there is no reason to fish it will hurt the state.
- I am a diving on the oil & gas platforms in the Gulf. I dove 2 days this past week, about 12 dives. Red Snappers on every rigs including in the high 20's to 30 pound range.
- I am a mechanic and work on fishing boats. It makes me sick to see the abundance of snapper the commercial fisherman are allowed to catch and we are limited to 2 snapper. Utterly ridicules
- I am a member of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Tag team. I tag red snapper along with red drum and speckled sea trout. Due to the controversy between state and Feds I see a lot of private fishermen keeping red snapper caught beyond Louisiana waters on weekends. It looks as if the Feds have lost control already.
- I am a recreational fisherman who enjoys fishing with my family. With the existing plan we are limited on how many days we can fish, especially for red snapper. Due to weather, work, etc recreational fishermen basically have had one weekend to fish. I understand there has to be guidelines and I am fine with that, but make it fair for everyone. The cost to own an offshore boat can be costly and I wish there was a different approach to enjoy this activity with my family.
- I am a scuba diving spear fisher. I dive and put my life at risk to bring home fish (for sport/dinner). I have seen what these commercial boats are capable of with long lines. Usually we got out and take a couple with us regardless of the time of year. Why? Isn't that illegal? Well when we dive, we see hundreds of Red Snapper schooling all over the rigs. In fact, there are fewer amberjack than snapper out there. They are EVERYWHERE. I think the problem with so strictly regulating this fish is that NOAA and WLF do not understand how populated they are. Out of all who work for them, only a small percentage probably dive. Divers get to see first-hand what it is like down there. To be more clear, I fished up until I was 21. When I turned 22, I started scuba diving. After spearing fish down below at depths 80-120ft, I got to see first-hand what their behavior is like and my entire perception of fish behavior changed. There is so much superstition surrounding fishing from the surface due to the inability to see what they are doing down below. Commercial fishermen SLAUGHTER red snapper while recreational fishermen are [expletive] near harmless to their population. With a limit of 2/person-day, a recreational fisherman cannot hamper the population of Red Snapper. Red Snapper should be open all year round for recreational fishermen, and for commercial fishermen there should be a weight limit per year, if not a complete overhaul of their permit system.
- I am a spear fisherman so get to see with my eyes what's going on underwater, granted not at every location and not below 200 feet. Undoubtedly fishing pressure on platforms near the mouth of the river reduces ARS (this year quite abundant, maybe less than last year however) but if you go west out the Atchafalaya there is an overabundance of ARS. There is no danger of the fishery "collapsing" in Louisiana but the Council treats the GOM as a homogenous ecosystem and it clearly is not. Let Florida catch their very last ARS and the impact in Louisiana will be negligible.
- I am a sport fisherman and I love to fish !
- I am a underwater spear fisherman and by the amount of snapper we see makes me believe the council underestimates the totals

- I am a young husband with a young family who enjoys the outdoors. The state needs to control its own waters.
- I am able to spend a maximum of 8 to 9 days fishing in the Gulf each year. I have done so for the last 25 years. It is my observation that the red snapper population is in excellent shape in the waters off of the coast of LA. I strongly feel that the State is much more capable to access the stock then those on the Federal Level. I believe this holds true for Amberjack and Grouper.
- I am all about the states managing their own resources.
- I am an avid diver/spear fisherman. I believe a huge part of the management strategy should be stop removing platforms from federal waters. There is no reason for platform removal if all wells have been properly P&Aed (sic).
- I am concerned that total state control would give commercial fishermen too much influence
- I am deck hand on a private boat
- I am done with the feds
- I am dubious about state regulation because of pressure that may be exerted upon state officials by local fishing industry.
- I am fine with a 2 fish per person limit, year around.
- I am glad the government is listening. Anglers want the feds out of the way and allow state law to prevail. It is too confusing and risky having 2 sets of laws, guidelines, and boundaries to deal with.
- I am in favor of getting all fisheries in Offshore Louisiana out of Federal control. The feds have proved they are incapable of logical management.
- I am in favor of state gov having more influence than the feds
- I am in favor of the state regulating the fisheries. It is really sad how political this has become allowing so few to have more rights to the fishery than the general tax payers.
- I am in favor of all fish to be regulated by the states. I also want to see out state waters officially set at 10 miles.
- I am more of a fresh water fisherman rather than salt water. I am hearing discussion from salt water fisherman what they think would be best which helped with my answers
- I am not informed enough to provide educated answers to the survey. This was my first time snapper fishing.
- I am of the opinion that States are better able to manage seasons and bags than a federal agency. This is especially true for occasional anglers like myself.
- I am personally sick and tired of NOAA and the National marine fisheries. I am even angrier with the divide and conquer tactics used to pit the recreational fisherman and the charter captains against each other. This must stop and must stop immediately.
- I am pleased that the interest of the individual fisherman is considered in these discussions. I am not plugged in to all of the higher level conversations both state and federal so I am unable to make a precise decision as to any new rules or policies. However: when I dedicate a weekend and hundreds of dollars in supplies (fuel for instance) to make a 100 mile trip offshore, I am very disappointed when I cannot keep a Red Snapper, just because it is not swimming as close to land as it should be. When I go almost anywhere offshore and drop a hook, and within 5 seconds I can get a Red Snapper; it is very difficult for me to consider them scarce or in decline. Also, Louisiana has a very large continental shelf of which it takes almost 100 miles of travel south in some places to get to water more than 500 ft. deep. This challenges the rules and regs on one side of this state or other states for that matter of which fish we can catch and which ones we cant. Yes, rules and guidelines are good, Yes, I want a sustainable resource, but some people that have access to the gulf have advantages over others just by proximity to deep or shallow waters. These things should be considered when making rules and regulations. I am pleased again that I have an opportunity to voice my concerns, and I

applaud your efforts to discuss these issues with the fishermen of this state. Thank you.
[Name withheld]

- I am pleased with then management practices of the Red Snapper
- I am somewhat hesitant to request more power be given to the state DW&F, however I have seen lately, an extra effort, by them, to improve the fisheries of Louisiana based on more data and less politics. [Name withheld], 3rd. generation Sport and fishing store owner.
- I am strongly for state managed red snapper and other reef fish management. Additionally, private anglers deserve the same seasons as the permitted charter captains. It makes no sense to punish boat owners and private fisherman because they are not paying for a charter, private fisherman put a lot of money into the fishing economy.
- I am strongly for the state taking control of all fisheries off of LA's coast. I believe they have the greatest grasp of what is going on in our waters, especially compared to the federal government who doesn't know (or care) what is best for LA's fisheries. I have been checked numerous times at the docks over the last few years from LA biologists taking fish surveys, the feds have done zero, therefore they are, in my opinion, making false data with which they make their rules. The Feds also follow the money trail to their pockets and not what is right or wrong. In addition, I am strongly against the commercial sector getting any of the PUBLIC's resource. The recreational guys pay the most in taxes and induce more money into the economy than the exploiting commercial sector ever will (if you are using money to base decisions, as the feds do, not using science which is the right decision). From my experience fishing the 40-120ft (boat limitations) depths, red snapper are very abundant to the point of nuisance while fishing for other species. It is laughable that we have got to this point in the state of our fisheries. Common sense is not so common when you are being regulated (essentially cut off) by a group of APPOINTED bureaucrats who have an anti-fishing agenda. They are using their position to slowly chip away at our PUBLIC resources with non-scientific (nice way of putting it) data. Again, I am strongly for the State taking control of the marine fisheries of our state waters and federal waters extending from Louisiana.
- I am strongly opposed to federally permitted charter boats.
- I am supposed to be fishing offshore Louisiana right now but seas are forecast to be in the 10-14' range
- I am the captain of a busy 70' private sport fishing boat. When tournament season is over we do a lot of bottom fishing. Avoiding red snapper has become the mission when doing so. And it is not an easy one. They are out of control. They are a danger to other species as there are too many of them. I would like anybody else to have control of regulating them as the federal government has shown their obvious and despicable incompetence on the subject.
- I am very pleased the state saw fit to manage our state water snapper. I believe we have an abundance of snapper around our offshore rigs and platforms. I would love to see the state manage federal also. Also very much against removing existing platforms out there.
- I am working in Louisiana I am working in Louisiana ,and I have some time on weekends to go fishing, I fished out of Venice la and that is the best place I have every fished, I would like everything to stay the same ... thanks [Name withheld],
- I appreciate the fact that you are surveying individuals that actually participate in this sport. Hopefully the federal government will listen to the opinion of Louisiana citizens. Thank you for asking my opinion!
- I appreciate the work that LDWF is doing and their effort to make reasonable, sustainable and intelligent decisions involving our state fisheries.
- I appreciate what the state is trying to do with regard to protecting states' rights and the rights of private citizens. The 2 big issues facing Louisiana's fisherman as I see it are, rig removal and commercial harvest by out of state boats. The rigs to reef program needs to be changed to allow reefing in place of all structures in waters greater than 60 feet. The current practice of 85'

clearance is ridiculous and apparently is only required here in Louisiana! Other gulf states have artificial reefs in federal waters with less than 30' of clearance! Why can't we have the same rules to play by? All platforms are charted and locations published. Each and every platform from 60' on out should be reefed in place where they do not interfere with shipping lanes, which would free up 90% of the coast for reefing! Why is the department not trying to save the most extensive artificial reef system in the world. The rigs are leaving at an alarming rate in my area of the coast. Please help us save them or there will be no snapper for you to manage.

- I ask the state to be fair, with private and charters, if the states gain control.
- I believe commercial fishermen's process of catching snapper hurts the population of red snapper
- I believe each angler should be issued tags that could be used at their discretion instead of setting dates. Each year there are many days during Snapper season that we cannot fish due to weather.
- I believe federal management of red snapper to be completely outdated. They are managing the whole gulf like it's all in Florida waters, ignoring oil rig habitat and the biomass it creates.
- I believe keeping it federally regulated because the Gulf of Mexico is an open body of water covering multiple states. It would be a shame to have one state with more lax keeper rules than another. From my understanding, these are migratory fish and such open waters should be singularly regulated.
- I believe Louisiana can manage snapper population just fine
- I believe our state needs to manage our resources.
- I believe states that can be a good steward of their resources can make their own decisions within their coastal waters.
- I believe that it may be beneficial to form a partnership between state and government regulations. In order to provide opportunity for the fish populations to stabilize, but as well as making the regulations more flexible
- I believe that LDWF is more than qualified to manage Louisiana's saltwater fisheries, and would do a better job than the federal agencies. I think LDWF is a very well run and professional agency, and I would have great confidence in its ability to manage Louisiana's red snapper fishery.
- I believe that only one agency should be responsible for a species of fish it should be easier to keep track of. Maybe make a separate group responsible for red snapper. Just like shrimp different places are open at different times. Limits on fish can also be regulated to amounts in that area
- I believe that only the States like Louisiana can know what the health of it coastal waters are like.
- I believe that State offices have a much better understanding of the local fishery system. Local state funded programs also create local job growth and support a healthier fishing program for everyone. Also, different areas of the ocean, as in different states, have a completely different population of fish within their boundaries, which is yet another reason the state should manage it instead of Federal.
- I believe that the catch number on red snapper should be increased. I believe that there are more red snapper in the Gulf now than there were 20 years ago.
- I believe that the conditions, amount of a species, and amount of fishers varies greatly by State and a Region and therefore is better managed and regulated at the local level. This year I went out for recreational Red Snapper fishing and was held to a 2 fish bag limit. I tried to fish for other species, but this was near impossible because of the amount of Red Snapper were so abundant. We must have caught and released nearly 40 fish between 2 fishermen in 1 small boat. If these fish are so rare and endangered it obviously wasn't the case this summer in South

Louisiana.

- I believe that the State Government will manage the fisheries in our state much better than the Federal Government.
- I believe that the state of Louisiana will do a great job in managing our gulf waters as they have already in our coastal waters. The state should also have control over the oil rigs that support our abundance of marine life. Don't remove the rigs that have become artificial reefs that support habitat.
- I believe that the state should regulate any and all within its boundaries.
- I believe that the states would be able to more fairly regulate waters into the federal areas outside of their current boundaries better than the council would. I also believe that the recreational season should be longer and just because the commercial fisherman pay so much more money does not mean that they should have special seasons in federal waters. I believe the common working person should have plenty of time to enjoy catching such a plentiful and delicious species instead of having to buy it in a store because of limited fishing time. Thank you for sending this survey out.
- I believe the balance of quotas is ridiculously lop-sided to benefit commercial fisherman. The amount of red snapper in the gulf is massively over populated, no matter what the federal counts may say. This is a pitifully ran governmental operation. The red snapper species is not being managed for sustainability, but it's being ran as a commodity that is about to run out. IT IS OVERPOPULATED. WAKE UP!
- I believe the council does not have a clue as to the red snapper stock in the Gulf of Mexico. I believe they use unreliable / fabricated data to manage all the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. I believe the council, like most government agencies, expands its authority and puts more regulations than necessary, which data on the ground doesn't support, just to show that they are doing their job which ends up hurting the fishing industry. When it cost a fisherman an average of \$400.00 to go fishing offshore and then to be told that they cannot have any snapper, amber jack, grouper, even trigger fish, something has got to give. The council wants to regulate every fish species in the Gulf of Mexico, even the historical trash fish. There was a ban put on the red fish in federal waters in the 80's and it is still in place. There has never been evidence that the red fish was over fished and every platform you go to, within 200 ft of water, you can catch red fish but the ban is still in place. When you do catch one and release it the fish dies or becomes shark food. I am waiting for the council to put a catch limit and season on hard head catfish. I know it sounds silly but look what the council did to the trigger fish. I can see being able to go out and have a catch and size limit of each species. at least then, when you spend \$400 to go fishing, you would have something to show for it. But to completely shut down fishing for a certain species, when it is the best time to fish for that species or when the weather is most favorable to go fishing, is overreach and heavy handed management.
- I believe the Federal Government should not dictate the State waters. I also think the State should be allowed to increase the observed league distance to allow for better fishing Off-shore along the rigs.
- I believe the feds have grossly mismanaged the red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico to the point where it is negatively affecting other species. State agencies would do a better job.
- I believe the Gulf states should have total control of their fisheries; commercial separate from recreational.
- I believe the people that are on the water and see the abundance of the red snapper should have the final say so in quota, size, and limits. Not the paper pushers in Washington or where ever they are. I think the state has being doing a great job the last couple years gathering data from fisherman on a regular basis and from doing so gives them a better guesstimate on how the fishery should be regulated.
- I believe the state agencies have a better understanding of how to manage the red snapper

season. These fish are being mismanaged to a point of which there are becoming a nuisance while fishing at an offshore platform.

- I believe the state agencies have a better understanding on how to manage the waters connecting their respective states
- I believe the state can do a much better job of managing the offshore fisheries than the gulf council. I do not understand the council's management program, nor do I trust them.
- I believe the state can manage the fisheries better than the Feds. Local gov should dictate what our Sean's (sic) should be.
- I believe the state could manage the fisheries off their on shores more efficiently to the local amount of fish in their particular area. Instead of the federal government trying to manage the whole Gulf with one plan for such a large area.
- I believe the state is better suited to real world management of its own resources than a slow reacting, out of touch federal government
- I believe the state is more in touch with how many fish are being caught in our state therefore will be better at managing these issues.....
- I believe the state would do a far better job of managing its own fishery for the simple reason every estuary is unique and the wildlife biologists employed in our state know it a lot better than someone 3 states away trying to come up with a regulation based on flawed third party information.
- I believe the state would manage the fishery more effectively for both groups than the Feds. Just look at how well they have managed the trout and red fish in the state.
- I believe the states are fully informed and capable, more so than the Feds, of managing their fisheries.
- I believe the states monitoring their waters and federal water catch rates would be a better program with mandatory red snapper harvest information programs would be a much better indication of the red snapper stocks. Me being a recreational fisherman with a smaller boat limits my red snapper fishing opportunities. It is apparent that red snapper fishing in the gulf is a rich man's sport with very little consideration being given to a common working man.
- I believe the states should manage the limits of all species of fish. They should be able to work hand in hand with the Federal government, but at this point the Federal government is just being ignorant and arrogant.
- I believe the states would do a better job managing the quota.
- I believe there should be a slot limit on Red Snapper between 16 inches and 24 inches to allow the larger more mature fish to reproduce.
- I believe there is abundance of red snapper, so many that it is hard to get to other fish. The limit & the amount of days is far too less than it should be.
- I call Red Snapper the "trash fish" of the Gulf because it seems to be the most caught fish and you cannot keep it. Resembles the Hard Head Catfish as far as frequency of catch, unfortunately, the Red Snapper is good eating and the Hardhead is trash! Have a great day! Thanks for letting us have a say!
- I cannot understand how grossly mismanaged the fisheries are in this state. I have been fishing my whole life and diving for the last 27 years. Red snapper should be the last fish to be this regulated in the Gulf of Mexico! Whoever the [expletive deleted] CLOWNS are that are putting the restriction on the fish and then taking away their habitat (rig removal) needs to get there head out of their [expletive deleted]! Keep removing rigs and let's see the restrictions get even stronger.
- I completely agree that our DWLF is better suited to manage fisheries in state waters as well as federal offshore waters. The recreational season should be changed so that the recreational angler has more opportunities to fish, i.e. have weekend fishing days and consecutive days.

- I could live with a tagging system for salt water fish but 9 days for recreational seasons for red snapper just isn't fair for fisherman who have invested over \$300k in boat and camp at grand isle
- I did not fish as much due to conflicting dates. I prefer to fish federal waters and due to limited days I did not fish as much.
- I do believe the Gulf states should be able to survey their offshore waters, determine fish stocks and set seasons and creel limits.
- I do brackish water fishing mainly so this does not affect me much.
- I do not agree with the Fed rule of only a week or two to fish for Red Snapper. They are everywhere and I cannot catch anything else when fishing the rigs.
- I do not believe recreational anglers greatly impacts red snapper populations. Recreational anglers should have more fishing days for both state and federal waters.
- I do not believe the commercial fisherman or charter fisherman should have that much of an advantage over the private fisherman. Private fishermen go out fewer times than either commercial or charter fisherman, maybe it could be adjusted so private fisherman could enjoy it more for the cost.
- I do not have enough information to determine which option is best. I believe management should be from the state level in most cases.
- I do not see a decline in the snapper population. If there is a negative effect on the populations it would be habitat removal. We need more artificial reefs. Give incentives to oil companies to leave some abandoned rigs in place.
- I do not support the current management of the red snapper resources by the Gulf Council. I fully support moving control to the states. I also am adamantly opposed to the charter for hire having a separate quota from recreational anglers.
- I do not think the Federal Gov. should be involved in each states fishing/hunting regulations. Period.
- I do some spear fishing and see so many fish on rigs and don't understand the 2 fish limit especially when oil companies blow old rigs and kill thousands.
- I don't believe that transferring the power to decide to the state would do anything other than give our local government another thing to corrupt and use for their personal gain.
- I don't get to fish much and enjoy snapper fishing
- I don't get to go fishing as often in the past. I have only been offshore a handful of times. From my research NOAA doesn't have accurate data on proper fish management. Their figures do not support a short season and is unjustifiable to recreational anglers. Also, I've seen various videos and have talked to people who have witnessed the destruction of "abounded" oil rigs. The thousands of red snapper both mature breeders and adolescent juveniles that are killed by the explosions is heartbreaking. Furthermore it's a complete contradictory to NOAAs theory that recreational anglers catch more than their, already null, quota to reduce our season. I know a few charter captains down in Venice. They haven't advertised snapper trips for two years. They just switched their focus to tuna year round.
- I don't know enough about the red snapper fishing to have an opinion. I really have no complaints about Louisiana's fishing regulations, just wish that it cost a little less for us out of staters to fish and hunt in your state.
- I don't know if anyone really reads these notes, but here's my experienced answer: Red snapper bag limits and season periods are RIDICULOUSLY small and short. It makes law abiding fishermen not want to waste their time on such a small amount of fish in a private boat...although there are so many snapper that it's frustrating that we catch so many and can't keep them and some die on the surface, even after using the bladder tool. What a waste to let a beautiful delicious fish die like that. There needs to be fewer regulations as to allow for a few

more fish per person in private vessels and maybe some language regarding a longer or split season. There are so many regulations now that it is nearly impossible to keep up with all of them...landing permits, fed vs state regs, hook types, fish measuring regs, etc....micro managing. We have poor current population management and regulations, as well as undefined boundaries on state vs fed waters...3 miles or 10 miles??? (Calcasieu Pass, Louisiana)

- I don't like the 2 fish limit, but I can see a huge improvement in the number and average size of the snapper I catch. I'd like a little more local control without giving up the large scale fisheries management benefits of the current system
- I don't understand how the gulf council can set a recreational snapper season at 7 days when your average charter boat can't run but 5 days due to weather issues and other factors. Your average angler can't handle fishing in rough seas.
- I don't understand why some Gulf States have a larger bag limit than we do. There is no reason we have to second guess this.
- I drive 11 hours pulling an offshore boat to the coast only to hope for good weather and my two snapper per day. They are everywhere and you cannot avoid them out of season. Current measures in place are flawed and change needs to happen for recreational fisherman. I understand people making a living from this resource but we spend a lot of money making these trips for various local economies by purchasing fuel, groceries, lodging, etc. Recreational fisherman need a voice in this decision and our voice is not currently heard. Thanks, Josh
- I enjoy the fishing for the fun and with my friends.
- I enjoyed the open season we had on red snapper the first part of 2015 and the latter part of 2014. I think the limit should go to 3 snapper per person per day.
- I especially despise the inequity between charter seasons and recreational seasons. 10 days and one weekend for recreational fisherman is absurd. So are the limits imposed on us. The two fish limit is equally absurd. All management for both state and federal waters should be turned over to the states. The federal govt. screws up just about anything it touches.
- I feel all management should be transferred to the state, and the LDWF should be in charge of fishing regulations not the Federal Coast Guard.
- I feel at a state Level the Species will be more closely and effectively managed
- I feel each state can better manage their area. The federal Government is not good at managing anything
- I feel each state should manage their own fisheries because habit and distribution of red snapper are so wildly different between the Gulf states. Managing all Gulf states under one broad brush with like seasons is not the proper way to manage a particular fishery.
- I feel like the charter boat captains are stealing a natural resource. This sector separation should be illegal.
- I feel like the charter boat captains are stealing a natural resource. This sector separation should be illegal.
- I feel local fish management can be far more effective than management from DC.
- I feel strongly that our state can manage our fisheries and fisheries habitat much better, collaboration as a gulf region has its place, but habitat and production are linked, scarcity in one area and abundance in another is a matter of how we manage the fisheries habitat. Some states like ours still have abundant fish habitat both natural and oil rigs and some states have abundant condos that have replaced mangrove fish habitat for people habitat and really don't care to have structures near their coast. So we have different gulf coast. It is well known that many Florida commercial fisherman fish federal waters right off our coast for red snapper and other commercial catches. These issues should all be handled by the individual states. A lot of the species even some pelagic species are not migratory or may only migrate short distances.

We are much better locally at managing our local fisheries and local fisheries habitat .

- I feel strongly that these fisheries denoted previously should be managed by the LDWF. I feel the current management is clearly flawed, the governing body out of touch with reality.
- I feel that LOCAL management is better for the resource than a broad federal council. Gulf states can better manage the fisheries than the current administrators.
- I feel that recreational anglers should have the right to fish all the time and abide by the set limits in place now
- I feel that recreational fishermen should have a longer Red Snapper season in federal waters offshore of Louisiana.
- I feel that the agency gives too much power to commercial fisherman and lowers the snapper limit and amount of days the season is open to deter recreational fisherman from even going fishing. Ever since these regulations began I've seen more red snapper in the gulf as to where it is becoming a nuisance. Every time I go deep sea fishing the majority of the fish we catch are red snapper, it's hard to send a bait to the bottom of the gulf without hooking a red snapper in which case has to be thrown back because the season is only a couple of days long. They also began closing amberjack season during red snapper season as if to deter recreational anglers from going out there if they are limited to the species of fish to catch. All of these new regulations are a load of crap. The season for recreational and commercial fisherman should be monitored fairer than what they are now, because letting commercial fisherman be the voice of the agency is not right.
- I feel that the LDWLF has always and continues to do an exceptional job of managing seasons and bag limits of wildlife in the state of Louisiana. Furthermore, I feel that giving the state absolute control to regulate the fisheries in not only the "state waters" but all gulf waters within state boundaries will greatly improve the management of each species. I also strongly disagree with Commercial fishing operations in the gulf having the right to harvest thousands of pounds of Red Snapper in a weekend while recreational anglers are limited to minimal fishing days and bag limits. There should be more regulations on Commercial fishing operations in the gulf to help properly manage and sustain the Red Snapper popular.
- I feel that the limits should be increased for recreational fishermen. It takes a lot for me to get off work and take a fishing trip to bring home two fish!
- I feel that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Dept. should be responsible for regulating fishing in our coastal waters, both state and federal territories.
- I feel that the red snapper have been well regulated. They now are back better than I've ever seen since I've been fishing. But I feel that all fish regulations should be controlled by each individual states. Because not only will the state regulate and help keep the populations high but we have the CCA and other organizations that are there to help the fisheries.
- I feel that the state agencies would know best what is happening off their shores. Louisiana fish quantities are totally different than offshore Florida or off the east coast.
- I feel that the state(s) can provide better management, using better data, than the federal government
- I feel the our state agency is more in tune and more aware as to the population of our fish and the way to manage them
- I feel the reason the red snapper population suffers is because of commercial fisherman. Although they are regulated by size, they pull up mass amounts of fish of all sizes
- I feel the regulations we have specifically on Red Snapper are stupid. How about 10 per man 16 inch minimum. At least 3 month season, during the summer would be nice.
- I feel the state agencies should manage the fishery at least out to the 12 mile mark and licensed captains should not have to have a Reef or Pelagic license to charter in these waters
- I feel the state can manage a resource much more efficiently than federal government. The federal gov does not use current science to make decisions.

- I feel the state can regulate and manage our red snapper season and limits better than the council
- I feel the state has a better thought out program . The state will keep the species viable and still allow us to enjoy the fruits of our investment
- I feel the states would be better at managing red snapper and other species like amberjack vs the federal gulf council. TX and LA both have done great jobs at managing red drum and speckled trout and there numbers are thriving today. Red snapper have been mismanaged for far too long at the expense of the recreational anglers.
- I feel we should have to purchase an offshore permit along with the saltwater permit. This would allow for a better count on the number of offshore fishermen and the Inland fishermen therefore the quota could be divided just for the amount of offshore fishermen Thanks
- I feel we should not be held to the same fishing regulations as all States. Each State should monitor their on waters.
- I fell the state should take control of all costal waterway issues.
- I find it difficult to trust federal agencies
- I find that the commercial fisherman are only limited to a 15" red snapper, When the angler is 17".
- I find that this situation is so out of hand that after 50 years of offshore fishing which I truly enjoyed I no longer plan to participate in this stupidity any more.
- I firmly believe that LDWF can better manage our fisheries, as NOAA does not seem to have a handle on what it is doing.
- I firmly believe that through lobbying and back door deals, the commercial fishing and restaurant industries have completely taken over gulf red snapper fishing. The individual states should have the right to decide on the limits and regulations of all fishing in waters off the coast of that state.
- I fish a lot. I think the Snapper limit and season should be extended for the sports fishermen. The conservation program has been extremely successful, and the snapper population has greatly increased. But, the Commercial Fishermen get to harvest too many snappers!
- I fish and dive. If someone could actually see the number of snapper and amberjack off the coast of Louisiana They would leave those seasons open year around to recreational fishermen. There is zero threat to these two fisheries from recreational fishermen. Actually I believe they are not fished enough and dominate other species for food and breeding grounds. I also believe that our state officials have proved they can manage the resources better than NOAA and the federal agencies
- I fish both Louisiana and Mississippi waters and feel the better control on fishing would mean they won't all get fished out. The species would be able to replenish the waters.
- I fish from Calcasieu Pass to Venice and the amount of snapper we have in the Gulf from one end to the other makes it hard to swallow the length of the season and the and the per man limit..
- I fish in the gulf 7 to 17 days a year
- I fish less now because of the fed and with their rules. U can't control the weather and Mississippi Rivers effect on the gulf. The best control is each person that's well educated but there are those others that take advantage that's where the state should control. I think more programs for young children on boating, hunting, fishing, and animal management is something important. I would like to see everyone from Louisiana have that. Of course all our money paid for those privileges or put in a general fund. Just think what could be done if not. I know of very few young people that were brought up outdoor wise are involved in crime. I know these words will do nothing. I don't how the fed can watch the gulf better than the states that boarder. So will they wait at the docks to catch someone on state land.

- I fish out of Cocodrie. You can't catch red snapper 3 or 10 miles out. Too shallow. We all have to go at least 20 miles out. We all break the law and risk fines. It is ridiculous. Make it fair. Make it legal for us to catch a red snapper. Help the fishing industry. State control. State logic. State prospers on this abundant resource.
- I fish out of Grand Isle at least a couple times a month and from what I've seen red snapper are nowhere near a shortage. They are somewhat a nuisance when targeting other species around the rigs.
- I free dive offshore and see what's under there. The snapper are a pest when trying to get through them to legal fish. They truly have that many, I also used to work offshore a few years back and saw first-hand the waist on 1000's of fish, not pounds thrown back for being undersized. None were vented, due to time it would take to do so, and just discarded until the surface at the mouth of the Mississippi near our floater rig was surrounded by belly up floating red snappers. The Sharks couldn't take near 1/4 of them. Total waste and a shame on the boats from Florida and mother boats waiting offshore.
- I go fishing rarely so I do not really have a strong opinion on these issues. However, I think generally control over issues such as this need to be done on the State, or local area that can customize for local conditions.
- I had a broken arm most of the yr. un able to fish or hunt. trying to return to work?
- I had to work during the entire season. Will be back out there if it opens again for 2015.
- I hate that I spend so much money on my boat, licenses, and everything else that goes along with fishing to be regulated by people that do not have a clue about fishing. It should be left up to local wildlife fisheries just like deer hunting is. I really feel that more and more people will stop fish as I have. I use to be on the water once a week but now the (deep sea fishing) is not worth all the money the goes into it to keep doing it. Something has got to give for just the regular joe trying to teach his kids and get them into the sport.
- I have a boat that costs 50 thousand dollars. I made two trips this year only due to variables like weather and work. I brought 3 friends and my son and we got a limit of snapper twice. I would like the ability to be able to go more often. The short season does not work out for the recreational fisherman. I don't think the recreational fisherman like me has any effect on the snapper population.
- I have a Federal charter boat, AND a state charter boat; the limits for the entire gulf are way too low for our area. The rules changing every year and things like closing amberjack in September after already being closed for 3 summer months is ridiculous. Most smaller boats are being shut out of charter fishing at all; leaving only tuna open - this is why I have two boats; but it is unacceptable that residents cannot catch fish in their own waters - leaving the obvious that this is about shutting down fishing, not sustaining fishing.
- I have a federal reef and pelagic permit but it is basically useless in SWLA with the short red snapper and short amberjack season in the summer time when people want to fish.
- I HAVE A LOT OF MONEY TIED UP IN A BOAT I USED TO FISH OFFSHORE. I NO LONGER USE IT FOR THAT AS THE SNAPPER SEASON IS SO SHORT,. IT IS NOT WORTHWHILE TO KEEP IT. THIS AFFECTS NOT ONLY ME BUT EVERYONE IN THE SPORT FISHING BUSINESS- LAUNCHES, BAIT SHOPS, SPORTING GOODS STORES, AS WELL AS A REDUCTION IN THE TAXES DUE STATE GOVERNMENT. WHY? SOLELY TO DISPLAY THEIR CONTROL TO WE PEASANTS WHO ENJOY A GOOD FISHING TRIP. WHAT A BUNCH OF BUMS!!
- I have all the confidence in our La. Wild life and Fisheries to manage our seasons , limits, and species.
- I have been fishing for Red Snapper off the coast of Louisiana for 40 years. I have never seen the numbers of 15 lb. plus snapper that I see today. We can go out 5 people and in 45 minutes after we get to a rig have our limit and none smaller than 10 lbs.

- I have been fishing here since 1970 and seen things with fishing go the wrong way. I am for the state control, I believe we in La. should control our fishing laws.....
- I have been fishing offshore since I was a kid . And never have there been as many snapper as now. The season should be year round with a 2 fish limit
- I have been fishing the gulf out of Cameron since I was 9 yrs old. It not only upsets me but it also worries me that the federal government is killing our offshore fishing! The snapper population is better than it was when I was 9 yet we still get these ridiculous short seasons! There is no reason for this AT ALL! I sure would like to meet the people behind this political [expletive deleted] just so I could hear the ignorant excuses of it coming out of their mouths. They obviously know nothing about the gulf and the fisheries. My second issue...who, in their right mind, would even begin to agree to blowing up offshore platforms. Somebody has officially fell off the banana boat and ended up in a position they know NOTHING about! (follow me on this) a friend of my dad's that is still to this day running dive trips in the gulf and helping run a marine biology boat, was telling me that he had a friend that was working for a company blowing up these platforms. He was a diver as well and after his first few weeks in the gulf he had to quit his job because he was sick of killing thousands of fish for no reason! I saw pics of this and it made me sick! The government has no idea what they're doing to the gulf and its sad! The gulf is getting to be a vast open ocean which means the fish will leave and every state along the gulf coast will pay one day if we don't stop them now! I could go on for hours but I won't waste anymore of your time. Anybody can contact me at any time if they want to talk. [Name, address, and telephone number withheld]
- I have been offshore and could not keep the snapper off my line fishing for other species. We need to manage that resource locally.
- I have been out fishing with the research lab in ocean springs MS and diving over here in federal waters and the rigs are covered in snapper! I also fish tournaments out of Cocodrie 3 times a year and I stay one week during snapper season and take my kids and grandkids fishing. Please contact me @ [telephone number withheld].
- I have been saltwater fishing for 25 years now and there are more red snapper in the gulf now than in years previous
- I have been saltwater fishing one day this year in Texas.
- I have been wanting this for a long time. People should fall under laws equally. Paying extra shouldn't give you privileges on so called "endangered species".
- I have caught snapper / a.j. / grouper, brought them up to the surface, released the fish to see them Dye! Have vented them and still watched them Dye. Why not just have - say a 10 fish aggregate limit - per person?? The government both State & Fed are killing this recreational sport. It's not the individuals that buy a \$200,000.00 boat a \$300,000.00 camp a pay hundreds on bait tackle fuel to catch 2 or 3 fish per trip.
- I have deep concerns with the federal government's authority and decision-making effects on the fishing that affects our area... I think there is a gross disconnect of reasoning.. both with limits, days, as well as the threat of commercial fishing boats with long lines and nets endangering many species of fishes. With the recreational angler paying the price.. Boils down to lobbyist and who has the deeper pockets...
- I have enjoyed my snapper fishing but from the fishing I have done the fish seem to be properly managed to much fishing or overfishing could hurt the fishery ever body can't be pleased fish Frist fishermen second
- I have fished the Gulf of Mexico as a recreational fisherman for 50+ years. I have witnessed profound changes and each change is directly linked to changes in commercial activity. The interesting fact is that little attention is paid to the ecosystem and much more attuned to end product of fish . The huge increase in bait species (shrimp, porgies, small bait fishes) that followed the BP disaster resulted in large increases in sports fish. The bait resulted from bans

on trawling and purse seining in the gulf following the spill. So, if the federal, state agencies were serious about increasing fish stocks, they would ALSO have to significantly curtail purse seining and trawling in federal waters. Talk to people who have fished here for decades we have seen the decline in tuna, amberjack, king mackerel, snapper, sea trout, redfish, tarpon, and croakers, flounder, and more. It is very difficult to impact a fishery with a rod and reel with one hook on the line, but way easy to do with a mile long purse seine or gill net. Who owns the resource? In my opinion, the recreational industry (boats, motors, fishing tackle, boat slip, etc) supports a huge number of jobs, far more than the substance jobs of commercial fishers. In addition recreational fisherman with reasonable creel limits cannot negatively impact most fisheries. Until the resource is managed In a way that benefits the most people, there will continue to be frustration with the inane system that currently is operational!

- I have fished the same locations for red snapper for over 20 years. The federal regulations for red snapper do not accurately reflect the population of red snapper in the areas I fish.
- I have my reef permit but do not take customers deep water fishing. Only have it in case we catch ling or tripletail
- I have never seen more red snapper in the gulf in my 30+yrs of fishing. 2 snapper per person is ridiculous. Factor in the expenses of offshore fishing and it makes no sense. RS, AJ's and triggerfish should ALL be available at the same time. It would allow you the opportunity to make those expensive offshore trips more rewarding and be able to justify the cost.
- I have none.
- I have not fished in the last year due to health problems.
- I have only been fishing in LA once and I really liked it but I don't know anything about the matters at hand
- I have only been surveyed by Fed once in 45 years of salt water fishing. Have been surveyed by state 3 times in last 2 years. Who u want setting regulations!
- I have released snappers that were caught deep and know they did not live
- I have seen corruption with money and power...that being said the state of Louisiana doesn't have a great track record. while I like the fact that Louisiana has helped the recreational angler in the last two years I am a bit leery that commercial lobbyist with big money will come in and buy their way
- I have seen the federal management and it is not fair to the recreational snapper fisherman. I am thankful we can at least fish for snapper in state waters in Louisiana. I personally feel like the recreational snapper fisherman cannot catch enough snapper with the 2 snapper limit to put much of a dent in the fishery and that with these limits should be allowed most of the year to snapper fish in state or federal waters but certainly to 9 NM line. That needs to be clarified. Charter boats and commercial snapper fisherman should be regulated somewhat and the recreational guys should be allowed to at least take their kids to catch a few snapper when weather permits without constantly having to worry about exactly how many miles out they are.
- I have strongly supported regional / State management over the years, however as both a charter operator and a recreational fisherman, I see support dwindling because of the language and attitude that the department has taken of late. Just this week you put out a press release that the CFH group was restrained and left 38% of their catch in the water because of the federal regulations. Because of this and instead of figuring out a way that the CFH fleet can get back into the water, you are looking at giving that 38% to the recreational group.
- I have witnessed personally the red snapper population explode. It should be (5) fish, 16" min length. Commercial and charter- open 7 days a week till quota. Recreational- weekends and holidays till quota. Commercial and charter should be in a group together, they are both making a living at it. Quota should be split 65/35 comm/rec Respectively.
- I have zero fishing days because the fishing season has been so restricted this year, particularly in the Atlantic.

- I haven't been fishing since October, 2014.
- I haven't fished this year due to a major back surgery, but will resume fishing 10-30 days a year offshore in 2016. Red snapper stocks have been abundant since I began fishing in 2010. Local control over our fisheries would give local recreational fisherman like me a stronger voice. Take it back! Local conditions are best measured by local authorities with regular access to the resource.
- I hope we get management of our red snapper to at least 20 fathoms! I would like the state to also look at decreasing the limit from 10 to 7 or 5 on mangrove/grey snapper.
- I just don't want to lose all our right to catch red snapper but have no problem with conservation when it is needed. I don't see how recreational fishing can hurt red snapper compared to commercial fishing.
- I just really think it's not fair to the recreational fisherman that our season gets shorter and shorter every year. Also I think they should extend the state waters for red snapper farther out because where i live we have to go 30 miles out just to catch snapper
- I just think that recreational should have a higher bag limit.
- I just want to be able to catch snapper and AJs on the few days each year that I am able to go fishing and it seems that there is always some reason that I can't (closed, weather, etc...)
- I just want to be able to legally catch enough fish to make the trip worth it when I go out. Lately that hasn't been the case with all the varying seasons and bag limits.
- I just want to deep sea fish... That is it
- I know a ton of recreational offshore fishermen, and all are vehemently opposed to the federal red snapper regulations, because the bag limit is too low and the seasons are absurdly short. The current regulations clearly do not reflect our abundant red snapper population. I wish more people would receive this survey, but I fear most are unaware of the requirement of a recreational offshore landing permit.
- I like to fish
- I liked the way the state handled the snapper season for 2015.
- I live in Florida and fished out of Venice this summer it was very refreshing to see a state take over their fishery from terrible laws and fish management of the federal agencies regarding red snapper
- I live in the western part of the coastal waters. I strongly feel the state red snapper season is actually a Plaquemines parish only season. My red snapper season is only 10 days long. when I work 5 & 2, I can only fish them 2 days/year.
- I love fishing down there. I come from out of state, so I support the economy with airfare, meals, lodging, transportation, charters, etc. I would increase the recreational quota at the expense of the commercial quota to attract more people like me. We had bad weather for the small season there is for redfish, but still caught 'em!
- I love fishing snapper. It's sad to see the amount of snapper that die because we catch them often and even though we try to revive them to release- they still die. Same thing with amberjack out of season. I agree there must be a daily limit - but the seasons are much to short.
- I love the excitement of salt water fishing, kind of like a box of chocolate.....LOL...it is just hard to make all the seasonal fishing
- I made 3 offshore trips during 10 day snapper season for a total of 6 fish this is insane considering the amount of red snapper out there. Threw back dead AJ's because out of season heck can't even keep a trigger fish. The Feds give the bulk of the fisheries to the commercial and to top it off the charter boats now get 45 days and rec fishermen only get 10 as I said insane. Should be against the law oh wait they make the law. The state red snapper season is only good for a small portion of the state that has deep enough water close in and only hurts me because the Feds cut rec Federal season because of the state season. I say cancel state season at

least it would be fair to everybody in Louisiana that way. It will never be fair if the Feds run the show they will always favor special interest groups. If they like quotas so much why don't they give rec fishermen a quota to fill.

- I mainly fish federal waters and 10 days or less per year is ridiculous. Got to be a better way to manage this fishery!!! Also stinks that I can't catch AJs during federal snapper season!!
- I mainly fish for redfish but when we go catch snapper I believe there should be a smaller limit for mangrove snapper and a larger limit for red snapper
- I only come fish when visiting family, so I put neutral on most questions because I don't know the pros and cons of the issue.
- I only fished 2 red snapper days because where I live red snapper is past the 3 mile state line. I have 1 week off a month and would like to take my teenagers snapper fishing. With this ridiculous 9 day season it is virtually impossible. There definitely needs a change. There are so many red snapper I can't go fish other species because all we catch is red snapper before other types of fish bite. If the states and federal work together there should be a solution. Think about kids fishing and that they are off for the summer. Also take into consideration the states and how many days the weather permits fishing. Kids and fishing to me is the biggest factor.
- I only got to go Red Snapper fishing 1 day this year. A crew of 6 we caught our limit in 45mins. 20" to 28" snapper, best year in 9 years.
- I only had the chance to snapper fish once this year with my 3 brothers and 2 nephews. Our limit was of course 12 snapper total and we were limited out in 30 minutes at one rig. The average weight was 5lbs per fish. Please increase to 3 or 4 and see how that affects the fisheries.
- I only made 1 snapper trip for the season and caught my limit very quickly.
- I only went red snapper fishing one time because it cost too much money. For two fish.
- I own a camp in grand isle I own an offshore boat I'm disgusted I can't take my kids 9 and 12 or friends fishing for red snapper only 10 days weather permitting a year when everybody knows how plentiful they are
- I personally feel the limitations on snapper are ultra-conservative. If protecting the species population is the ultimate goal, and I agree that they can be "over-fished", a 5-7 day fishing season doesn't encourage people to get the license for a couple of trips. It's too expensive to catch 2 fish per day. Why doesn't NOAA act on the "dead" zone that forms in the Gulf of Mexico, which would have a greater effect on fish populations than restricting the number of fish allowed to be caught. Part of the reason could be it's easier to limit a few folks along the Gulf Coast than to put restrictions on farmers up and down the length of the Mississippi River that are dumping chemicals into the river and causing the dead zone and it's crippling results.
- I prefer state regulation over all federal!
- I prefer the limit of red snapper to recreational fisherman no be limited at all.
- I really like that wildlife and fisheries want the public to have some say-so in what is done. If all government decisions were made through survey then maybe the US would be a better place to be.
- I really like the measures the state has taken over the last few years on Snapper. Our findings have been much larger snapper and very plentiful fish, never missing a limit all season and normally having a limit in under 30 minutes of fishing. I am very thankful for the state standing up for our snapper fishery and it's recreational fishermen.
- I recently caught red snapper in 40 feet of water. They are NOT in danger.
- I recommend that it all be taken away from the corrupted Feds.
- I recreation spear fish. The current Red Snapper season limits are not flexible enough to have the ability to make at least one trip due to sea conditions
- I saltwater fished 10 days, but only kept snapper during 3 of those 10 days. I think its

ridiculous that commercial fisherman get 51% and recreational get 49% of the quota!! Why not have it 50 50?!? Just because they have more money?!? Amberjack season should be open during snapper season so recreational snapper fisherman can target more fish while out in the gulf.

- I strongly support state to control state business and not federal.
- I strongly agree that the red snapper fishery needs to be properly managed, but with separate management practices it makes us fishermen more prone to make mistakes. Thank you.
- I strongly believe after growing up on the water my whole life that when you go fishing offshore that you should be able to keep 3 or more of any fish . targeting species I believe has a negative effect on the other species when these species are brought to the boat and released they r often eaten by other fish . Limits work , I believe people want to enjoy the outdoors and if I invest in outdoor properties , boats , and gear I should have the same right to the fish as the commercial guy , or guide , or
- I strongly believe that state biologists are in a much better position to monitor and regulate the non-pelagic fishery for private and charter boats operating out of LA ports. For example, the reef fishery in Florida very different from ours and should be looked at separately, not a one size fits all for the GOM.
- I strongly believe that the states should manage all reef fish. They are more capable and better suited to do the job right. Which has been proven time & again.
- I strongly feel all fisheries management should be done by the state.
- I strongly feel they should increase the bag limits on Red snapper. ...it cost too much money on bait, fuel, tackle to go and catch only 2 red snapper 16" or more The tug of war between state and fed on the red snapper is getting ridiculous. I hear of so many people keeping illegal fish of all species and I am a Louisiana resident all my life and always obeyed the limits on fish for my future and the next generation to come. Red snapper limit couldn't hurt to increase to 4 a man. Come on . Cut down on the Commercial fisheries limit on red snapper. That's all folks
- I strongly oppose the current Red Snapper regulation as it stands today but I do believe the Snapper season as is does not support sound data. I also believe in strict regulations on fishing charters captains. Many out of state guides are now chartering in our state due to very easy to get permits that makes our state waters turning out to be a lucrative business for a majority of captains. I have witnessed captains harvesting undersized fish over and over. I have fished offshore for many years. Have yet to anyone check my catch or count.
- I strongly support each state agency to regulate the fishing catch and creel limits in its perspective state!
- I strongly support LDWF managing both commercial and recreational fisheries off the coast of Louisiana. I have been fishing red snapper for over 40 years. You cannot fish for other species off our coast without catching red snapper as close as 40 foot water depth. I believe they are taking over the food chain for other species.
- I STRONGLY SUPPORT moving control to the states! The time allowed to us recreational fisherman to fish snapper is ridiculous. It is not fair to those of us who work to only be able to snapper fish ONE weekend. We spend our hard earned money to go offshore and weather permitting are only allowed two weekend days to fish. If the weather does not allow us to get offshore we have to wait an entire year to try again. This is bogus.
- I strongly support moving the fisheries management to the individual states. The commercial industry has too much influence in determining policy.
- I strongly support our State to govern our saltwater resources not the federal government.
- I strongly support state control of our fisheries as the federal government continues to ignore accurate data or obtain accurate data. I have been snapper fishing out of Louisiana for over 40 years and there are 10 times more red snapper that are 5 times the size of the snapper we used

to catch. I also dive and can see for myself the incredible numbers of amberjack and snapper at the rigs and reefs. Recreational fishermen are getting shut out and I spend a LOT of money on my camp at GI, food, fuel, bait and boat. The current situation is a joke.

- I strongly support state management based on real (accurate) data.
- I strongly support state management of reef fish off their own coast.
- I strongly support state waters and fisheries to be managed by state wildlife and fisheries. They are the best suited to manage these resources in a real time fashion.
- I strongly support that commercial and recreational fishermen have the exact same seasons, size limitations and daily creel limits. Giving one person or group a greater allocation of the public resources gives power to the politician making his decision susceptible to bribes or political pressure. The decisions should be made by fisheries biologists and scientists to protect the species.
- I strongly support the ability of the state to manage all of its resources, both inshore and offshore appropriate to its jurisdiction.
- I strongly support the idea of state control of all of our fisheries in Louisiana. Florida and the rest of the Southern states are completely different than Louisiana.
- I strongly support transferring managing authority to the State of Louisiana for all species of offshore saltwater fish.
- I strongly think that seasons, limits, and quotas should be made from state to state differently. I believe this because the habitat is more abundant in some states than other. I.e. Louisiana has a lot of habitat with oil platforms and the Mississippi River canyon etc. makes for more habitat than places like Alabama and Florida. So I think we are over populated with red snapper to be honest but Florida it's hard to catch your limit. Here you can't even get down to grouper and other species because the snapper are so thick.
- I strongly wish the Fed and the State would work out a mutually agreeable arrangement that allows the State of Louisiana to monitor snapper populations in State and Federal waters and set appropriate bag and size limits that sustain and grow the resource for future generations.
- I SUGESST THAT WE CAN HAVE 3 RED SNAPPER PER FISHERMAN
- I suggest Snapper Season run from 12:01 AM the Friday before Memorial Day until 11:59 P.M. Labor Day and be a weekend only fishing season consisting of Fri., Sat., Sun., with the exception being that Memorial Day, 4th of July (when falling on a Monday), & Labor Day be included. Keep 16" min. & make it 3 fish per person.
- I suggest WLF review the one day fishing license policy for tourists from other countries, it's to expensive, better if WLF drop the price but do not let tourists keep any fish just catch and release, because fishing is a sport, very nice sport
- I support any measures that reduce or eliminate the mismanagement of resources I believe have taken place under federal offices.
- I support expanding state's rights to manage their natural resources. With the Federal natural resource Enforcement Agencies' recent (in past few years) incidents of abuse of power and intimidation of private individuals, in conjunction with the massive improvements the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries have undertaken to WMA's, online presence, and transparent communication with the public in the last 10 years, I would recommend expanding LA WLF scope to manage natural resource in our state, and off its coast. – [Name withheld]
- I support LA approach of scientifically managing ARS. From my observations there are times in Federal waters all we can catch is ARS. Throwing them back only to float away and die is disturbing for a conservation minded angler.
- I support local control over our fisheries and getting the feds OUT!!
- I SUPPORT LOUISIANA STATE'S RIGHTS IN THIS MATTER!
- I support some minimal federal oversight so that an individual state is unable to exploit a

common fishery for short term gain. But a little bit of Washington goes a long way in preventing collective action problems.

- I support state control because NOAA has shown no interest in improving its recreational data collection. NOAA director Roy Crabtree applauded our management and data collection model, but has done NOTHING to improve the federal model. He keeps saying that he is using the best available science while making no effort to create better science. Louisiana is doing a fantastic job of fisheries management. They have my full support.
- I support the idea of states management of all fish and game.
- I support the state agencies regulating our seasons.
- I think state would do a great job.
- I think the state could do a much better job than the federal government could. As a charter boat captain we take the average recreational fisherman out once a year. This year's extra days allowed the non-boat owning recreational fisherman to at least have a chance at catching two snapper a year.
- I think consideration should be given to maintaining the limits that are in place on snapper, amberjack, etc., but extend the number of fishing days allowed. Also, to make trips worthwhile, seasons should overlap and not be staggered.
- I think each state should control all fish regulation in their waters and connecting. I feel they have better control and monitoring limits
- I think each state should manage their fisheries. If 1 state over fishes the resource the other states should not suffer. Each state's limits should be based on the condition of the fishery in their state.
- I think having the local authority manage would streamline the process and keep the big commercial fisherman from having so much influence. Someone told me that 90% of the red snapper commercial quota is controlled by less than 40 groups and that is just not fair.
- I think it has been mismanaged for far too long..
- I think it is long overdue that management of the red snapper population be handled by state biologist. I mean biologist not the legislature unless it is approval of scientific evidence that is presented to them.
- I think it is ridiculous to limit sport fishes. Regulate the people/companies who make a living or profit off of fishing for snapper. Then strictly monitor them for compliance.
- I think it's ludicrous that recreational fishermen, including charters, have such a ridiculously small time frame in order catch just a few snapper when commercial fisherman will load up a boat full of them and the federal government is or was killing tens of thousands more each time they are forcing an oil company to dismantle an old well and allowing them to blow it up. I very much support managing the health of the fishery, but I feel like the recreational fisherman is the least disruptive to the fishery of the three, and yet is the only one that is being forced to make the changes.
- I think it's ridiculous that you can fish Red Snapper from a charter boat but not a private boat. It's unfair policy.
- I think it's ridiculous to have a 10-day red snapper season with a daily limit of 2. It's pretty pricy to be able to get out there for a 2-fish limit. Perhaps tags? A seasonal allotment? Just suggestions
- I think it's time to minimize the restrictions on Red Snapper. They are so abundant now that you can't catch anything else near Gulf structures.
- I think LDWF should manage all non-pelagic species
- I think local State regulation is the only way to accurately have any meaningful program to properly manage any species of fish. How can you possibly manage at arm's length using national data and national statistics?

- I think Louisiana should be able to control the fishing regulations off the coast up to 60 miles.
- I think more people should be monitored as I see many undersize and over the limit fish brought in . I also think that the size limit on Speckled trout in LA should be at least 15 inches and the limit should be 15 per person, not 25
- I think one weekend for snapper fishing is ridiculous and in no way fair to the recreational fisherman
- I think people should be allowed to choose where they want to fish anytime of the year
- I think recreational fisherman should be able to fish more days for red snapper and keep a few more fish. I feel that the few recreational fishermen should receive some of the commercial quota and charter guys get.
- I think seasons and limits should be the same for recreational as well as commercial fisherman. as a recreational fisherman it is hard to see the commercial fisherman catching fish next to us and we cannot do the same.
- I think something needs to be done for the recreational fisherman on the days allowed and the state waters line. Think it is ridiculous that the state recognizes to 10 miles but the Feds will give fines past 3
- I think state agencies could and will manage their resources much better than federal agencies
- I think states should regulate the size and bag limits on fish....
- I think that a joint committee (fed and state) is the only way to keep either group pulling in the same direction. Also, I feel there are far too many out of state commercial fisherman in LA.
- I think that limits should be set on a state-to-state basis. These limits should be set based on the number of snapper found in the waters off the coast of each state and not the Gulf of Mexico as a whole.
- I think that the bag limit for the red snapper should be at least 5 to 6 fish per person. If you catch a nice red snapper and turn it loose and it dies to me that is wasting food. With the cost of fuel and food today it really doesn't pay to go out for just two red snapper per person.
- I think that the federal agency has a valid interest in these fisheries, but need to be focused on State needs as well.
- I think that the Feds only care about the money that is made on the commercial side of the red snapper industry, so they manage accordingly. I the states actually care about the resource, all gulf fish not just snapper, and more likely to use the science and information available to properly manage a species,
- I think that these kinds of proposals look nice on paper, but execution would be inevitably flawed and not cost effective. The NOAA should instead invest more time in getting local gulf marine biologist consultants on conditions of red snapper in the gulf. Also having to deal with state side regulations changing inconsistently based on current gulf conditions instead of an established season would make it [expletive deleted]. I am not going online and look up the current limit for red snapper every time I go out. Once a season is enough for me.
- I think the 2 fish limit on the red snapper is a joke. Should raise to 5 just like red fish.
- I think the bigger thing is doing something about the federal snapper season. Everybody in this state knows it's a joke because during any time of the summer, you can pull up to a rig almost anywhere in the gulf and pull up big red snapper. The red snapper federal season is a joke.
- I think the fed govt is out of touch with the quota. the state should be the regulatory agent
- I think the federal season is ridicules. The number of red snapper off the coast of Louisiana is astonishing. There is nothing worse than while fishing AJ in federal water pulling in a stud red snapper then having to throw him back and watch him float away.
- I think the limit for red snapper should be more than 2 for recreational fisherman
- I think the limits should not favor the charter Captains and give the public the left overs!! We have the right to the same fish as the people making money off of the species!

- I think the red snapper limit should go up to 3 per person and the size limit should also go up a little
- I think the season should be longer for recreational fishers
- I think the seasons imposed on red snapper harvest are good for the increase of the population. I believe more reef programs would be beneficial also. But, I also would be in favor of a (4) fish limit per person.
- I think the size limit for red snapper should be removed and anglers should be required to keep all fish until limit is met, so not to harm or allow culling of fish.
- I think the state can do a good job with the snapper season
- i think the state has a better handle on fisheries in our state and federal waters off our coast
- I think the state needs to send scuba divers to each rig and take pictures of all the red snapper at each rig. It's hard to go fishing and catch anything besides red snappers
- I think the state of Louisiana has already done a better job of managing the fishery that the Feds did in all the previous years they tried I just wish you could settle the boundary issue between federal and state waters, so we don't have to worry about that. Another issue the state should take up is the season, size and limit on gray trigger fish.
- I think the state should manage all waters and fish species in the gulf out till 200 miles
- I think the state should manage our fisheries. I have never seen so many snapper in my life. I think we should not allow charters from neighboring states to fish in our waters as long as there is federal control. Furthermore I would like to see less commercial fishing for red snapper especially if our recreational fishing is limited to just several days which is ridiculous.
- I think the states are more aware of the need for control off their shores than the federal government. The ability to make adjustments to regulations within state waters should remain with the states. This provides a more efficient and effective management of our resources.
- I think the states should be able to manage their own waters, but the U.S. Government should manage the rules that the states have set in place
- I think the states should control their own water
- I think the states should manage their fisheries
- I think the system that is in place right now is a joke.
- I think the trout limit should be 15 and the snapper limit 3-4 with increased range
- I think there is a balance to be struck on this issue. I think Recreational Anglers should be given a higher priority over charters and commercial operators. But then I am recreational angler.
- I think there is an abundance of red snapper and would like to see the bag limit and also the season extended.
- I think there should be stricter limits on bag and size of large mouth bass and higher bag limits on red snapper and a longer season
- I think they need to change the snapper season. Or make it longer. Red snapper offshore is like catching brim in a pond. Every drop you catch one. Therefore I think they should raise the limit up. This past summer, I caught some beautiful snapper that was out of season and had to let go. When we released the snapper we had the proper venting tool to vent the fish. But 8 out of 10 fish just floated away. I hate leaving game just waste like that. Yes using the venting tool might help but the fish will probably die much quicker. On my conclusion I think the state of Louisiana should do a better job of the season extension and raise the limit on snapper.
- i think they need to concentrate on catching poachers
- I think they should have seasons on the federal reef permits and allow recreational fisherman to fish, with a regulated size and bag limit, all year. This promotes revenue for the areas(tourist).
- I think they should own the state waters and set limits and seasons.

- I think we need a split season with opening around March 15 and closing around August 10 then reopening it Oct 1 until Nov. 15.
- I think we should be able to have more red snapper per person and more snapper season
- I travel from Oklahoma to Louisiana twice a year to fish offshore for red snapper and grouper. It is ridiculous to incur the expense of the trip for a two limit of red snapper. Many of the snapper we catch over the limit and must release will die due to the trauma of being caught. A 4 fish limit per day, 8 in the aggregate much more realistic. The State has a lot to gain from sport fishing, let them manage the resource! The commercial fishing boats that haul large amounts of snapper were to blame for the current crisis of depleted snapper numbers, not sport fishermen.
- I trust the state more to manage our fisheries here in Louisiana.
- I typically fish 5-10 times a year both in shore and offshore. With the limited amount of time I have to fish, it is very discouraging that the amount of days, regardless of weather, is so limited for recreational fishermen. Also, allowing commercial fishermen to keep sexually immature fish at a length of 13" is not responsible management of the fish stock. Whereas, the Council/NOAA requires recreational fishermen to throw back any fish smaller than 16". Common sense, uniform requirements that are focused on improving the fish stock and quality should be used.
- I want state control. Charter boats should be counted in the commercial quota.
- I want the FEDS to keep control of everything b/c if the state gets a hold of all the laws there will be no more charter boats left b/c the state will ruin the red snapper fishers by opening up a free for all and they will be overfished and it will end up like it was before when there was a April 21st to October 31st season and you couldn't even catch your limit of red snapper by third month it was open. I remember when it was like that if that happens again it will ruin the red snapper fishing for good. I give the opportunity to at least 3000 of the people who either can't afford to be a recreational fisherman or just don't have the means of going in to the gulf to catch their fair share of red snapper that is their constitutional right to have fresh snapper just like the rest of the world. So I strongly oppose of the state to handle the red snapper fishers because they will ruin it. Thanks
- I want the state to run our fisheries
- I want to be governed by the agency that is closest to home
- I want total control given to the state. Get rid of Feds
- I was ill this year and could not get out much.
- I was not able to fish for red snapper one day this short season.
- I was not able to fish this year do to three strokes in February but do hope to fish the 2016 season and we need better management of the red fish on last trip there were so many fish that you could cane pole fish and choose the one you want. the season needs to go to the old ways or better fishing days not just the short season we have been having
- I was stopped by LDWF this summer at mouth of South Pass. We were on our way in from an overnigher and did not have any red snapper since federal season was closed. They actually encouraged me to go catch our state red snapper (within 9 miles) before heading back to Venice, which we did and my buddies loved it! Thank you LDWF. I will continue to spend my annual salt water fishing vacation in the state of LA.
- I wasn't able to fish for red snapper one day this year due to the poor management of the federal government. Not everyone is available to fish the 7 days red snapper is open
- I wish there was more days to be able to keep different fish
- I work and love to fish , the it is set up now I have only one weekend I can fish for red snapper
- I work at Port Eads and people come to stay for 3 or 4 days of fishing. People have taken upon themselves to travel up river with their catch and some have been ticketed for having multiple

day limits. This situation should be looked into statewide for such instance where people can prove their stay at locations such as this. There is a program at Port Eads where the Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries sends a biologist to certify catches but I've yet to see a biologist in three months I've been here. This is not just a Port Eads issue. After speaking to some charter captain's across Louisiana they have had some issues pertaining to this also. People come to our great state to enjoy what sportsman's paradise has to offer, while they should follow all pertaining rules to limits, something needs to be done to help people have a great experience overall while here, not including sending them home with a ticket. Thank you for looking into these issue. I can be reached at [Telephone number and name withheld]

- I work for a hunting and fishing website, [website withheld] my job is to promote charter guides and marinas. Fishing is my passion, saving our fishing industry is a must in my life.
- I work Mon-Fri and I was only able to fish Red Snapper 1 weekend. I would appreciate that if there were only 7days to fish snapper it would be weekend days because my job doesn't allow to take days off for fishing.
- I would agree to support any and all regs base on the biology of the fish, NOT politics. I recommend any change get support of scientist studying species, then most fisherman/woman will support.
- I would also like to see our state waters extended to 10 miles with no question if you are breaking any laws
- I would be happy with a one snapper per day limit or larger size limit if it meant more fishing days. We fished at offshore rigs several days this year after snapper season. We tried to target other species but the only thing we could catch was red snapper. They are everywhere.
- I would be interested in increasing the daily limit of red snapper.
- I would fish a lot more if more days were available. Currently open seasons are way to short and due to weather I'm not able to get out.
- I would fish more days if season and limits were larger.
- I would fish more if the snapper Season was a reasonable length.
- I would fish more offshore if current regulations change.
- I would fully support state agencies management of all offshore species (snapper, amberjack, tuna, etc.)
- I would fully support state agencies management of all offshore species.
- I would greatly appreciate an expanded red snapper season to about 1-3 additional weeks to the current season length.
- I would like to know more about the effectiveness of the council in previous years in preserve our fisheries and which state agencies might be involved in this regulation in order to make a more informed decision. In general I think it's good to have an overall body for the gulf (the council) but the normal fisherman(;recreational) doesn't have a line on whether or not he's catching a fed or state Snapper (pun intended) it seems that there is an ideological question involved: whether the state should have the right or the Feds have the right . Old question. I don't have the answer
- I would hope the state could control all of our great fishery.
- I would hope the state would do more to support the balance in the gulf.
- I would like a lot more red snapper fishing days and more daily limit.
- I would like go catch red snapper for more than 10 days. i am confuse 10 miles for state but only 3 miles for federal. I want to get it right
- I would like more days for snapper fishing sometimes is mess to hole season because i am working
- I would like more days to fish for red snapper. If the season stays for 10+/- days. It would be

nice if you would lengthen the season if it is rough off shore for one of those days.

- I would like more State control in all things
- I would like some consideration for eighty year old hunters to use side by side on all trails
See you
- I would like the LDWF to manage most all the fish. And would like to see smaller limits on reds and specks in Louisiana
- I would like the State to control all Red Snapper issues!!
- I would like to be able to catch more snapper. I wouldn't have a problem with raising the size limit or a slot limit for big females to pass down their genes.
- I would like to see a few more days for snapper fishing for private fisherman.
- I would like to see a reduced quota and harvest days for commercial red snapper. This will result in greater snapper population and allow for larger quota for recreational anglers and charters which would of greater economic value to the state.
- I would like to see a shift from commercial fishing getting the higher quote and allowing recreational fisherman receiving a greater quota
- I would like to see all control of fisheries handled by the states.
- I would like to see all saltwater fisheries handled by LDWF. Lots of red snapper in Gulf, only kept mangrove snapper.
- I would like to see either an extension on the season or a raise in the limit to maybe 5 fish. There is no way they can say the species is depleting when you go out with 7-8 people and catch a limit in 20-30 minutes
- I would like to see longer Red Snapper season bag limits unchanged.
- I would like to see more authority given to the states rather than federal entities
- I would like to see one group make the rules so there is no confusion about how many miles out you are.
- I would like to see tags issued for Red Snapper allowing a person a certain number of fish that could be taken in a year. These fish could be taken at any time of the year, but would allow us to fish when the weather is safe rather than forcing people to fish in bad weather because we only are allowed to fish a few days. It would also give people the option of catching their quota in one trip if they choose to rather than spending the money it cost to go offshore and come home with two fish.
- I would like to see the Feds out of managing the fisheries off of Louisiana coast that I have fished all of my life
- I would like to see the Gulf States form a council to govern the Gulf Waters not the Feds or NOAA
- I would like to see the red snapper limit raised by one or two fish and a longer season
- I would like to see the seasons for the different species aligned where possible due to the 1 and 2 fish bag limits that way when one species bag limit is filled, then you can change tactics and fish for another species. I think a lot of fish are being killed due to anglers releasing legal size fish in an attempt to catch larger fish due to the 1 and 2 fish bag limit. If the angler had the opportunity to fish for another species I think this would cut down on that.
- I would like to see the snapper season open year round with at least a three to five fish limit per person. As a diver I see what is actually in the water on the rigs off the coast and the red snapper population is strong and healthy off the coast of Louisiana because of the rigs. I believe that there should be a program in place to try and keep these decommissioned rigs in place.
- I would like to see the spotted sea trout limit reduced to protect the species
- I would like to see the state agencies run the red snapper and amberjack seasons and limits.
- I would like to see the state manage the fisheries rather than the feds & everyone should have

same limits, seasons & Quotas.

- I would love to go offshore fishing more, but with so many regulations it does not pay for me to fill up the boat. I'm better off going to the grocery store to buy red snapper or amberjack. The agency thinks they could increase revenue by separating the seasons for snapper and amberjack, but wrong. These types of issues will cause me to sell my fishing equipment and move on to hunting (in a different state). I am not asking to increase the quota on red snapper, but to be able to fish them for a significantly longer period and be able to target amberjack on the same fishing trip. Thank you listening to my opinion.
- I would strongly support the Fri, Sat, Sun, days to fish than the allotted time they give us now. It would allow us to fish more rather than to just target the first half of July. If the weather does not cooperate at the beginning of July, then our whole year is lost.
- I would suggest equal amounts for both recreational and charter fisherman. Insurance for a camp and owning an offshore boat are both very expensive and our group of friends and family are built around red snapper season when it comes to offshore fishing.
- I, and many others, have been saying for years that the federal fisheries management system is broken. At a minimum the Gulf needs to be divided into management zones (east, central and west) so they can be more effectively managed. But a move to state management would be even better. States do a wonderful job of managing their freshwater resources throughout the country and the coastal states do a great job of management for species such as speckled trout, redfish and others. It would be a welcome relief to have our fisheries managed on a local level instead of blanket rules being placed Gulf wide because Florida has overfished their waters.
- If a dark skinned wildlife and fisheries agent stops us again and doesn't know what a mahi mahi or dorado is and thinks ginger ale is an alcoholic beverage and gives a sobriety test and makes us late for the scales again with a winning fish he should be fired for being stupid.
- If limited season for red snapper is given to recreational fishing then please spread out the days of snapper season to include more weekends over several months.
- If NOAA is going to manage the rights to fish specific species they need to take more time to do surveys. If I cannot catch a grouper due to the fact my bait cannot make it through the Red snapper 99% of the time well as an individual who fishes for recreation I feel there is no issue with the snapper population and if the states could prove to be a better manager of the species why would you not allow them.
- If not under state control, the gulf is NOT a one size fits all!!! The gulf has numerous zones each of which has it unique pressures and populations from year to year and season to season. The gulf should be divided into zones as designated by professional marine biologists with no government ties and managed according to the consensus of these professionals.
- If the state season was extended to 15 miles out, I would not care if we ever fished in federal waters. I do realize this is not legally possible.
- If the states take over management it will end the commercial red snapper fishery. Red drum is a good example of managing for recreational fishing only.
- If there are not enough snapper as the council claims, how is it possible for a boat of 5 to catch the limit in under 30 minutes.
- If they only survey natural bottom they will say there is a snapper shortage. They are primarily found on man-made structures. I say more recreational and less commercial!
- If whatever organization responsible can blow habitat providing rigs out of the water and kill every red snapper on them, changes to the highly restrictive snapper season should be made. Replacement habitats should also be provided before there is a huge problem sustaining fish populations in the gulf. Blow up all their houses and the fish are going to leave!
- If you don't live near the gulf coast, the cost versus daily limit of red snapper, keeps a lot of anglers, whether private or charter, from being able to enjoy red snapper fishing.

- If you ever go bottom fishing, you cannot even get to the bottom without the snapper biting your line, therefore, making it almost impossible to catch anything else. This is in Florida as well as Louisiana. To think there is a shortage of snapper is a farce. There is more than enough structure in our waters to always support a healthy and plentiful environment for fishing. It's just a shame that government agencies want to take away some of the simple pleasures in life when there is absolutely no necessity for this!
- If you limit the number of days to snapper fish instead of say 10 days in a row do 3 weekends so people don't have to take off work to snapper fish
- If you look at history the US government normally does not do much that really makes a whole lot of sense or the state but the whole snapper thing is foolish. For the first time in history you can Chum up Red Snapper to the surface of the water and actually dip them with a net. So you tell me does this make much sense to keep protecting them? You can't catch any other species because the Red Snapper takes the bait before you get down deep and all we keep doing is reeling them up and throw them back with floats hanging out there mouths.
- If you want people to keep faith in our laws you need to get this underway soon. This debate has been going on far too long. Our faith in all of you is being tested, and we are not very pleased. I spearfish, I see up close and personal how many red snapper there are. I see red snapper closer in than ever in the past, heck, they are even hanging around channel markers at the passes. Now get on with it.
- If the power is transferred then the limit needs to be changed to more fish for private fishermen and a longer season
- I'm a Canadian, who fished one weekend.
- I'm a conservationist, outdoor writer and photojournalist. While I live in Tennessee, my work takes me to Louisiana at least once a year, sometimes up to four times a year. I am very involved in the fishing industry. State regulation can be effective since they are closer to the situation and can act more expediently should the need or an emergency be required. I vote for State with qualification.
- I'm a private yacht captain and I see that there are a lot of red snapper out there, I hardly ever fish for them, but I'd like some flexibility in the season. This 9 day season for us while the commercial guys hammer them all the time is preposterous. If it's too windy to go on opening weekend and I'm busy the next weekend, then oh well, maybe next year I can catch my two? Give us a break.
- I'm a spearfishing free diver. There are a lot of reds out there!!
- I'm good
- I'm not against a short season, what bothers me is the cost and time associated with a 2 fish limit. My experience in the GOM has produced red snapper in an over-abundance, almost to a level of nuisance fish. When I want to try for grouper or vermillion snapper I have to throw back 30-40 red snapper each time. I feel that if a season is limited to 10-14 days that a limit of 4 fish for non- commercial recreational anglers is a much more fair return on investment. Between the \$60 for a license, \$250 in fuel to get to the coast, \$400-700 for lodging, \$150-\$1,000 for hiring a charter or party boat that costs me a lot of money for little return. Some years I have opted to not fish at all during snapper season as it can make such a mess out of just trying to find a charter boat not fishing for snapper.
- I'm not sure whether allowing State vs NOAA + fed. agency would benefit recreational anglers or not. I would need more information to provide you a better survey. What I do know is that for an average angler, the few trips we made, there were plenty of red snapper to catch for all boats that were fishing. The limits from two per person to five seems like a better figure once we reach the population that feds/NOAA are wanting to reach.
- In my observation, the management of red snapper off of the Louisiana coast by the Gulf Council is grounded in either ignorance or stupidity. Since they must be fully aware of the

realities in the fisheries with the massive number of snapper here, I would suggest that stupidity is the culprit. Of course, this is the case with most of the bureaucrats who put ideology over simple facts and solutions.

- In my opinion red snapper are plentiful and abundant. We vent and care for the species properly and best as possible. The limits on this fish are way too low for the amounts being caught and the amount of money put out to target this species. 2 per person is insane. Needs to be higher.
- In my opinion, the state agencies are in the best position to determine seasons and limits.
- In order to better regulate the gulf waters and better understand catches, the states should implement a self-clearing system such as used by our Louisiana WMA's. I believe this would help ALL have a better understanding of the fish caught in our gulf waters
- In regards to red snapper the angler has no way to control what bites. Let the angler keep his limit and head in as if he was on a charter boat.
- In south west La. we cannot catch snapper within 10 miles. Please allow this to be corrected.
- In the SWLA area we have to go 50 miles offshore to fish Snapper. The 3 mile boundary season does us no good. During the snapper season we fished 3 times and limited out in 45 min each time. Red snapper seem to be more plentiful than in the past. Time to put in a different limit like 5 fish with a max slot but definitely need to put in a limit that would discourage culling of legal fish to land bigger legal fish like the 2 fish limit does. I don't know the biology of red snapper but I would set the snapper limit to help the snapper population replenish itself like the redfish limit does. Recreational fishermen put way more money into the economy than commercial fishermen. Stop catering to the restaurant and commercial lobby and listen to the citizens. I would pay for a snapper stamp or reef fish stamp (like a duck stamp) to fund the state program. The federal government needs to get out of states issues!! The snapper system is broken like every other federal program.
- In water from 150 to 80 ft have red snapper season. Have red snapper season where it can be controlled such as no fishing for red snapper on certain oil and gas rigs. Make certain areas a refuge for red snapper using GPS to outline the area and shape of the closed waters, At least during certain months or as far as bottom fishing. During red snapper spawning time no bottom fishing with intent to catch red snapper. Or issue tags like 40 per person, and left over tags, can be purchased in intervals of 8 per person, example: if someone has tags and only uses 20 of the 40 they purchased the tag can be returned to a retailer to go back in the system as left over tags. No one person can purchase more than 80 tags left over under their name and tags can't be transferred to another person unless that person is with the person to whom the tag was issued too with the date on the tag, with possession of the fish. This stops people from buying tags and selling them to a group of people that sell fish. The tag would be a zip tie that is put on the fish going through the gill out of the mouth and zipped closed. Cut zip tags are filled tags, and no tag is used tag. Again no more than the max amount of tags issued to the owner of the tag in a year. Each tag would have a number on it. That assigns it to that person. If any tag is found used or not used without the tag holder. Would be a major violation. This would help for the people that can only fish a few times out of the year.
- Increase both Limit and fishing season of red snapper.
- Increase daily limit to 5 fish on snapper. Open both the snapper and amberjack season together.
- Increase the bag limit for Red fish and decrease the size limit to 15 inches.
- Increase the daily limit and the number of days allowed for red snapper.
- Increase the daily limit for offshore fish
- Increase the limits of red snapper to 10 and no season on amberjack
- Increase the season or bag limit
- Individual recreational fishermen should get the same seasons as charter boats. I cannot see

why charter boats deserve a longer season or special quota.

- Individual States are better suited to manage their resources than a Federal one size fits all policy.
- It can be overwhelming for the average weekend angler such as myself, to keep up with the change between state and federal regulations and boundaries
- It costs too much money to fish offshore for only a few fish because of all the regulations!
- It has never been more screwed up than now. I haven't been snapper fishing in 3 years. 2 fish. 9 days of tough seas! Really! Give us 5 fish and 25 days. Weekends! 4 guys catch 20 snapper and it makes sense. Those that go say it's incredible how many snapper there are.
- It is a fact that the red snapper is going to take over the gulf if not controlled better. Other fish such as grouper and trigger fish are already starting to be harder to find. People in Washington DC are not close enough to the issue to fully understand it. States could better control the fish in their area and be closer to see what is taking place and in a better position to make needed changes quicker without some of the possible hidden agendas of the Washington crowd.
- It is clear the rules are not working -- you all are not gathering accurate data on catch -- until this is fixed You are making rules and laws that are guesses It is clear with cost escalating The sports fisherman are in the Minority but I would assume we have a great economic impact And this is missed ---notice growth of CCA From experience, I see a growing fishery, not a shrinking one-- Limiting us to 10 days and guessing on catch is at best poor governance Limiting charters is hurting business and you have no idea on effectiveness A coalition of states affected governed by states seems to best model however no one can accurately define health or numbers in fishery-- fed help seems logical there-- It is clear to me the lobbyist with restaurant ties and others are driving the bus-- I would sincerely hope I can take my kids fishing in the next 20 years but on current path that seems difficult The states did a great job with redfish, why can't they govern this fishery? {Name, e-mail address, and telephone number withheld]
- It is difficult for working people to enjoy recreational fishing. Weekend seasons for recreational fishing have helped.
- It is difficult to go offshore fishing and NOT catch Red Snapper! There are SO MANY that it is difficult to get through them in order to catch other species. Having a 9-10 day season is INSANE! If the weather is bad just a few days, the season is shorted by Mother Nature therefore shortening recreational fishing for people with smaller boats.
- It is getting harder and harder to catch legal reef fish species during the closed red snapper season due to the ever increasing number of red snapper taking the baits and having to be released. Red snapper are overcrowding our waters.
- It is hard to believe the population estimates based on the easy of catching Red Snapper. Lost a lot of Red Snapper to shark. I do not support the split between Charter and Recreational fishing seasons. May cancel a fall trip due to the closing of Greater Amberjack season.
- It is important to have consistency across the Gulf States - so unless the states can work more collaboratively a federal approach is needed
- It is important to manage the species based on smaller geographic regions. The areas with larger concentrations of fish should be regulated differently than other regions with smaller populations.
- It is impossible for a regional counsel to manage a resource this diverse. We must have state control if we are ever going to have regulations that make any sense.
- It is my belief that the LDWF has more personal and resources to manage the fisheries.
- It is my opinion that the federal agencies have done a terrible job in managing the red snapper resource. They are clearly out of touch with reality.
- It is outrageous that we are essentially prohibited from catching snapper in federal waters when

they are as plentiful as I have seen in 43 years of fishing. It is obvious the federal govt. does not want the recreational fisherman to fish. They close AJ season when we can fish snapper thanks

- It is pretty sad the way these fish are being managed. It is pretty obvious that the recreational fishermen and women are out of luck without lobbyists. I reckon this is just another issue, where money controls the management of a public resource. Recreational fishermen get the shaft once again. Our elected officials are supposed to be working for the people, not what special interest group has them on a payroll for kickbacks to vote a certain way.
- It is ridiculous that one of my 3 offshore trips this year resulted in 70 gallons of gasoline burned, and no fish caught that could be legally kept. We caught over 30 beautiful Red snapper. Most of which drifted off and died (an offense that could result in a wonton waste citation) what a waste. One undersized cobia 32 inches. Many redfish (beyond 3 miles and therefore not legal.) Many trigger fish (season closed) You are killing the offshore recreational fisherman. You do not own the Gulf of Mexico. We do. Loosen up the limits and let us catch some fish!!!!!! How can commercial snapper fisherman catch thousands of pounds of snapper and we can catch 2??
- It is ridiculous that we don't have a longer recreational season for red snapper given their abundance. State is in much better position to manage appropriate limits and seasons.
- It is ridiculous to have a limit and season for snapper in Louisiana like we do!!! The red snapper in Louisiana waters are more than Abundant. We don't need to fish the species out, but 2 per person is insane! I would love to know exactly how this limit and season is agreed upon. Ridiculous!!!!
- It is ridiculous to impose the current bag limit and season on red snapper. When a red snapper is biting a line after a few seconds at every single rig from here to Mexico, it is easy to see that these fish are plentiful and I would dispute any survey that claims otherwise. There are many ways to manage the population, such as using a slot limit, which do not stop anglers completely from harvesting red snapper.
- It is sad with all the snapper out there that the Limeys (limits?) are so small also whoever closed amberjack during snapper season made it not worth going out to fish use to would go for both species to make it worth the gas
- It is time for a change of method for managing red snapper. I feel the sports fishermen are treated unfairly when it comes to quotas.
- It is time for the State to take control fish management. The Feds don't have a clue. There are so many snapper out there, you can hardly catch other fish at the rigs.
- It is time for the states to manage their own fisheries.
- It long over- due that the states take over, the gulf council has screw up for so long .
- It makes it difficult to go snapper fishing when the season only lasts two weekends. The fish are evidently abundant so there should be a more reasonable open season and bag limit to reflect that.
- It needs to fair for the recreational fisherman, who only can go a few times and only get 2 fish is wrong.
- It pains me to catch so many red snapper, vent and release them knowing that the fish has a limited change of survival. It just seems to be such a senseless waist to me.
- It seems that there are so many red snapper at almost every rig that we fish, it makes it hard to target other species. Not sure but seems to be less grouper not sure but snapper maybe eating the smaller ones.
- It seems to me the bag limit is to low but if that could not be increased then increase the size limit so all fisherman could eventually consistently bag better quality fish
- It should be looked to raising the limit to 4 per person. Offshore fishing cost a lot, 400\$ plus a

day, and we have a lot of money tied up in boats and gear. The Rec. fishermen pay the bulk of the tax to support the fishery. The Red snapper stock is at the best it has been in 25 years. The Government personal that set our season and bag are full of [expletive deleted], I know because my bother-in-law is one of them.

- It sickens me to catch so many red snapper, and release them doomed to die. It's a waste of natural resources. It's been a mess trying to get the correct information for out of state fisherman, to get accurate dates for red snapper fishing. Get the federal government out of the mix, they'll screw up a free lunch. Thank you letting me express my thoughts.
- It was a shame that recreational anglers only received one weekend during the federal red snapper season. If they are going to have such a short season why not split it up over Saturday/Sunday's till the allotted days are used.
- It would be great if the limit on red snapper would be more than 2 per person per day.
- It would be greatly appreciated if you all would get the landing permit site straight. This year it was awful I never was able to get my permit there for unable to fish snapper.
- Item 6- saltwater days 4- pitiful - the cost and work to go offshore with the Federal limits is just not worth it. I probably kill more than my legal limit of red snapper every time in catch and release. It is obvious to any Louisiana fisherman we are over run with the afore mentioned species of fish in our state waters and it would be good for the overall fisheries, Louisiana fishermen and tourist fisherman to allow more liberal quotas. One literally has run from red snapper they are so over populated. The federal guidelines must account for overall Gulf wide populations which are must less abundant in other states. I believe the afore mentioned species do not migrate or venture very far in their lifetime so the LA. pool would not serve to populate other territories. It is logical to have Louisiana control it's fisheries to help balance the different species and allow a for healthier recreational and commercial industry. I am all for species control but we have allowed over population now which is poor wild life management. Our "Sportsman Paradise" has become the "Sportsman Pitiful".
- ITS A GREAT DAY, JUST GLAD TOO BE HERE
- It's a great resource! Open the seasons on the offshore fish, i.e. Red snapper and amberjack simotaniouy(?). The state of La. Has a good and workable model for a season if there must be a season.
- It's annoying to drive 40 miles out to only be allowed 2 red snappers when they swarm the boat. People end up throwing the small ones back to keep keeping bigger fish. The fish are then eaten by other predators and lost anyways. We need higher limits for recreational fishermen as to make it cost effective to run out and get some red snapper.
- It's better to have just one agency regulating fisheries than to have each state with different laws
- It's getting to the point where I'm going to sell all my saltwater gear because it's not worth the time & money two catch 2 fish for one week a year!!!
- It's hard to find the time and funds to take my boat offshore fishing and when I do manage to its saddens me to have to stop fishing or release fish do to stringent limits
- It's not fun fishing offshore anymore catching red snappers having to release them just to watch them float off belly up. In the past few years the only way to prevent catching red snapper was just stop fishing.
- It's not right the Feds Manage our offshore fishing. It should be up to the state on how manage recreational fishing. This hole the things is a crying shame. The most abundant fish in the gulf and we only have a 8-day season . This should be critical and the states should be filing lawsuits against the Gulf Council . I let you know everyone I know that's fishes offshore feels the same way I do . Please stop this. It's not right the Gulf Council has this much control over recreational fishing .
- It's not worth running so far to catch only 2 fish

- It's time for a change. Let the State do what is right.
- It's very frustrating to drive from another state to fish, only to find the fishery you intended to fish for was closed the day before.
- I've been a recreational fisherman since I was 14, enjoyed fishing then and even more now. I have owned several boats, I now own a 24' with 300 HP, and really like gulf fishing. However, gas prices alone with other expenses, makes a fishing trip not so enjoyable, especially with such a low limit of fish that can be caught. I hope that my family and I can one day enjoy the many days of fishing again.
- I've never had to sit in the back of the bus, denied the right to vote, or even the mere right to the "pursuit of happiness".... or any other declaration of rights. It is humbling to think about those who have been denied. I've been fortunate. I use that humility to fight fiercely for those who are discriminated against and I have since childhood. To think that a stinking fish can be used as a divisor amongst men and women in this country is repulsive to me. Thank you for the opportunity to express an opinion. Thank you for representing myself, family and friends in this issue. Thank you for representing... we, the people...!
- Just feel the state could do a better job and be more responsive. There however is the possibility the state could also be unfair to either group.
- just moved back to La. in April 2015
- Just not enough days for fishing. i have spent a lot of money to buy boat, camp and tackle. Just not enough days.
- Keep Feds out of all fishery management decisions that apply to Louisiana and gulf states. They have their own agenda (commercial fisheries) and La. Recreational fisherman come last.
- Keep it simple. One rule for all on limits.
- Keep me informed on the results of the survey. Offer opportunities for help and support of making the changes to the state agencies through political channels. Thanks for asking!
- Keep the Fed out of our business.
- Keep the federal govt. out of state control
- Keep the Feds out of States rights.
- Keep the politics out or it will be ruined.
- Keep the regulation of all species within the State authority
- Keep the surveys coming!
- Keep up the good job LDWF.
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work
- Keep up the good work LDWF
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep up the good work. I appreciate all that y'all do.
- Keep up the great work!
- La. has plenty of red snapper and red fish, red fish are eating small crabs depleting crab numbers, need to lift red fish limit..
- La. is a great state w/excellent fishing limits. Hard to justify Snapper trip when you look @ cost vs. limit.
- LAST TIME I WENT SNAPPER FISHING, I HAD MY FAMILY ON THE BOAT. SIX OF US TOTAL. WE CAUGHT 12 SNAPPER AS PER THE LIMIT. A COMMERCIAL SNAPPER FISHERMAN PULLED UP NEXT TO ME, AND HAD FOUR RIGS OUT WITH 11 HOOKS ON EACH LINE . HE PILLED UP 44 SNAPPER EVERY TIME HIS POLES

WENT OVER. WE COUNTED OVER 1000 SNAPPER AT THAT RIG ALONE. THERE IS NO REASON IN THIS WORLD WHY THE RECREATION FISHERMEN SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CATCH AT LEAST 3 OR 4 A PIECE, THE TRIP COST ME 450.00 IN GAS AND BAIT. OBVIOUSLY, I COULD HAVE BOUGHT THE FISH CHEAPER. I HAD THREE OF MY GRANDCHILDREN ON BOARD AND AM TEACHING THEM TO LOVE THE OUTDOORS. WE HAVE TO RIDE ALMOST TWO HOURS TO CATCH TWO SNAPPER. THIS IS UNFAIR. A LITTLE INCREASE FOR THE RECREATIONAL FISHERMAN IS NOT GOING TO HURT THE COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN AT ALL. ALSO, WE HAD TO ABIDE BY THE SIZE LIMIT, HE THREW EVERYTHING HE CAUGHT IN THE BOAT, NO MATTER WHAT THE SIZE. CHARLES LAGARDE. IF THIS TYPE OF MANAGEMENT KEEPS GIMG ON, OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN WILL NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS.

- LDWF is better qualified to manage fisheries than the feds !
- LDWF has done an amazing job managing our fisheries and would do a much better job managing offshore species than the NOAA. There are more red snapper out there than any other species right now. This does not create a healthy ecosystem and fishery. They desperately need to be thinned out in the rigs.
- LDWF would do a better job of managing the red snapper fishery in state and federal waters because they have a vested interest.
- Leave it as is
- Leave it be
- Leave Louisiana waters to Louisiana authority
- Lengthen state waters out farther and raise the limit of red snapper.
- Less federal government can only make us more effective !
- Let charter boats keep only first 5 snapper per customer
- Let local fisheries manage the area
- Let Louisiana manage gulf fish.
- Let residential fisherman enjoy fishing. Give them more opportunities to fish for species that are out of our reach.
- Let state guides use state seasons for red snapper
- Let state licensed capt. fish reef species in state waters without federal reef permit If you're going to claim state waters and state season then state licensed guides, shouldn't need a federal permit in state water as you stated on website
- Let states manage their own fisheries, including federal waters.
- let the state handle the snapper. Feds haven't got a clue as to the amount of snapper there are in state waters and neither does NOAA.
- Let the STATE manage everything. Reef fish are not migratory and therefore LOCAL oversight should manage these LOCAL fisheries. Unfortunately, snapper, AJ, etc., are tough to come by in State waters anyway, so the point is moot unless the State gets extended jurisdiction.
- let the state manage our waters let the fed manage what they call federal waters and keep CCA and NOAA out of the state business CCA has done more harm than good.
- Let the state manage the snapper seasons in its gulf and other species
- Let the state manage. Different waters off of all states affect different species, like red snapper, amberjack, and grouper populations and densities, so should be managed by state not feds, esp. since these species do not migrate over large areas
- Let the state run state matters
- Let the state take care of its fisheries and set the season for red snapper and let the state set

creel limits as well.

- Let the states control the dates and limits since they know much better than the federal government.
- Let the states manage our own fisheries!
- Let the states manage the fisheries!
- Let the states manage their own fisheries, they know best.
- Let the states manage their rec fishing according to abundance of species, and keep the Federal Gov out.
- Let the states take care of their own fishery and conduct their own studies to determine bag limits.
- Let the states using scientific data manage the Gulf fisheries .
- Let us fish
- Let us fish all year. We are only allowed a small number of red snapper a year, not many, which sometimes makes our trip for a trip that has been planned for weeks. I do not think this affects the fishery the way the gulf counsel believes. It is NOT the recreational fishermen that impact the resource, I suspect it is the commercial fisherman. Let us catch our fish, therefore, everybody is I hope happy what they are bringing home to our family's.
- Let us fish for snapper longer and up the limit! Every time I go I drop a double rig and boom, I have my limit first cast... What's the fun in that? Two fish pp isn't a lot of meat either for how much money goes into it all for the recreational fisherman. LET US FISH!
- Let's get this done. The fed management is hurting Louisiana.
- Let's make snapper season better!
- Lic fee way too much for too few fish....requiring freshwater lic for saltwater is [expletive deleted] to make money...I'm done w Louisiana fishing,
- like most people we look forward to red snapper season and I would to see the bag limit raised but not if it means a short season. Ideally a four to six month season with at least 3 limit bag would be great.
- Like to raise limit to 3 extend season
- Like to see more days in federal water. Because of the fact is when fishing for other species of fish you my catch a red snapper in real deep water. When you get it up its belly is imploded when you let it go and it dies. And Floats away. Also some of us have to work days that it is open.
- Like to see weekend season for Red snapper thru the summer would give us more trips than 11 days in a row and bad weather .
- Limit commercial fishing
- limit of two snapper per person is enough to keep going back for more
- Limited out on snapper and amberjack every trip we have made for them. Caught snapper when we didn't want them every time. Limits were caught in record time each trip.
- Limiting the amount of fishing days to private boats compared to paid charters is ridiculous for red snapper. Fisherman should have the same opportunity to keep fish if it is a private trip or charter trip.
- Limiting the snapper just cause more people to throw back snapper they catch and in return the snapper die from not venting properly
- Limits on red snapper need to increase. The population of red snapper is too large for the limit to remain at two per person.
- Limits should be 6 red snapper with total of 12 per day per angler
- limits should be increased but keep size limit as is

- Limits should double for recreational
- Live in NC and my wife is from Louisiana. Fish with friends when in the area.
- Local (state) will do a better job and is more suited to coordinate the management of our fisheries.
- local authorities are better inform on local matters
- Local control beats a bean counter at a faraway desk every time.
- Local management can meet all the needs immediately and long term for my local better and more efficient Thanks
- Local management makes far more sense in all ways.
- LOCALIZE THE SYSTEM. The local authorities will have better knowledge of their waters, fisheries, eco systems, etc.
- Long overdue
- Longer red snapper season. And more than two fish limit.
- Longer season for snapper. 2 per person and a 10 day season is too little
- Longer snapper season, please
- Lot of complication on snapper. Takes entire fun out of it.
- Louisiana Fisheries have been abundant the past 5 years. I hear that the red snapper are way too thick at the rigs and that they are crowding out other fish. Y'all are the experts and I will defer to your wisdom. Keep up the good work.
- Louisiana Gulf of Mexico waters have the artificial reefs (platforms) to support significantly more harvest of Red Snappers. Red Snapper often are caught when fishing for Mangrove, Amberjack, and Grouper. They are often wasted as the venting does not always allow them to return to swimming.
- Louisiana has a better knowledge of fish stocks off of its waters than does the federal government
- Louisiana has more red snapper due to our bottom structure and oil field activity and we should not be punished by other states management shortfalls
- Louisiana has proven that it can manage any and all species within its boundaries and should continue to be able to do so.
- Louisiana has tons of snapper on all our platforms. Other states don't have that so we get penalized. Stop blowing up rigs let that be added habitat.
- Louisiana is in a better position to manage its waters than is the Fed
- Louisiana is rich in reef fish because of our oil platforms. The snapper are plentiful and targeting other species is difficult due to the high snapper population. Recreational anglers suffer because we are grouped in and regulated by the Feds with the same states the either don't allow offshore platforms or don't have any oil to speak of.
- Louisiana knows best what is right for LA waters. It is insanity to group the whole gulf situation as a whole when LA waters have a completely different set of circumstances concerning the environment and the water's assets. Our marches and all of the rigs, along with the Miss. River outlets provide a much superior and different environment that supports so much more wildlife and marine life. No other state has such assets that can match LA's. LA has far superior numbers of fish and marine life and incubation areas. It's stupid to limit LA the same as the other states whom have far less than LA in relation to marine life and sustaining environments.
- Louisiana needs to gain control of our snapper fishery and allow rec anglers the opportunity to be able to fish snapper on the weekends throughout a longer period of time beyond state waters especially in the southwest so we can go fishing safety (weather) and to be able to catch fish since the snapper are further out for us than the state waters. By having the state manage the

snapper season, I feel that each area could be assessed and managed according to where the snapper are located.

- Louisiana needs to manage her resources because our conditions are different than the rest of the country. I just hope you take our commits serious unlike changing the duck season up a week when the majority wanted it the same are pushed back a week.
- Louisiana seems to have a very healthy red snapper count and the state would be the best at determining that.
- Louisiana should manage its own resources state and federal waters. This should pertain to oil and fisheries. We as Louisianans could and should do a better job of management and be rewarded for the management efforts.
- Louisiana state overseas and manages the resources much more efficiently and accurately than federal.
- Louisiana wildlife and fisheries has a much better grasp of our local environment and should have the upper hand in dealing with our offshore fisheries. I do agree that the federal agencies should have oversight for a balance, but not primary control.
- Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries should control ALL fish in our state.
- Love to Fish ! LOL
- Love to fish out of Venice, have fish camp at empire. With 11 days of snapper season in federal waters my Louisiana fishing is cut severely. Anyone who will argue that there is a shortage of red snapper must be fishing from the bank.
- Love to go offshore fishing and catch fish, but Red Snapper are so plentiful it is very hard to catch anything else.. With a limit of 2or3 fish per person it is not worth the hundreds of dollars to go offshore.
- Make a Change, the red snapper are plentiful
- Make charter boats deflate swim bladders. I see many charters throw fish back over that will just die that could have in most cases been saved. Everyone should be required to try to save the fish that are released.
- Make it easy. Give rec fisherman 75 tags for the year similar to deer hunting. A lot less waste of the resource.
- Make it fair for the rec guys... The fish belong to the public, not a few for profit companies
- Make it happen. Thanks
- Make it more easy to understand the rules and regulations of fishing A one page laminated explanation of size days fishing is open how many you can catch
- Make Red Snapper a game fish. No commercial harvest. Year round season. 2 per person.
- make the limit more on red snapper and allow amber jack to be caught in red snapper season
- Make the recreational snapper season longer. Sportsmen are an important part of the economy and each day added puts more money into the economy.
- Make the rules a little less stringent and confusing. Also go to 4 red snappers per person. They are over populated.
- Management by the states is the only logical answer. Anglers are tired of the political, bureaucratic nonsense over fisheries management by non-fishers!
- Management of fish should be determined by each state. The council can't get accurate numbers or even close to accurate numbers by guessing or assuming they know how many fish are there. They get a lot of their numbers from commercial fisheries that aren't even American or they fish they catch are going overseas. How honest do you think they really are with their numbers. I'm all about people making a living on the water but at least have them bring the fish they catch to the area they caught them.
- Management of fishing and limits should be handled by the states and recreational fishing

should be strongly supported and encouraged by the agencies that make the regulations.

- Management of natural resources should always be done at a level as close as possible to local. NOAA should be encouraged to promote the collection and dissemination of data and furtherance of science such as to allow for states to be able to see the big picture.
- Management of saltwater fish is poorly done. This resource is for the public not for special interest groups. It needs to have rules/limits that are fair to ALL users - recreational included. Catch shares should be stopped immediately as this takes a public resource and gives to the few which is totally unconstitutional.
- Management of the species should be consolidated to one agency and one set of limits because the federal vs state waters cutoff (whether 3 miles or 10 miles or any other distance) is arbitrary. The species tends not to recognize jurisdictional boundaries. The federal regime lost all credibility some time ago among most serious and concerned fishermen, and the current level of divisiveness showcases the failure.
- Maybe you guys should of tried to regulate the blowing up of all the offshore platforms better .I am sure they probably killed a jillion endangered (what a joke they are no more endangered than the Chinese) Red snapper I am also sure you have a more accurate count as to how many were wasted .but hey sharks have to eat too. You people are a joke and should get real jobs and then you might understand why those of use that do have real jobs are ticked off with all your stupid regulations you people are true idiots
- May-Oct season 4 bag limit per person. Maybe be allowed more snapper if you will be willing to tell the LDWF how many fish you caught that day to keep better records
- Me and my father have been fishing the gulf for snapper since I was young. I don't understand why .there are so many snapper in the gulf that now we sold our boat because when you go to the rigs you can't catch nothing but red snapper .as soon as you're bait hits the water you have one on and after 30 minutes your snapper season is over for the year . Because we only get 1 chance or if we lucky 2 fishing trips with the stupid 14 day season. even 60 or 90 days would be short.. Why can we fish for speckled trout ..25 per person, all year!!!! Mangrove snapper 10 per person . All year!! and there are other examples .. Somebody has to get this right and I believe the state has more resources because who is in charge of it now hasn't a clue..
- meh
- More days and higher bag limit. People think they can "count" all the fish and think the population of the red snapper are going down, well they are wrong. They don't know what is under the water. From being a SCUBA diver all I ever see is mainly red snapper. And half the time I can get a shot on other fish because there are too many red snapper in the way.
- More days for private anglers.
- More days for recreational fisherman With current daily bag limits snapper and amberjack should be in sufficient quantity to allow almost year round fishing for recreational fisherman imho [probably "in my humble opinion"]
- More days for red snapper. Especially more weekend days.
- More days for snapper are needed in federal waters
- More days of fishing
- More limits on snapper maybe from 2 to 3 and a longer opening days
- More localized management is needed for red snapper due to their localized populations. These are not migrating pelagic fish (which I primarily target).
- More management at the local levels
- More needs to be done to make private anglers aware of these issues. I just found out about all of this last year and most of the people wanting more of everything at the council meetings were charter captains and head boat captains from other states.

- More quota for the private fisherman less to the charters
- More Red Snapper fishing days per year.
- More snapper are killed due to culling. Raise the limit to 5 per angler and more snapper will swim to see another day.
- More snapper in the gulf than ever before
- More snapper per person. If you would go offshore as much as I do you'll have no clue how many fish they have out there.
- More snapper that I have ever seen
- MORE STATE CONTROL
- More weekend red snapper fishing. I know last year the season was 10 days, but there was only a weekend or 2- this makes it hard for recreational fisherman to go unless you can take off of work for a week!
- More weekends for red snapper
- Most I've noticed about Louisiana surveys and politics is that the powers that be will decide what's better for them personally and forget about using science or biologists' recommendations. i.e. waterfowl 2015 season and limits. Our commission is a joke and needs to be wiped clean and those positions need to be elected not appointed.
- Mostly fish redfish and trout, was only able to fish red snapper 3 days this year.
- Mostly state ran but with federal cooperation
- Move fishing license from date obtained to expiration
- Move it the snapper are thick
- Move it.
- Move state waters out to ten miles and let the states manage it
- Move to state. State can manage the program better. Rigs has changed where the fish stay
- Move total red snapper management to the states. The states are better qualified to manage the red snapper season.
- My age Gender Race. Should not be any of your concern.
- My biggest complaint about saltwater fishing is the limit restrictions. This is especially so with the red snapper. Short season and only 2/day makes it frustrating to fish. We catch and release, but it would be nice to keep a few more especially on days when we are catching them the second the line hits halfway to the bottom. I believe there are more fish than thought. Recreational fishermen are restricted too heavily at times.
- My biggest gripe is having recreational snapper fishing days running consecutively instead of multiple set weekends!
- My biggest gripe is the favoritism shown to the commercial sector over the recreational sector by NOAA.
- My biggest issues are trying to get off of work to be able to fish enough during the short federal red snapper season, It's almost not worth going out 25-30 miles for 2 fish, and if it's too rough to go out you just lose those days. 10 days is not enough
- My concern is whatever agencies that control / manage fisheries in GOM should set limits on accurate regional species / numbers data and not speculative scientific data.
- My experience with snapper they are vast, they are more than plentiful, when fishing other species or genre of fish, you end up catching and discarding red snappers trying to get to the other fish. It's a pity to throw back a dying fish, I've tried decompression tools, floating them slowly, everything I can to keep them alive and usually they perish. Need more programs to make the angler more responsible and conservative, I've got no opinion on commercial snapper harvest for I've never partaking in the act of, I believe our local wildlife guys know the waters

and some anglers and that relationship should mandate the laws and seasons, God Bless you all.

- My fishing name is [Name Withheld] I have over a 1,000 Dives in the Gulf President off My dive team Do the really Know how many snapper are down there. I do suggestion get all dives teams together on 80 block dive 1 square mile do a survey like 50 divers ,Hell divers , Kamikaze divers ,Ronnie joe crew all the lake Charles guys do a count. Make it a rodeo [Name withheld] my good friend would help we all got camps in Fourchon Later [Name withheld]
- My only comment is that the favor to commercial fisherman should be halted. Snapper should be a recreational fish only permitting individuals and families higher limits and longer durations which is not possible maintaining populations while permitting commercial fishermen cart Blanch of the gulf and snapper.
- My only concerns is that state based regulation could result in non-science based regs, such as the "feel good" size and creel limits recently placed on triple tail.
- My only suggestion for the State's management is to increase the creel limit to 3 red snapper per person per day
- My opinion NOAA has their own agenda. The data that they use is grossly flawed... That is why the state stepped in. NOAA wants to do away with recreational fishermen
- My opinions in support of State management are based on the assumption that adequate resources exist at State level.
- My option is that the federal red snapper season has to be longer than 10 days . Maybe split it up into 5 weekends.
- My preference is offshore fishing we did 6 overnight trips. Caught tons of red snapper while fishing for other species, but could not keep. One trip alone caught 17 RS over 25". I would be happy with keeping one per person yr round.
- My son works in the oil field. Last year we had one weekend available to go Red Snapper fishing and he was working. Thankfully, we did get to go in state waters twice and caught our limits.
- My thanks to Sec. Barham for his support of sportsman in Louisiana
- Nah limits of red snapper are too low. Most trips snapper are so thick you can't get your line down to the bigger fish
- Native of Louisiana. I enjoy coming home to fish
- Need a bigger limit per person
- Need another form of reporting catch for both recreational, charter, and COMMERCIAL harvest. Self-reporting is a joke. Make the move from hearsay to science.
- NEED MORE DAYS AND HIGHER LIMITS ON SNAPPER. THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE OF SNAPPER OUT THERE!!!
- Need more days in fed waters for red snapper! The snapper are under fished.
- need more days, and larger limits on snapper
- Need more federal snapper faus (sic)
- Need more fishing day off shore Because to many days to rough
- Need more info
- need more local control
- Need to be able to either catch more red snapper per bag limit and/or have a longer season. It's almost not worth spending the money to go catch them if you can only catch 2.
- Need to be able to fish for more species more often
- Need to be able to keep more than 2 red snapper per person and increase the season.
- Need to change state fishing waters to 10 miles offshore for all states, also change limit to 5 red snapper per person.

- Need to give more days for recreational red snapper
- Need to have more red snapper days and limits. Triggerfish too.
- Need to have no size limit on red snapper I have been fish at same rigs as large charter boats and the small snapper are not vented and it looks like a fish kill out there. The charter boat is just looking for numbers to get there customers limit would be more fish for next year if they could keep all size snapper. I run over 30 miles out to catch larger snapper and don't have to through any back. But charter boats want to save fuel and don't mine kill snapper to do it
- Need to increase Snapper limits
- Need to let states control their offshore limits.
- Need to limit commercial fishing of snapper
- Need to listen to the recreational and charter fisherman about the snapper and really all limited fish. Because there are more than people think. And the commercial fisherman caught small ones and through them back but there already dead.
- Need to open snapper fishing in La waters year around, at least on the weekends.
- Need to put more emphasis on where state waters and federal waters are actually located. Definition is vague.
- Need to raise possession limit on red snapper in Federal Waters due to a one week season for recreational fishermen.
- Need to state the management principals of the council vs the state to make an educated decision about who should manage.
- Need to up the red snapper limits to at least 4 fish per person per day!!!!
- Need to watch commercial snapper boats more closely!!
- NMF does not manage at all. They would not even listen to one of the country's leading marine biologist on its own board about management, and possibly asked him to leave the board because he was so outspoken.
- NMFS has become the corrupt meatpuppet of the anti-recreational billions-funded professional Environmental Industry. I would like to see it abolished and each state manage the federal EEZ waters.
- No comments at this time every thing is good
- No commercial season should exist for any fishery that can only allow a 1 or 2 fish recreational season.
- No doubt this should either be done by states or the Feds should take the time to study the population of each species and adjust bag limits to the area.
- No one is entitled to anything. As I appreciate it commercial snapper is primarily for the restaurant industry who have a known supply demand which is what should be allocated to them. From that point the State can determine an allowable catch for charter boats and private recreational fishermen.
- No one really cares who is in charge of the management. Those who fish simply prefer to be able to fish. With red snapper season only lasting 2 weeks each year, and having a bag limit of two fish a person, no one is able to enjoy snapper season. Most people are only able to fish on the weekends, leaving them a total of 4 days at best during a year to fish. And that is if the weather on those weekends permit. Even then, it can be difficult to make a trip on back to back days. And this is to say nothing about the bag limit on the days you are able to make a trip. So no one is interested in who is managing. As long as they understand that people would like the authority to fish realistically and that that agency would advocate for better standards to do so.
- No size limit on red snapper! The first five you catch you keep. No throwing back 15 inch snapper only to die!
- No suggestions as I live in North Georgia. I come to Louisiana once or twice a year to fish for

trout off the coast at the Chandeleur Islands, which is one of my favorite trips each year. We do not fish for red snapper.

- NOAA and GMFMC are only making decisions supporting charter and commercial fishing. I belong to a fishing club that is one of the oldest on the gulf coast. We are having trouble keeping the doors open because people are no longer fishing as much offshore. It doesn't make sense since that less people fish and I fish for less and less days each year cause of regs. The buffer put has been in place for two years. We lose those fish every year. And we don't come close to catch what we are allotted as it is.
- NOAA does not have the states or fisheries best interest in mind
- NOAA has been very incompetent in managing the fisheries in my opinion. I have no doubt state agencies could do a better job.
- NOAA has proven that it is incompetent in managing our fisheries. It is time to allow the States to manage our fisheries!!
- NOAA is a joke. Red snapper r everywhere and I love to catch and don't abuse that during the season. Come down on abusers harder and publicize it more. (Over limits , out of season fishing , etc.)
- NOAA is not doing a good job currently with the snapper fisheries and the authority needs to be transferred to the states which are better capable of determining what is best and have the ability to react faster to necessary changes.
- NOAA is the demise of public use of natural resources
- Not enough days for Snapper and bag limit to low, should be at minimum 5 per person for recreational anglers, 5 per person for chartered trips should be max, recreational fisherman are mostly limited to fishing weekends, charter boats are 7 days a week
- Not enough snapper days for people who have to work all week. Very disappointed with the few day we are allowed.
- Not everyone can take vacation for a ten day snapper season to fish more than Saturday and Sunday. We need longer seasons.
- not sure why this matters when LDWF did not follow the suggestions of the public on duck seasons for this year.
- Not worth the gas for a ten day season with a 2 fish limit
- Omg please a longer snapper season in federal water!!
- On the few red snapper trips I was able to make this year, I found that there was an abundance of red snapper in the waters off of Louisiana. I find that the current limits and days of fishing for red snapper are ridiculous and should be expanded so recreational and charter boats can get more for their moneys.
- One agency. Less confusing and more efficient.
- One I think they need to determine what is state waters and what is federal. I think that is why a lot of anglers will not go offshore.
- One weekend to fish red snapper for recreational fishermen is not enough.
- Only fished 6 days cause between the weather and the laws , that's all I was allowed !! Keep Limits the samegive us the days !
- Only the states should manage their resources.
- Open red snapper season for longer
- Open the season longer
- Open-Ended Response
- Other Gulf Council is useless and in the pocket of commercial fishermen.
- Other such state programs have been very successful as opposed to federal programs. this resource should be there for all and fairly divided using accurate information with regard the

fish population etc.

- Our federal government has mismanaged everything they have stuck their hands in.
- Our local state agencies know more about the local marine life and conditions that take place in each area. In my opinion the local state agencies should be allowed to manage and make decisions that impact local areas of the state including management in Federal waters.
- OUR STATE HAS AN ABUNDANCE OF SNAPPER FEDERAL AGENCY DOES NOT CONSIDER REGIONS IN SETTING QUOTAS
- our state is very different in fisheries, Let our state manage it!
- Our state our waters we need to manage it.
- Outrageous to let any group fishermen reach a quota based on info provided by them, fishermen lie.
- PASS ALL AUTHORITY TO LOUISIANA WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
- People are ignorant of the true issue. If red snapper do not mature until much later in their life cycle then it has to be carefully controlled
- Perhaps a tag system similar to deer and turkey would allow the recreational fisherman an opportunity to catch and keep a few ARS at his convenience and not be limited to a short season and restricted to bad weather during that season. The same could apply to amberjack and other species.
- Placing my opinion on the simple fact that I both work offshore and frequently go snapper fishing and have scuba diving fishing partners that also support my claim that the red season and bag is entirely too short and small for the amount of snapper in Louisiana state and federal waters! The amount of red snapper that make every single offshore rig their habitat alone makes the small bag limit and short season seem like the proper steps aren't being taken to develop the proper season and bag limit for the amount of snapper off the Louisiana coast! Thank you for your time!
- Plan to saltwater fish for 7 days in October. Red Snapper is not open BUT Red Snapper seem to be everywhere. At oil rig, it's hard to get thru all the Red Snapper for other fish so there doesn't seem to be a shortage.
- Please allow each state to govern/manage their own resources
- Please allow states to manage their red snapper fishery. 10 day red snapper seasons for recreational fisherman is way too short considering the abundantly healthy snapper population we have off the la coast.
- Please be less strictly toward the fishermen! Red snappers are everywhere... Stop treating them like they are about to be extinct!!
- Please consider making fishing licenses valid for 12 months from date of purchase. It's 2015. There is no reason why a license should be valid for a set 12 month period and have the cost not be prorated. A license purchased in March costs the same as a license purchased in June, but the March license is only valid for a few months.
- Please consider raising the limit to 3 snapper. Thank you
- Please contact all fishermen about these issues.
- Please do away with sector separation and take control away from NOAA they are doing their best to wipe out the recreational fisherman.
- PLEASE do everything possible to transfer ALL authority away from Gulf Council/NOAA to the state agency. This is long overdue.
- Please do something. When bottom fishing the majority of the catch is red snapper. They are so plentiful that they have become a nuisance.
- Please fix the broken snapper season!!!
- Please fix this management mess so me and my children can enjoy the bounties of Louisiana

waters

- Please get it away from the morons that are running it now.
- Please get it done
- Please get snapper issues straight The snapper limits are a joke I would love to purchase offshore boat, but I never will with these joke limits
- Please get State agencies involved in this management which is closer and more regionally involved in this matter than the federal agencies and can do a better evaluation.
- Please get the feds out of our business.
- PLEASE give LDWF control of our gulf fishery, it's what their paid to do and they know it better than Feds. What's going on now is a slap in the face to common sense and us, the TAX PAYERS. Red snapper/grouper/amberjack are NOT in danger but the future of recreational fishing is because of the ridiculous seasons/limits.
- Please give the people who care about our waters control of its fisheries!
- Please help! The right to fish and enjoy bringing home something is gone. I just want to bring a couple fish home to cook after fishing and they have ruined that. It appears as though their goal is to get rid of recreational fisherman.
- Please help, there are more RED SNAPPER than I have ever seen in my life time. PLEASE do something to change for the better. I fish the SKA and now catch as many Red Snapper trolling around Oil Rigs in the Gulf as I do Kings, this is crazy. Please help us.
- Please keep the federal government out of the Gulf of Mexico.
- Please let the state take over this management area. They know what's going on with our fisheries.
- Please let the states play a greater role in fisheries management. It would benefit the fishermen and the fisheries - there are so many snapper I fear other species are at risk. Thanks
- please move management to the state
- please organize and legislate better recreational fishing for red snapper
- Please post results of the survey
- Please pull this off. Red snapper are now pervasive off the Louisiana coast thanks to the poor management of the council.
- Please use proven methods and facts to regulate...not faulty methods.
- Plenty of red snapper, I'd like to see it stay that way, but I would also like to have more opportunities to fish for the . Broken up smaller session. Special seasons for charter boats, etc., etc..
- Plenty of snapper...regulate commercial more
- Population control should be managed by anglers not government officials
- Prefer to have our state control all of our marine resources and better allocate recreational vs commercial. We all have the same rights to our resources and we all have the same responsibility to maintain them for now and future in this state. Which is our state not shared with any other.
- Present snapper management plan does not work! Management plan should include reef building as well.
- Presently, Red Snapper populations are very high and at some rigs prevent fishing for anything else due to continually catching the Snapper. We should be allowed to keep a limit instead of seeing most die when forced to release them.
- Priority of ending the destruction of old rigs. These artificial reefs are the life of our fisheries!
- Private (non-charter) fisherman generally have the least impact in the fishery, owing to fewer on-water days annually. The present federal Red Snapper season & bag limits effectively discourage individuals with the least impact from fishing the Gulf to target the species. This

seems to be not only punitive to private recreational fishermen, but also a rather ineffective management strategy. Perhaps the States can do a better job with the local area than the Feds.

- Private angler Feed private family need more than two snappers limit to feed family
- Protect Recreational Fishing
- Protect the rights of our recreational fishermen
- Proud to be in the USA
- Public fisherman need a longer snapper season
- Put competent people in charge of our fishery please. Also state snapper season only benefits people in the eastern part of the state, can we look into doing something about that too? Extending state waters to a limit that everyone could benefit from could be proposed.
- Put private recreational anglers and charter boats into one group. NOT FAIR THAT THE CHARTERS GET MORE FISHING TIME!!!! I fish off the western half of the LA coast and state waters don't extend far enough out to enter red snapper habitat. Only the southeast coast of LA has red snapper habitat in State waters. The State season is meaningless on the western half of the State. All that did for us was force the federal government to shorten our fishable season to 10 days or so. We got royally [expletive deleted] by this rule. It makes no sense to close Amberjack season right when red snapper opens. We spend hundreds of dollars to go offshore and are limited to two reds snapper per person and no amberjack at all. It is getting to where it is not worth spending the money, time and effort to go offshore in the western half of the state. I sold my boat because of all the regulations and bag limits. I SCUBA dive the rigs and they are full of red snapper! Open snapper season when amberjack is open. I have a SCUBA story to make my next point. One time about 3-5 years ago I dove some rigs in a Vermillion block and saw countless snapper. As we were leaving a rig a commercial boat moved in. The next week we dived the same set of rigs and ALL of the snapper were gone. Not even any undersized ones were around. We checked several rigs in the same block and it was all the same story. Not even any juvenile snapper were around. It appeared that they killed what they could not keep. It was truly sad. If you are worried about over fishing then tighten the quotas on commercial fishing.
- Question.....Who's regulating the foreign commercial fishery who exploit the resource while the US attempts to do our part to manage it?!!!!
- Quit snapper fishing this year due to abundance of red snapper in state waters. Could barely catch anything else, threw back 40+ red snapper trying to catch a few mangrove snapper. Never use to catch red snapper 5' from surface. Impossible to not catch them now. Ridiculous and expensive for 2 fish.
- Quota should be split equally between all groups. we have just as much a right to fish as someone that does it for a living.
- Raise limit on red snapper
- Raise the limit
- Raise the limit on snapper and length of season.
- Randy, I can only hope that you, Robert, all of LDWF and if someone else were to take Robert's place, with a new governor, can keep up the good work. Your leadership should help get the other Gulf states to join as one group and as one voice. We all know that the gulf and its habitat vary from east to west and needs to be managed differently. Only the states are willing to do accurate studies to know what resources we actually have and can maintain.
- Ray Charles could find red snapper in west delta
- Really need better clarification/agreement between state and Feds where the dividing line between state and Federal waters is...3 mi or 10 nautical miles
- Recognize Louisiana waters as over 9 miles rather the bull crap y'all consider as LA waters!!!

- Recommend removing enforcement authority from the US Coast Guard and leaving it to LWFC. Maybe that would give them more time to protect our borders.
- Recreational anglers are being forced to fish snapper within a small window. We work in order to buy boats, pay for licenses, etc. At least the season should stretch over weekends (notice the plural) and not consecutive calendar days (like August 1-9). We just can't quit work to fish. Have watched commercial fishermen pull their greedy catches in and we've got to throw snapper back. Our entire family and friends have boycotted restaurant red snapper for years and will continue to do so until recreational fishermen are dealt a better hand for fishing in state AND federal waters.
- Recreational anglers should not share a quota with any boat for hire captains.
- Recreational fisherman need more days and bag limit
- Recreational fishermen are being forced to break the law, and dealing with charters are a pain in the [expletive deleted].
- Recreational fishermen get cheated out of fishing, especially when the seas only allow a hand full of time to even go. After huge boat investment it is difficult to watch this HUGE red snapper fishery be mismanaged. The fish stock is the largest we have ever seen it and catching anything else is difficult due to such a dominate fish. They have become a problem while trying to catch anything else and have destroyed other fish species, from what we see first-hand. The management needs to increase limits of red snapper and annual fishing for the benefit of other fish stock, as well. Not to mention the mom and pop shops who lost so much business as we are not buying supplies at their stores. WE ALL lose unless we get responsible management.
- Recreational fishermen have absurdly low limits.
- Recreational fisherman need more days for Red Snapper Please
- Recreational fisherman need to organize and develop political clout like the commercial & charter industries as recreational fishing has a larger economic impact & the ability to control more votes than the commercial sector. our federal government is totally lost and staffed with totally inept retards and needs to be run out of office and preferably shot .
- Recreational fisherman should be able to fish for Red Snapper all year. It cost me more than \$1,000 per two day trip to Venice. I should be able to keep two snapper. All the snapper that are caught in Louisiana, which are sold commercially, make up a small percentage of snapper consumed in the US. Louisiana waters cannot satisfy the nation's consumption on snapper. Louisiana resident sport-fisherman should be given a priority over all other fisherman. We live here, we have our own boats and we are trying to pass the salt-water fishing tradition down to our children. It is so expensive, you can only keep two fish and then there is the short season. This is already ridiculous. Just like redfish, if allowed to, commercial fisherman would fish any species to extinction. As long as someone is willing to pay for the fish.
- Recreational fisherman should have a certain poundage of red snapper to catch and a season that allows them to do so. There is NO SHORTAGE of red snapper that I have seen.
- Recreational fishermen cannot make a dent in the fishery population compared to commercial fishermen. The low bag limits & short seasons have destroyed the appetite for anglers to stay committed to the expense of investment to the sport in general.
- Recreational fishermen should be allowed to catch more and have a longer season.
- Recreational fishermen should be allowed to catch more than 2 red snapper.
- Recreational fishermen should have year round fishing for Red Snapper. It does not impact the amount of fish caught compared to commercial fishing. The most common fish that we end up catching no matter how much we try to avoid it is red snapper. We usually have to turn them loose, but they rarely survive and just end up feeding sharks. It is a huge waste.
- Recreational fishing as it is now with fees, tackle and equipment in general cost more than

someone on a fixed income can afford....if someone on a snapper trip does not pay my share I cannot go.....PERIOD !! Someone should be able to manage our fisheries with everyone in mind and not just LOBBYISTS & COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN ! ! ! !

- Recreational fishing of snapper should be a lot longer
- Recreational fishing season for Red Snapper doesn't allow weekend fishermen much chance to catch red snapper, especially with a two fish limit, and the Louisiana State boundary line should be extended
- Recreational quota needs to be more. We have less flexibility to fish and if the season is short and weather is bad we can't fish. It's not right that the people that can fish everyday have more days than the ones that are limited.
- recreational sector has more economic value to the state. Red snapper should have game fish status and no commercial fishery like redfish
- Recreational snapper fishermen have been forgotten by the FED Govt. Our money is not being spent wisely here. Please make the changes.
- Recreational snapper needs more days for us to fish. Between our jobs and the weather conditions it's hard to find good days to fish.
- Recreations fisherman should have equal access to catch Red Snapper. They by far spend more money in state on fishing that charter captains!!!!!!
- Red snapper are a nuisance fish ! They over populate every oil right out there in the Gulf !
- Red snapper are epidemic. There are so many it is making it hard to catch other species. The sharks are reaching tremendous sizes in the red snapper areas. They are feeding on the snapper and swarming the snapper. It is nothing to have a limit of snapper within 30 minutes. With 5 anglers on our boat we limited out on snapper In 25 minutes. That leaves the rest of the day for other species but avoiding the snapper and sharks makes it almost impossible.
- Red snapper are everywhere. Our season is very short. It's a shame to see how deep caught snapper are released out of season and have to be de-gassed only to see more than half get eaten by sharks. Also, why is it the charter boats have more of a season than we do? I'm a tax payer and wildlife support just as they are. Louisiana has so much structure in the Gulf compared to the others. We can't use a one size fits all approach. Louisiana wild life and fisheries are very capable to manage this and are more up to date on the local fish population. Thanks.
- Red snapper are everywhere. They're the majority of what we catch and have to release.
- RED SNAPPER ARE EXTREMELY PLENIFUL OFF LOUISIANA COASTAL WATERS. I COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND THE TWO FISH LIMIT PER DAY. MY WIFE AND I EAT WHAT WE CATCH , SO WE DO NOT OVERFISH ANY SPECIES. A LOT OF TIME, EFFORT , ENERGY AND MONEY IS PUT INTO FISHING FOR JUST TWO FISH. THE COST FOR GOING OUT FISHING FOR JUST A FEW FISH IS NOT VERY COST EFFECTIVE AND HURTS OTHER INDUSTRIES TIED TO FISHERMENS NEEDS FROM LODGING TO FUEL. THANK YOU FOR THE SURVEY!
- Red Snapper are in NO WAY Endangered!! You have to pick through them every stop to get to other species.
- Red snapper are incredibly plentiful. We should double the limits. Saltwater catfish have become quite invasive, I would be curious to know if they are overpopulated and require some sort of control measure.
- Red snapper are not endangered
- Red snapper are not endangered and should have a higher limit and longer season.
- Red Snapper are over abundant. Such a cost to catch them with 2 fish limit and 9-11 day seasons Weather issues , rough seas etc. many, many, many do not even fish red snapper any more. We prefer 16" limit (as is) and 5 fish limit per person per boat per day over 16". Sometimes overly regulated has an adverse effect such as over abundance. Not good for fish

quality. I can only imagine the revenues lost to tackle shops, food, fuel, bait, ice businesses. Please consider my opinion as an avid fisherman whom loves and respects our Mother Nature. Business (taxes) wise also. Thanks for reading.

- Red snapper are over taking other species in the northern La Gulf...its idiotic what the Feds are doing. Not overlapping differing species seasons is also stupid. Out with the Feds...lets regulate locally with State government.
- Red Snapper are plentiful in the gulf. I am not convinced that the present size and number limits are helpful. greater catches can enhance revenue and participation in well-designed sustainability rules and programs
- Red Snapper are plentiful, we need more fishing days
- Red snapper are so plentiful of the coast of LA that it's hard to target other species around the offshore platforms. Even off the canyons for tile fish and others.
- Red snapper are thick everywhere we've been offshore increase the bag limit
- Red Snapper are under fished
- Red snapper are very plentiful and the current way it is being managed is not working. Charter fishermen should not get more days than recreational fishermen.
- Red snapper as a means to feed the populous hurts the economy of fishing towns. More revenue could be generated by recreational fisherman to the areas if the recreational fisherman were allotted more of the catch share. The current allocations are strangling the economies of fishing towns and hurting the values of boat owners boats in that it isn't as feasible to own an offshore boat when such a fishery is crippled due to poor regulations.
- red snapper eating all other bait fish
- Red Snapper have become so overpopulated it is now difficult to catch any other species in the same vicinity because they are so aggressive.
- Red snapper is being severely mismanaged. I have been fishing for red snapper since 1996. The red snapper are so overly abundant, that it is difficult to land lemon fish since the snapper are swarming the surface. There is a real need to conduct a true scientific study and not guess on snapper counts. Additionally, all states need separate limits. Louisiana has numerous oil rigs and therefore, artificial reef structure. Florida won't allow the rigs due to tourism and has less snapper. The state of Louisiana is doing a fabulous job regulating red fish and trout. I believe that the state will set reasonable limits and if the red snapper population appears to be suffering, will lower the limits! The federal government is seriously inept in this arena and is intent on removing all motors and the carbon footprint from the gulf to appease the environmentalists who strongly supported the current administration.
- Red snapper is most plentiful fish in the ocean. If anything up the length and maximize the bag limit
- Red snapper is not a depleted species, you need to raise the daily rate to at least 10 fish per person.
- Red snapper limit for recreational fishermen is 2. Raise the limit to 4 per person for red snapper in federal waters!
- Red snapper limit is ridiculous. There's more red snapper than any other specie
- Red snapper limits should be managed by the state and limits should be 4 per person. Increase size limit to 18".
- Red snapper numbers have exploded over the last few years... Are there plans on increasing bag limit to 3 or 4 fish per angler?
- Red snapper over populated. Complete faith in LDWF to manage properly
- Red snapper population is greater than ever. The red population is making it hard to fish or specie such as mangroves. Red snapper are getting caught in 30-40 of water close to the surface, so while fishing mangroves plenty of red snapper are being caught and handled. I

would venture to say a fair share of these caught and released fish are not going to survive. In addition I feel the red snapper population is affecting the mangrove and lane snapper populations because they are competing against each other for the same habitat. The lane snapper have all but moved out of east bay and the red snapper have taken over.

- Red snapper regulations for the state have to change by expanding state waters to ten miles off shore. that would be a good start.
- Red snapper seasons are pathetic for recreational fisherman. You have to take vacation to get fishing days in and hope the wind isn't blowing.
- Red snapper should be done like duck harvesting. The commercial guys are getting the bulk of the take and a 2 fish per angler for the recreational fisherman is bull crap.
- Red Snapper within Louisiana seem to be almost a pest. When attempting to target other species, especially bottom, such as grouper, it is difficult to get through. Florida is a different story and should be treated as such.
- Redfish, bass, and speckle trout seem to be overfished
- Reduce complexity of game and fish laws.
- Regulating the number of snapper that can be caught daily by recreational fisherman makes no sense. If red snapper numbers need to be regulated, then it makes more sense to disallow commercial fishing of the species, not the other way around. Government intervention is not the answer.
- Regulation is tricky however it seems that all major stakeholders should have a say in how resources and managed. Too often charter boat captains and commercial fisherman impose short-sighted demands on regulators and recreational fisherman loose in the end. Fishing is one of the "common citizen" activities that is still affordable to most people. I'd like to see an extension of the age limit for young adults to have low cost or no fee license fees and perhaps a +1 fish limit to encourage younger people to get involved in outdoor activities. It will be abused by some but the net positive effect may be worth the abuses.
- Regulations are too confusing as they are now written. It is difficult for the average recreational fisherman to know if he is in state or federal waters. It is difficult to follow the rules if you are not sure what they are.
- Remove all federal control of rec fishing in the GOM
- Remove all fisheries management to the state level.
- Remove Feds from having any control over our gulf. They are clueless and are corrupted by the lobbying that the commercial industry does
- Remove management of all species from the council to the states. The council is a bureaucratic bunch of clowns that know nothing about this fishery!
- Remove the feds from decision making...they have lost credibility with the fishing public.
- Resource management should be done locally. It makes sense for a local agency to manage its own resources rather than a federal council who handles all sorts of management from all over. It also provides job and internship opportunities for those who live in the area looking for ecosystem related work.
- Ridiculous is what the current situation with red snapper is. I have fished the gulf for years and have never seems such a mess. There is no issue with the population what has happened is a raping of the recreational fisherman and all the people who benefit from the commerce they produce
- Ridiculous limits and short seasons prevent me from fishing snapper nearly every year. Not to mention taking amberjack out of season during the snapper season makes justifying the expense an issue.
- Rig fish. So thick with Snapper can hardly get a line down.
- Season for snapper is to short when weather and work prohibits going in the 10 day period.

This year I only made it out 3 times in the 10 day's

- Season is too short for recreational anglers.
- Season is too short for the amount of fish. Limit is caught in 10 minutes. Do not have amberjack and snapper on different seasons
- Season needs to be longer. 10 days is a joke. There are plenty enough red snapper.
- Season too short in federal waters and if seas are rough, recreational fishing days are few. I'm offshore frequently for work and watching rigs being pulled out at a fast pace. Habitat is shrinking.
- Seasons should be open all week, not just weekends!
- sector separation is a top priority for charter boats in the red snapper fishery. If regional management is to be supported by the charters boats sector separation must stay in place, with guarantees that reallocation will not happen with the private boat sector.
- Seems like more red snapper are killed by people culling to get the 2 biggest since the limit is so low. That doesn't seem to me like it's helping anything.
- Seems to have plenty snapper, recreational season needs to stay open longer with more bag limit
- Seems to me the charter captains should have some strong input on the snapper seasons and limits. They are the ones who are out there day in and day out.
- Since the permit is free would like to see a life time permit. once and done.....
- Separation of the recreational sector into charter and private and giving away the red snapper resource for profit is a disaster! Wrest control from Council, LA Gulf waters are diff than Florida, we can manage our fisheries better.
- sharks seen more than plentiful offshore
- Short seasons and small limits make it tough to justify a non-resident making a trip to LA. BUT...sustainable management of the resource is the most important thing. My opinion....states tend to cow tow too much to "commercial" interests (and forget the sport fishermen in this case), thus, I feel some federal oversight/involvement is warranted (i.e. Fed thinking isn't biased from License Sales where states tend to be more so). But, Feds usually tend to offer a "one size fits all" management approach. Problem with this is, what is a logical red snapper strategy for FL may not be wise use in LA. So, state involvement too makes sense. Take care of sport fishermen FIRST!
- Simplify regulations and management
- Since bag limits are so small now on red snapper amber jack and grouper. It would be nice if seasons would overlap. So if one person wanted to take Thor boat out they could at least bring 4 or 5 fish home instead of two.
- Since fish populations vary from locale to locale, states can more accurately manage the waters off of their own coast. Over the past few years, the federal agency has done harm to many species within the Louisiana fishery by overprotecting 1 species and letting it overpopulate.
- Since the Feds screwed up Snapper season & limits I quit Snapper fishing, only inshore fish now.
- Since the topic of snapper is brought up, the state limit being shut down seems to be odd. There are so many snapper at all depths it seems, fish are being released to their demise. I am fully supportive of preserving the species and continuing the habitat. I have two boys and a little girl who also enjoy spending time on the water and I definitely want it to still be around for them. I find the red snapper to be almost a nuisance when you have to throw them back when they are caught. State agencies are the only way to accurately monitor this fishery
- Size and bag limit should be size only and have a total inches caught to reduce throwing back dead fish.

- Size creel and season need to be the same for all groups no matter how this ends up. Differences in the limits and seasons for federal charters, rec's, and commercial will create doubt in the system by all. If the data says we have fish then let us catch them, if there's no fish then shut it all down for all groups. Plain and simple. Also, enforcement needs to be greater in this area to prevent poaching which is the biggest detriment to this species in my opinion.
- size limits: half die when pulled up - even with bladder measures being taken. Why not just say 2 pp no matter the size. Done. Get caught throwing one back to get a larger one, license suspended (just like driving).
- Slot Limit to protect breeding stock and mature fish. Educate reef fisherman as to how reef fishes such as Red Snapper congregate on rig structure and are not homogeneously spread across the gulf and sea floor... Understanding that the population is centered around structure, and clustered as opposed to evenly dispersed may help people understand why the limits are relatively strict. Snapper harvest is relatively easy for recreational fishermen education on species reproduction (age/ size at maturity fecundity with size etc..) or restrictions to prevent over harvesting of brood stock is in my opinion essential for managing the resource. The offshore community would benefit from being better informed as to the rationale behind species management. Starting with captains and charter guides I believe we can create a more informed public when it comes to fisheries management. Build a foundation of understanding in terms of how the resource functions and how we need to manage it sustainably will make passing decisions easier. Look at lobster harvest in the Northeast, fishermen have seen the benefit of careful and constant management and support it, largely policing themselves. Waterfowl management needs this more desperately than red snapper but in all honesty the general public in Louisiana is so poorly educated on ecology and fish/game management I would be hesitant to give them/us any more power than to comment until comprehension for the subjects involved improves dramatically.
- Snapper are so abundant as to be a nuisance
- Snapper are very plentiful need to increase limit to at least 3
- Snapper daily bag limits need to be raised.
- Snapper fishing is our favorite type of fishing. While we only keep the limit of two per federal guidelines, the amount of catch and release of red snapper is uncountable. The shortened season and limit of two is downright ludicrous. Hopefully the LDWF will win this fight. I'm 100% in favor of the state being in authority.
- Snapper have recovered of the LA coast and are very plentiful. By any definition, they are neither over-fished nor "being over-fished" here. Same story for AJs.
- Snapper is abundant
- Snapper limits have to be RAISED.
- Snapper management must move to state control in order to reign in the current mismanagement by NOAA
- Snapper need to be under state control. Each state is more aware and can better manage the resources.
- snapper population is booming
- Snapper refs are way off base
- Snapper season and limits must be changed. We kill and throw back more snapper during "closed season while fishing for other species. At times I've seen 4-5 boats at same rig fishing for Grouper and behind the boats a drift line of dead snapper due to snapper being caught and have to be thrown back since season closed.
- snapper season is not open long enough
- Snapper season is too short. Limits are too low

- Snapper season needs to be longer for rec guys. 10 days is too short with work and weather
- Snapper season needs to be looked at as they are thriving.
- snappers are thick on the oil rigs let us keep some at 250/300 feet their blather is thru their mouth anyways we enjoy them or the sharks do either way they die if a captain spends 10,000 to 12,000 to have his people fish them come on here's our permit that's good for three weeks
- So far the federal govt has done a terrible job managing the red snapper fishery They have taken almost all the incentive to go fish for them by the small private angler it's not worth the money to go and keep only two fish when I can only go once or twice at best during this ridiculously short open season. Allowing longer seasons to charter boats is very unfair to those of us who don't use them because of the high cost. I was only able to go once during the 10 day season in 2015 and caught my two red snappers. However, I imagine the govt assumed I went every day and caught 2 per day. This puts their catch quota off by a factor of 10. Better to give us a much longer season and a tag system like deer
- Someone with some kind of sense needs to take this Red Snapper season over. This is ridiculous and not fair to the sport fisherman by no means, however pretty much par for the course with the government we have these days running this state and country it is pathetic.
- Something must be done with red snapper management. I have personally seen a health increase of red snapper since Katrina. To a point of becoming a nuisance fish. I have limited out on snapper every trip in minutes "except 2trips because of weather" I have also noticed a increase in size! Red snapper are plentiful!!!
- Something must be done. All the money spent to fish and have feds restrict fishing to 10 days, then you can't help but catch red snapper while fishing for other fish species.
- something needs to be done
- Something needs to be done about management of red snapper, amberjack, and grouper. I think giving us 1 weekend for Red Snapper is ridiculous, along with the timing of AJ and grouper season not being in correlation with snapper season. Our federal government is incompetent, and the management of red snapper is a PRIME example
- Something needs to change! Red snapper are feeding on the surface and we can't get our baits to other species. Off the coast of Louisiana we have NO shortage of red snapper. Also state waters need to be set at a certain depth not miles, coast line changes to much where if I'm fishing in 100 foot of water and I'm boarded I can prove the depth with my depth finder.
- Something needs to happen! state says red snapper can be caught 3 leagues out federal government says only 3 miles and for 10 days, but it is the fisherman that assume all risk. It's the fishermen that are caught in the middle!
- Splitting the quota of a natural resource between commercial fisherman and recreational fisherman is not right. The recreational fisherman should have as much ability to catch fish as any commercial fisherman. Allow the coastal states to manage their particular resource.
- Sport fishing should have the same weigh in settings seasons and bag limits as the commercial fishery
- Sports need more days rough seas loss days of fishing to short a season thank you
- Spread the season among weekends, not weekdays. Bad weather can keep boats at port and the days are lost. Weekends spreads the possibility that boats can get offshore and more people will have access to the resource.
- State (local) government has done a wonderful job of managing inshore fisheries. I support the same for managing the offshore resources as well.
- State agencies are better equipped to quickly analyze current data to make informed decisions.
- State agencies should control state waters.
- State agencies should have more accurate data as for as fish populations. The gulf fish

populations are dependent on where in the gulf a survey of fish is completed. The fish population off of the coast of TX has very little effect on the fish population off of Florida.

- State agency management of a species that exists largely in federal waters is [expletive deleted].
- State and local authorities should have more say in the management of their own species.
- State charter captains are hired captains and fish as many days as "weatherly" possible. Shouldn't their take be under the commercial quota??
- State control is better than Federal
- State Control of fisheries!!
- STATE CONTROL over species off its coast!!!!!! STATE stock assessments and study of species because OBVIOUSLY the federal data is WRONG. It's the EASIEST fish in the gulf to study and assess REAL numbers on and set quotas and fishing days in line with the data.
- State control should be implemented due to the diversity (i.e., structure/habitat, ease of travel to habitat, fish counts, etc.) of each area.
- State enforcement agents should be able to enforce regulations in both state and federal waters.
- STATE HAS ALREADY SHOWN THEY ARE MORE RESPONSIVE TO REC ANGLERS AS WELL AS BEING RESPONSIBLE UNDER SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS
- State has done a better job managing fisheries than feds-It's time to acknowledge that and move forward
- State issue State Management
- State law makers need to make state laws
- State level for all management
- State managed until a certain depth maybe 25 fathoms so all anglers in the state can enjoy the resources not just those on the extreme east side of the state
- State Management is imperative
- State management will always be better than federal. Conditions not the same throughout entire gulf. Should be specific to each state.
- State management would benefit the state and the anglers! Federal management is out of touch with the current rec quotas!
- State management!
- State must receive additional financial support and resources to properly manage. Well educated biologist necessary Enforcement of regulations.. a must
- State needs to take care of limits
- State negotiators have to suck it up and realize that the Feds have the last say.....and ultimate authority. State has acted provocative and recreational fishermen have lost days and fish. JL
- State of Louisiana should manage all its waters to 9 mile limits. Fed's only from 9 miles out!!!!
- State regulations are better for residents.
- State regulations. Should be check out station at all public boat launch just like management areas for hunting
- State should be able to manage their own fisheries but they also need to take into account the possibility of overfishing. They would also need to take into account that the federally permitted charter boats depend on red snapper to help make their living. I used to deck hand on one of these boats and know how hard it was to tell customers we had to throw back their red snapper because they were not in season. It was especially rough when amberjack and other species were hard to catch and the snapper were everywhere. The federally permitted boats should be able to have their own quota so that they can use the red snapper to keep customers coming back. It helps keep their business alive.

- State should control federal also
- State should control its own waters.
- State should manage all waters
- State waters need to be extended for Louisiana like Florida or Alabama
- State waters should extend 7 miles
- State wild life and fisheries should manage both state waters and federal water fishes to have a better understanding of the amounts in each state respectively. If this cannot be accomplished then the gulf can be split into sections and managed respectively by those states. For example Texas waters and Louisiana waters would be managed by those states. Mississippi and Alabama would manage theirs and so on. Federal management should not be enacted anymore. The states have proven to be better managers of their own respective catches. i.e., La Creel program.
- States are almost always better at addressing issues than the Feds are.
- States are better suited for management of its own resources in every instance. the less our federal government is involved is always better. Our La Dept Of Wildlife and Fisheries are science based and not political as is the fed agencies. our LDWF are extremely competent with a strong track record for managing our, Louisiana's, resources. Thanks!
- States can more closely monitor and manage local waters
- States do it better!
- States have a better sense of what the fisheries need than the feds
- States have an intimate knowledge and relationship with their people and resources when compared to the Federal government. Thus, states should be responsible for managing resources and constituents within and offshore from state lands.
- States know more and we have the personnel to manage better.
- States laws should prevail. It's in the constitution of the Us
- States more in touch
- States need to have the ability to manage a natural resource like red snapper. It is clear that the commercial fisherman get an unfair proportion of the red snapper catch in the Gulf of Mexico.
- States need to regulate its own fisheries
- States represent private angles and we want to be practical so that species don't get overfished. Industry destroys more fish than we do and they don't care. We care.
- States should be in control not the federal level.
- States should control all aspects, I do not agree with the federal control as the limits are too restrictive and seem unrealistic.
- States should have authority and meetings should be held between the states.
- States should have power over all concerns for fishery management
- States should have total authority over state waters.
- States should manage all aspects of wildlife & fisheries out to 200 nautical miles seaward.
- States should manage all fishing in the gulf of Mexico
- States should manage regionally. We have more snapper and less fishing pressure in the central part of the state. It works for deer hunting, it should work for fishing. We have to run 40 miles out to start fishing snapper out of Cypremort Point. That's why we have very few charter boats working this area. There is so many snapper out here, we can't catch anything else. I'm catching snapper trolling stretch 30's for wahoo.
- states should take care of their own surrounding areas, they know best of what's going on with the wildlife.
- STATES UNDERSTAND MUCH BETTER---HOW TO MANAGE OUR

RESOURCES...KEEP FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OUT OF STATE BUSINESS ...

- States, in my opinion should dictate how many of what species shall be taken, only with the proper WLF D surveys conducted each year to determine whether or not the population is healthy or not. And must provide the findings to the public.
- States-or any council- need better info on harvest numbers. Check points at major entries or at least an electronic way for boats to submit data would help. In past years fishing offshore 10-15 times/year, we were never checked or submitted count info on our take. Thousands of trips/year are the same way. Bad or very incomplete data gives bad rules based on faulty numbers.
- Status Quo please the NOAA, NMFS and Gulf Council have worked as professionals to rebuild the fishery along with sports and commercial fisherman alike with great success. No reason to change a working system especially when commercial quota is enforced by IFQ logs , VMS, and the quota has never gone over the allowable catch. Capt. [Name withheld]
- Stay the same
- Stop detonating oil platforms and killing millions of snapper and stop the millions of pounds of juvenile snapper killed as by catch
- Stop removing abandoned rigs and destroying valuable reef fish habitat
- Stop taking the joy of fishing from recreational fisherman, and only allowing charter and commercial to catch fish!!!! I was brought up enjoying fishing in Louisiana. I LOVE it. I would like my children to have the same opportunity as I did growing up. No it's almost pointless to go. You can't catch and/or keep enough to justify the trip. We have always followed the rules and I teach my children to as well. The good are getting punished for the bad. Regulating bodies need to count fish populations around platforms, and take these numbers into consideration. Also, stop taking platforms/other structures out of the Gulf you are ruining ecosystems, not saving them!
- Stop the madness, we can't get past the red snappers, they are so thick that they are impossible to avoid
- Strongly feel that all recreational anglers should be treated the same as far as limits and days of season. I fail to see the difference between me being on a charter boat or my private vessel. Also hope federal biologists are including structure such as oil rigs and other structure in their fish surveys
- Strongly support fair State management for all based on scientific facts collected and applicable to our area
- strongly support state management of all gulf
- Strongly support the state push for state managed fisheries
- Suggest reclassifying and moving charter boats and head boats into the "Commercial" quota.
- Suggest three red snapper year round in state waters.
- Support longer and more flexible season schedule
- Support regional management for all waters including the EZ
- Support State management of gulf fisheries versus Feds.
- Sure hope this passes as NOAA has our fishing all screwed up. Makes no sense the way it is being done.
- Sure would like to see it managed better. What about the by-catch the shrimpers destroy each year.
- Take all control away from the Feds. Also we need to remove ALL fish council members with ANY affiliation to the wholesale/retail fish market. We have seen the damage politicians can do with a self- imposed agenda.
- Take authority away from feds, you can't drop a line in without catching a red snapper.
- Take care of our resources

- Take the federal government out of Louisiana ' fisheries
- Take the management from the over-reaching federal bureaucrats. Everyone should have equal opportunity regardless of being a charter or not. The private recreational anglers invest a lot of money to be denied equal access to the same resources
- Tell Crabtree to go [expletive deleted] himself.
- Tell the feds to go pound sand! There are so many red snapper out there you can't get through them when dropping down...seems to be all you catch. You end up hurting a bunch of fish with air bladder expanding...not sure of survival rate after venting them but can't be very high. Seems like the regs good be changed to keep first 5 fish or something...maybe aggregate snapper and/or grouper no matter what size.
- Thank you
- Thank You
- Thank you for asking my opinion
- Thank you for considering myself in this survey.
- Thank you for considering the voice of the "weekend " fisher.
- Thanks
- thanks
- Thanks
- Thanks
- Thanks for asking my views. I think the states should individually manage, with collaboration via GOM state data and policy sharing - non binding.
- Thanks for asking. I believe seasons and quotas that exist now are not in line with the amount of Red Snapper available in the Gulf.
- THANKS FOR AT LEAST ASKING OUR OPINION
- Thanks for making snapper fishing available
- Thanks for survey
- Thanks for taking the time to consider these changes.
- Thanks for the fishing. I had a great time
- Thanks for the survey hope it helps
- Thanks for the updates and remarks.
- Thanks for watching out for the fish!
- thanks for your interest
- Thanks I support the state control of their resources
- Thanks to LDAF for extending Red Snapper season in State waters. Hope we can get it legal out to 9 miles.
- The 10 day snapper season for 2015 was very unfair to the recreational fisherman. The seasons and catch allotments need to be reworked.
- The amount and sizes of snapper in deeper waters in the gulf shelf is astounding. They have recovered well and it is time to give the states more control of the fishing habits in their waters.
- The amount of red snapper off the Louisiana coast is incredible. So much that they have encroached on mangrove snapper fisheries. The amount of red snapper available to recreational fishermen should be at a minimum of three. Even this one fish increase would make fishing trips much more worth while
- The amount of red snapper, and how easy it is to catch them is ridiculous
- The amount of snapper in the gulf sure doesn't show sign that they are being over fished. I have been catching and releasing a lot of nice fish the past couple weeks

- The authority to regulate commercial fisheries should at the very least be shared between state and federal as well. Distributing authority to states individually is a question of habitat available in local areas, which is just as relevant to commercial fishing. To my knowledge, the commercial fishing seasons for snapper and amberjack are more lax than the recreational but they are responsible for the grand majority of the pressure on the stocks. The economic value of commercial fishing on these species should be highly scrutinized versus the tourism value for recreational fishing.
- The bag limit of two red snapper is good but the 9 day season is way too short.
- The bag limit on red snapper needs to be more
- The best agency is the one that truthfully can maintain good control of the Red Snapper population. I love fishing and I teach my children how to be a responsible fisherman so we can pass on the tradition. Conserving fish population will aloud other to do the same on the future. It's for the reason we need to ensure we make a responsible decision on who will manage the accountability of the Red Snapper. [Name withheld]
- The boats that aren't large enough to head out 50 miles are limited to species such as red snapper and amberjack so the state normally lets the season go a bit longer so I support the state holding fish rights
- The change to the state managing these fisheries is critical to sustain the continued ability for charter operators, especially those who have federal permits to, to state in business.
- The charter and commercial boats are getting looser rules due to more lobbying than the recreational sector. The charter boats are the ones that heavily pressure the fish because they are on the water almost daily. The law should restrict them more than the recreational sector. A recreational guy like may fish once a month. Make it a fair split. I don't believe it is done that way now. Give me 100 tags and a commercial guy 100 tags.
- The Charter boat captains are getting treated like a privileged class
- The closer to home you rule, the closer you follow the spirit of our US Constitution.
- The commercial fishermen are receiving a disproportionate share of the annual red snapper harvest limit at the expense of the recreational fishermen.
- The commercial fishing quota should be reduced, and the private angler quota should be increased.
- The commercial harvest of red snapper needs to be looked at closely. The amount of fish they are catching in itself is ridiculous. But the amount of fish they are killing and throwing back dead because a particular fish doesn't fit their buyers' needs is criminal. I've sat there and watched a commercial boat just decimate the population at a reef/rig... and all I get is 2. That's ridiculous.
- The corruptive and stacked Council has to go. A few are making millions of dollars by being Abe to manipulate the quota and barter or sale part of their quota at the expense of rec fishermen.
- The Council has underutilized the ARS fishery for years due to its failure to count snapper at artificial rigs and reefs in its census. Further underutilization in Louisiana has been caused by lumping LA (where fish populations are high and effort is low) in with FLA (which has a lot of pressure and little structure for ARS). It doesn't take a fisheries biologist to see that the main place LA recreational and charter boats catch ARS is at these structures. And according to NMFS, these snappers do not even exist. Finally, something has to be done about the ridiculous by-catch mortality caused by deep water shrimping. Take a trip out to West Delta and have a look at all the juvenile finfish that get shoveled overboard just for the sake of some ruby red shrimp.
- The Council is transparently pro-commercial, and the commercials have Roy Crabtree in their back pocket. Their conduct with regards to this issue is been indiscriminate and egregious.

- The council is unable to effectively manage by state. As a scuba diver who has dived Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana waters, I have personally seen the tremendous differences in fish numbers. Louisiana by far has better numbers and the gulf council penalizes Louisiana unjustly. States must be given the management authority by 2016.
- the council needs to look at the possibility of taking the restriction off of the triggerfish
- The council should include recreational reps as well as Charter boat reps
- The council's demonstrated inability to manage the resource properly indicates that changes must occur. In my few outings I have caught red snapper even though I was targeting other species. It is evident that none of the Council members have fished Louisiana waters. Put management of this resource where it belongs at the State level.
- The current system is ridiculous.
- The current amount of Red Snapper fishing days we are allowed in LA is crazy and really needs to be changed. There are plenty of Snapper in the Gulf.
- The current federal regulations have nothing to do with science. This is all political. We as a State have not voted right and now we are penalized. Our congressional delegation is out of the loop and has no clue.
- The current guidelines pertaining to red snapper season in state waters vs federal is confusing. I wish it were clearer. Transferring control to the state would do so.
- The current management plan is a joke! The state is losing so much money by allowing this to continue being run by the Feds!!
- The current management situation is ridiculous. The commercials are raping the snapper fishery.
- The current red snapper regulating agency is a complete joke.
- The current red snapper season is far too short for the recreational non-chartered fisherman. Louisiana has an abundance of this species and a longer season/slightly increased limit would not be detrimental to this population.
- The current regulations are too confusing, between federal and state. We need one and one only.
- The current regulations on red snapper in federal waters are absolutely ridiculous. We had 9 days I was able to fish 2. There are so many snapper my crew was at the limit in 10 min. They continued to catch and release, however the success of reviving fish is poor and 90 percent of the fish die and that is worse than letting rec. anglers take a few more. the states must be able to control the seasons and limits in fed waters off their state
- The current rules it is not worth me fishing reds or making offshore trips.
- The current seasons do not accurately reflect the health of the snapper population in the gulf
- The current state of "management" is obviously so political and lopsided toward commercial that it defies any reasonable suggestion to improve it.
- The current system has proven that they cannot manage the waters properly. Red Snapper are overrun in the waters that I fish. The season and limits are an example of poor data, poor management, and not listening to the anglers whether private or charter.
- The current system is broken and needs to be changed.
- The current system is broken. If a species is deemed to be overfished , the. Why NOT stop ALL harvest until it recovers. Providing for long or continuous commercial harvest and very short recreational seasons is plainly.... discrimination. There is a local and organic food movement supported by the federal government and the First Lady specifically. Sportsmen get the same about the ability to find and harvest fish and game that are not commercially processed.
- The current window for red snapper in federal waters is too short. In fact the weather was bad and we didn't go during the open season. There are so many red snapper that they are diminishing species for other fish. It's ridiculous that charter boats can get to fish many more

days.

- The days allowed should be on weekends for recreational fishermen so they could fish without taking off from work. I think the number of snapper should go up but keep the first fish you catch. Too many fish are dieting (dying?) when they are released and I see people keep fishing to get bigger fish because you can only keep two.
- The days I went fishing we were targeting red snapper, but after we caught our limit of reds (it happened fast) we couldn't put bait in the water to catch anything else, they were so many reds everywhere we tried.
- The Federal agencies and Council have not done a good job of managing the Gulf of Mexico. They should get out of that business.
- The federal gov does a poor job of managing our red snapper
- the federal government has not successfully managed any wildlife or industry associated with fishing or hunting ever.
- The federal government doesn't know how to manage our local resources.
- The federal government has no business managing local (reef) fish quotas. It was always intended that issues like this fall under state jurisdiction since the birth of our nation. Migratory species are another issue.
- The federal government has no idea how to manage Louisiana snapper.
- The federal government has no idea of how many red snapper Louisiana actually has.
- The federal government has proven that they are unable or unwilling to consider the local ramifications of federal fishing restrictions, so I would support taking all authority and moving it to the state level.
- The federal government is incompetent in every endeavor and anything to minimize my exposure to their ineptness is welcomed!!
- The federal government needs to spend more time and money dealing with bigger problems than this
- The Federal Government should not have the authority to tell states how to manage our resources.
- The Federal management of Red Snapper has turned into a political conundrum of epic proportions. The La authorities are much more familiar with the particularities of the fishery than the one size fits all Federal approach. Having state management rather than Federal management will improve the resource and the quality of life for the state residents.
- The federal management system is broken and is based on bad science. The states need to be allowed to manage the red snapper fishery.
- The federal oversight system is so flawed that there is no reason to continue to allow it. Preventing counts of snapper on man-made structure in the GOM, when that is the primary habitat, is the epitome of placing the process as the priority as opposed to the correct answer.
- The federal red snapper season is a joke. Most days during the season recreational anglers can't even get to snapper around southwest Louisiana due to wind and distance needed to locate them
- The federal red snapper seasons are a joke right now. When fishing the rigs from 8-60 miles out, we can't get away from the red snapper. I do not understand how someone with any fishing knowledge can say red snapper are anywhere close to becoming endangered. They are a nuisance when targeting other rig fish. I hope the state can take control and work with the recreational fisherman to create better red snapper seasons.
- The Federal Season for recreational fishermen for Snapper is too short.
- the federal snapper season is a joke. If they are going to give us so few days, it ought to be weekends only
- The federal snapper season is a joke. The majority of the days in the "season" are during the week when the average Joe can't go fish. It is absolutely ridiculous the recreational fisherman

has one full weekend to go catch 2 fish. Maybe the federal government should study how many species of life they kill at one time when they use explosives to demolish a oil platform and make "reefs".

- The federal management system is terrible for recreational fishermen. The limits and seasons make it nearly impossible to recreationally fish for red snapper
- The Feds are clueless regarding red snapper population and health. I sold my offshore boat because of their ridiculous limits and season. Please takeover.
- The Feds are communist
- The Feds are inept as usual. Let the people, the state govern.
- The Feds are retarded.
- The Feds are [expletive deleted] us on the Snapper season!
- The Feds as usual are clueless and subject to politics from the current administration and do not listen to reason. I also think commercial fishing is not regulated enough and have seen them waste or overfish our resources. I am very much in favor of the changes but good luck in getting them passed.
- The feds can't do the job as well as the states can.
- The feds can't manage anything. State agencies not far behind but have locals in there face to discuss issues
- THE FEDS DO NOT HAVE A CLUE! THE AMOUNT OF RED SNAPPER AND THE FISHING LIMITS/SEASONS DO NOT MATCH. THE STOCKS HAVE REBUILT AND THEY ARE NOT TAKING PROPER ACTION. POLITICS PERIOD...
- The Feds do not have a real picture of how many fish are in the gulf they are way behind in their research and counts on the actual number of fish that are out there.
- The Feds do not have the resources or the jurisdiction to manage off shore fishing regs for noncommercial fishing. Let the Feds focus strictly on commercial fishing which has Federal Department of Agricultural oversight.
- The Feds don't have a clue and Crabtree has demonstrated that more than once.
- The Feds don't know how to manage the finances of this country. I surely don't want them managing my ability to catch fish.
- The Feds handling of the Red Snapper situation is a joke. Only true pelagic species should be regulated by the Feds. If the Feds were truly interested in conservation they would stop the removal of oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico.
- The feds have done nothing but screwed up the recreational fisheries
- The feds have had their opportunity and proven countless times to be ill-suited and ill-equipped to manage a highly regional and zonal issue. One size does not fit all here, but they continue to attempt to force such a solution. States have stronger understandings of the particular issues.
- The Feds have it all wrong. Snapper populations off the Louisiana coast are healthy and abundant. Feds use faulty information and fear mongering. The "Council" and Federal Government's "scientists" are laughable, overpaid, and under qualified to make decisions on the fisheries off the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, etc.
- The Feds have mismanaged snapper so bad that they're like roaches when you tie up on a rig. How many fish get killed because they're throwbacks and can't make it back down because they're released improperly? Raise the limits because many people throw back 6 fish to make the most of a 2 fish limit with bigger fish. Further, I've had to throw back snapper as by-catch when targeting other species because I accidentally caught a limit not even snapper fishing
- The feds have really [expletive deleted] the pooch
- The Feds have screwed this up from the get go!! To worried about [expletive deleted]!!
- The Feds keep saying there is a snapper problem in the gulf. In the last two years I have

watched the government pull all rigs from the gulf removing valuable habitat. We have caught more snapper in the last two years than ever before. These fish have all been in excess of 10 pounds and have to all be thrown back. There is no snapper problem in Texas or Louisiana. There is only a government regulation problem!

- The feds need to back off our state marine resources period
- The Feds need to get out of the no- migratory fishing regulation.
- The Feds seem clueless on red snapper management. Use qualified state personnel
- The feds should back off!
- The first change should be to make the federal water season on weekends only. Second, Amberjack is still closed during the federal snapper week when the charter fisherman get their own red snapper season this year.
- The fish are out there, I would say 50% of the ones we catch get eaten by shark or other fish when we return them to the water
- The fishery is out of balance. Can't catch any other fish because there's so many red snapper. When I mangrove snapper fish I catch red snapper. This hasn't been a problem for me except for the last 2 yrs. the red snapper fishery is healthy and I think regulation is necessary but not like the Feds do. I have been asked about my catch over half the fishing trips from a state biologist but never once from a federal agency. Doesn't appear to me they Feds really care about the fishery.
- The Gulf Council has consistently shown it's incompetence when it comes to managing the red snapper fisheries, among others... When there's a season of less than a week and 2 fish per day, and one can't catch ANY other species of fish because the red snapper are so rabid, something's wrong... Their data gathering capabilities are FAR inferior to the state's, and they have shown (at least, from my perspective) to play "politics as usual" with the red snapper quotas, basing decisions more on politics than science. I understand that this is likely a congressional issue, as a lot of the problems stem from problems in the Magnuson Stevens act and that nothing will likely change until it gets amended, but it doesn't change the incompetency and political nature of the Council's decision making. They repeatedly dismiss the data gathered on the state level, even though it's gathered by people who ACTUALLY live here and spend time in these waters. I hope to see as much regulatory authority as possible move from the Feds to the State (both applicable in fishery management and MANY, MANY other areas of government as well)...
- The gulf council has shown a long history of mismanaging fish species in the Gulf of Mexico. As a scuba diver/ spear fisherman I see first-hand the fish on a given location. The data they use is terribly flawed based off of my observations. The red snapper stocks are healthier than I have ever seen right now. Snapper are over populated on most wrecks and reefs to the point they are taking them over and eliminating other species from the site. The state of La has shown a better ability to manage these fish the last couple of years in my opinion.
- The Gulf Council is controlled by a bunch of fish hugging idiots and certainly do not have my/or the states' best interest in mind when making decision.
- The Gulf Council still needs some impute in case the state gets too political in their decisions. The commercial and Recreational fisheries are not the same and should not be managed the same. The target species are different. Let's use our brains that god gave us.
- The Gulf has a very healthy and abundant red snapper population! The studies n projected numbers recently projected for the red snapper population seems significantly lower than the actual red snapper population in the Gulf of Mexico!! The agencies that lowered the number of recreational fisheries limit to just two fish a person is simply ridiculous!! The season length and limit for red snapper are both ridiculous for the size of the red snapper population in the Gulf of Mexico! If they want to shorten the season or lower the limits on anyone it should be on the commercial fisheries and not the recreational fishermen because the number of fish actually

being taken out of the gulf by recreational fishermen is drastically lower than commercial fishermen!! It is ludicrous to think that recreational fishermen are doing more damage than commercial fisheries in lowering the red snapper population! So if anyone should have their season shortened our limit lowered it should be commercial fishermen and not recreational fishermen or charter boats! It's ok if restaurants don't have red snapper on the menu! There are plenty of different species of fish that are readily available and not supposedly over-fished or endangered of being over-fished in the Gulf of Mexico and other locals!! So in summation the season and limit per person for recreational fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico should both be increased and the season and limit of red snapper for commercial fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico should be shortened and decreased!! The amount of money (in gas/equipment) it takes for recreational fishermen to go out and catch red snapper is extremely high especially for the limit to be just 2 fish per person! This is insanity in the grand scheme of things!!! So have whoever do another population estimate and see that there is indeed a healthy and thriving red snapper population in the Gulf of Mexico and it is ok to increase both the season and limit for recreational fishermen and charter captains/boats alike!! If this is done then the limit and season for commercial fishermen should be decreased or unchanged just not increased or lengthened!!

- The Gulf is a large body of water and to try to manage it as a whole is not good but each state has a better handle on their own resource to adjust management accordingly
- The Gulf is full of red snapper. It is hard to catch other species due to so many red snapper. Also a lot of red snapper die during the catch that we are not able to keep.
- The Gulf, out of Cypremort Point and Grand Isle areas, is too populated with Snapper now. Stop making this a political issue and consider regions separately as each has its own eco system. If we continue to under fish this area it will negatively affect the species. The recreational anglers just don't make that much difference. There just aren't that many of them. Only 9 days and 2 fish per angler is ridiculous. This will and is having an effect on Louisiana's economy and there are too many snapper in this area.
- The habitat for snapper is different from state to state. In Louisiana, oil platforms are a snapper Mecca and they thrive. Ask anyone who tried to catch mangrove snapper, you catch 5:1 Red snapper [even at the shallow (50ft) platforms].
- The whole thing is [expletive deleted] up. Charter boats are commercial not recreational.
- The imaginary line that separates state and federal waters needs to be more defined
- The individual states should have complete control and the council should have no authority. The council has created all the existing problems
- The key is having the right data. There should be smart individuals in each group making decisions. I believe that the states have more effective ways to implement actual catch measurements but they may or may not have the best "in the water" population measurement resources. I would also be in favor of increasing the fishing license fees to create better data collection methods for more informed decisions.
- The La Fish and Wildlife has done an excellent job of data collection. Thank you for your dedication to your job!
- The last trip off shore was with guide had known trouble limiting out red snapper. Caught on every drop had to move on to another species. There so many red snapper out there it is a shame a man spends that kind of money on boat and gear to go out and catch 2 and that's it boys we are done.
- The LDWF has done a good job managing inside species
- The LDWF is horrible about informing the public about what is in season and what is not in season.
- The limit for Red Snapper is far too low. The Red Snapper season is far too short. Just go out there and fish any time of the year and you will see there is an abundance of snapper. You need to look into regulating crabs. The commercial crabbers are depleting the waters.

- The limit for residential anglers is atrocious. Who can afford to go offshore fishing to keep 2 [expletive deleted] fish? We are not affecting the red snapper population at all. The limit should be at least 5.
- the limit needs to be higher. Private fishermen aren't affecting the population of snapper. Boats in Japan and China are affecting it.
- The limit needs to be raised. Red snapper are becoming a nuisance. The money spent to make a trip for only 2 fish per person is ridiculous. It also is too confusing keeping up with different dates and areas allowed to fish with two agencies. Make the rules easy by having only one agency governing.
- The limit on red snapper and other species should go up.
- The limit should be more than two.
- The limit should be raised. The Red snapper are so plentiful it's hard not to catch them. I still dive offshore and see thousands of snapper on my dives.
- The limited snapper season and limits have caused me to fish less. State management of fisheries would result in more realistic counts/seasons/limits.
- The limits on red snapper set for recreational anglers are absurd.
- The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does an excellent job of managing ALL of the state resources under their jurisdiction, not just fisheries.
- The LWFC has demonstrated its ability to successfully manage a threatened species, by the incredible turnaround of the Louisiana alligator. Just a few decades ago, we were told that alligator was an endangered species. Now, with the planning, management, and enforcement resources of the LWFC, the alligator is found in abundance in all parts of the state. We also have a viable industry in farm raising commercial alligators for meat and hide. Louisiana commercial fisherman benefit from a liberal harvest of wild alligator, which is closely monitored by the LWFC. Surely, these same people (LWFC) could be trusted to manage a "FISH" that is only found off the coast of south Louisiana (and other gulf states), only accessible by boat, and must be landed on Louisiana soil to be consumed. I believe any other management choice except giving LWFC full management authority over red snapper would be without merit and appear vindictive. [Name withheld] Holden, LA 70744
- The Mag-Steve act is outdated and we need to get out from under it for the good of the fishery
- The management of red snapper should be in the hands of the state. How do you give charter boats 44 days to fish but recreational anglers only 9 days that only includes one weekend. Something is not right about that situation.
- The management of the red snapper season and bag limits has been terrible the past 10 years.
- The method used to determine Red Snapper numbers is ridiculous! Louisiana has many man-made structures and reefs that support a tremendous amount of Red Snapper. The fish are getting larger and larger, which only meet the aggregate "weight" limit that much faster. Go try to catch ANY other reef fish, almost impossible because there are so many Red Snapper!
- The more people that fish, the more depleted our waters get. The generated funds from fines and license' should be used for hatcheries and help replenish the fish that are harvested every year. You can't keep taking and not put back!
- The most ridiculous thing I have seen in my 43 years of fishing was the 10 day federal snapper season for recreational anglers. If these fish are truly in danger, why did charter boats get a 45 day season? This move by governing body was completely unfair and uncalled for. We fished in federal waters for other species last weekend and could not get baits or jigs down due to red snapper. We went deeper for amberjack and still caught red snapper. I don't know who is doing these assessments but maybe they need to get on a different boat.
- The NOAA science is flawed. The area I fish in the vermilion block of the gulf is loaded with all reef fish mentioned above. I own a boat and hold a federal charter permit. I run some

charters, but these have declined over years due to stricter federal management. Most of my trips consist of die-hard friends sharing cost. I strongly support any positive change to the way the fisheries are being managed. And once again, there is no fish shortage.

- The number of days to catch red snapper for recreational anglers should be drastically increased.
- The offshore fishing should be managed by the state.
- The only people that the state snapper season helps out are the groups out of Venice Or Grand Isle. I fish Cocodrie and we can't catch snapper in state waters here
- The only reason Feds give commercials a larger quota is they collect more tax money where the recreational angle consumes the catch & the Feds don't collect any \$. Feds need to keep in mind the recreational angler produce millions of \$ in boat sales, boating equipment, fuel, tackle, bait etc. that cash is circulated in the community where everybody collect more in earning. AT
- The only reason I don't fish every day is because I have to work for a living!
- The only two caveats to this puzzle are. 1) state corruption issues and 2) variance in creel limits from state to state.
- The population of snapper has increase such that we are now catching them in water up to 600 ft. deep. This is also have a direct effect on the population of other reef fish that can't compete with the snapper such at trigger fish. Snapper caught in deep water while targeting grouper don't survive the pressure change - limits should be year round to allow for the fish to be kept.
- The present council is bias toward keeping fish sale price high for restaurants and commercial interest
- The present limits on offshore species per trip are ridiculous. No one is allowed to catch enough fish to support trip cost and effort. Therefore most fisherman no longer fish offshore species due the restrictions. The present system favors the commercial industry (which doesn't pay taxes on fuel) way too much. This is causing most recreational fishermen to just stay home, resulting in an industry that is stagnating (lower tackle and equipment sales - lower taxes on equipment, tackle, fuel, etc. collected). What about a season limit per fisherman for offshore species that would allow a recreational fisherman to make a few trips a year and catch a reasonable number of fish. A tagging/reporting system similar to that used for deer wherein a tally card would be issued that is to be filled out before landing the catch at the end of a trip. The tally card is to be carried by each fisherman. Enforcement would be simple by checking catch at the differing landing sites. The cost of this enforcement could be paid by a fee charged for the official tally card. Just a suggestion from one of those who can't justify making an offshore trip to catch 2 of this, 1 of that, 8 of those, 3 of something else, etc., etc., although I really love offshore fishing. On another point, while I favor each state controlling it's near shore and off shore waters, I don't see a way to control the commercial catch as most commercial boats are transient moving across state lines at will and landing their catch at the highest price buyer's dock. It's just wide open to misreporting! Thanks, Roy
- The present system does not work. It is time for a change.
- The present system is broken and needs to be changed. A system monitored by the state can take into consideration multiple factors and make immediate decisions to best manage the stock. Obviously this cannot be done at the federal level.
- The present system is byzantine. The counting methodology is flawed-there are abundant snapper around virtually every platform 20 miles or more off-shore. The current season for recreational fisherman is beyond ludicrous.
- The private fisherman needs more support and deserve as much days as the charters
- The private fishermen have taken too many fish for too long At the expense of the non-boat owning public The CCA has misrepresented their agenda The private boat owning fishermen are lying about catching red snapper in the state boundaries in western Louisiana

- the reason why I would like the state to do the monitoring is because they might be able to get more funding
- The recreational fisherman has been squeezed on its limits and this has to change. I enjoy taking my son to fish for red snapper but it has gotten so expensive to catch only 2 fish per person per day. I feel the federal limitations have significantly limited my ability to take my son fishing for a fish that I love to catch and serve on our own dinner table. It's been a terrible management process in recent years and something has to change. I have fished for red snapper for over 20 years and watched the limits drop to ridiculous levels where a recreational fisherman cannot even enjoy a day trip due to the limits on the fish. I hope you see my frustration.
- The recreational offshore fisherman is the one that loses in the current system. There is no reason with the amount of snapper in the Gulf right now that we can't have a 3 month season with higher limits. Regulate the commercial and charter boats with a quota. Leave the guys who may make 5 trips a year alone!
- The recreational quota should be for recreational use only. Not fish for sale; not charter. Those are "for profit" commercial activities and should come from the commercial limit.
- The red fish and speckle trout have had a strong come back. Leave the choice to the agency that knows the area and resources.
- The red snapper population is very healthy. I think the recreational fishermen should have more opportunity, to harvest this fish. It needs to be up to the state to decide how much and how long the season should be for red snapper
- The red snapper are plentiful. I believe we can raise the limit to that of red fish, (red drum).
- The red snapper are plentiful. I can hardly catch anything else when i rig fish because there are so many snapper
- The red snapper are so abundant that you cannot target any other species.
- The red snapper fisheries are ridiculously over-populated in my opinion.
- The red snapper fishery is alive and well. The State needs to manage this fishery!
- The red snapper fishery is exploding off of the coast of Louisiana. The number of days and limits need to be increased. We are seeing red snapper in water depths in which we catch speckle trout. It is almost impossible to catch mangrove snappers due to the number of red snapper. Get the Feds out of our waters
- The red snapper management is a mess and need to be fixed!
- The red snapper population has exploded and is being very poorly managed by NOAA and the gulf council and I very strongly support each state taking over the management of their coastal waters.
- THE RED SNAPPER SEASON IS EXTREMELY SHORT COMPARED TO THE POPULATION OF FISH IN MY AREA. LIMIT CAUGHT IN LESS THAN HALF AN HOUR
- The red snapper season is not fair for true recreational fishermen. God forbid you have a daughter's dance recital or bad weather falls on the one weekend the season is opened in federal waters. I understand the reason for quotas but everyone should have an equal opportunity to participate in filling it. The current system makes that impossible because the set dates will never work for everyone. Would be nice if we could just have a certain amount of tags for our portion of the quota and then we could schedule fishing around life instead of life around a set date.
- The red snapper season is ridiculous. It needs to be longer with a bigger size limit. Because of this issue I am consenting leaving the saltwater scene
- the regulation of fish is necessary, but the state could screw it up just as easy as the feds. be careful, i seriously doubt anybody from the federal side had ever even been in Louisiana to

catch fish

- The regulations are to ---confusion. Should be simpler there are lines on the water. Between state and federal who knows what to catch, and counties within states it's very ---- up. It cost a lot of money to fish nowadays. So please Simplify it
- The regulations book needs to include all changes for that year. Many changes are not listed by the time books are printed and distributed. Thanks
- The restrictions are so tight that it is costing too much to fish and have to throw everything back. Thank god gas prices have dropped. Probably the only reason we are still fishing when we can't bring home snaps or AJS. How am I supposed to teach my kids to enjoy fishing when we can't bring anything home. Really getting fed up over here. Fed up get it!!
- The restrictions do not make the effort or cost worthwhile for me to personally fish or book charters to fish offshore. The dead zone and the restrictions have effectively shut down reef fishing
- The rigs are infested with Red Snapper! The 3 times I went snapper fishing this year we had 6-7 limits in an hour!!
- The rigs are SWARMING with red snapper (and the fact that they are removing most of our rigs is another rant I'll save for later). I am an avid free diver and I have plenty of GoPro video to prove that the snapper are more than plentiful. I am not sure how or where NOAA take their samples at, but I'd love for them to come out with me one day to swat the swarms of snapper out of my face so that I can see some other fish (that of course I will not be able to shoot because they will be out of season). Apparently the people taking these statistics are not fishermen, but number crunchers who just picking some arbitrary spot in the middle of nowhere to conduct their study. The fact that snapper season is so ridiculously short and grouper or AJ season is so much longer blows my mind. And triggerfish now too??? Also, if you are going to close seasons on red snapper, gag grouper, amberjack and grey triggerfish then at least do it all at the same time (and open them back up at the same time) so that the recreational fisherman can get the most bang for their buck. It infuriates me to pay for the gas to take a boat 60 miles offshore during the summer (June) and only be able to make two breath hold dives (maybe 3 minutes total) and have to turn around and drive 60 miles back because all of the other fish I see are "off-limits". But hey, at least when July rolls around I'll get to go out and shoot grouper too... oh wait, but then snapper will be closed and AJ will STILL be closed and triggerfish for some inane reason is still having an in-season closure. Get real people! Opening up "State" waters in MS doesn't do us much good since we can [expletive deleted] near wade out to the boundary. I can guarantee you that before long you will be pushing ALL recreational fisherman into becoming outlaws.
- The rigs to reefs program should be modified to allow reefing in place of all rigs.
- The ROLF permit is not well advertised to the public. It is difficult to find and for people that buy their license online each year, there is no indication through the buying process that a ROLF permit is newly required. In my opinion, this should be an automatic addition to saltwater fishing licenses like a HIP certification or even a duck stamp is presented when buying a hunting license.
- The rules are very confusing when two different agencies are trying to regulate one species. I have honestly given up on trying to fish for snapper.
- the season for red snapper is too short and the bag limit is not worth the bait and gas to go out there to catch them.
- The season on red snapper is ridiculous. The species is not under populated, it is thriving. If any liberal politician has ever been out and fished or dove around any rig in 200 feet of water would quickly see this. This regulation is one of the biggest jokes of all time it is asinine that it even exist. Red snapper season consist of a week of a 30-60 minute boat ride to 200 feet of water out of Grand Isle to fish for 10-15 minutes to catch your limit. This is the biggest joke of all time

and this regulation needs to go.

- The season should be extended and the bag limit raised to a more reasonable number per person specifically for red snapper. The studies currently being used as support against the extended harvest are clearly not correct based on my experience
- The smaller the federal government, the better.
- The Snapper and Amberjack recreational limits are set too low and the seasons need to be longer and they should open them both together. Fuel costs are too high for us to go out and not be able to harvest both species while out fishing. Thank you
- The snapper and other fish have been plentiful, why change it!!
- The snapper are like mosquitoes in the Gulf. You can't get to other species because there are so many.
- The snapper fishery should be managed state by state as this is indeed a regional management issue. Similarly, think if other land animals were managed in the manner the Feds are trying to manage snapper coast wide. It simply doesn't or wouldn't work. State by state is the only way.
- The snapper limit and season for the recreational fisherman is ridiculously low and grossly unjust
- The snapper limit should be increased for recreational fishermen.
- The snapper management is poorly handled off of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Northwest Florida. The snapper are depleting other species. The limited fishing days is impacting the potential economic impact of the recreational angler.
- The snapper regs set by the Feds have been ridiculous. There are so many snapper that it is difficult to fish for other species. The states will do a better job of managing snapper, amberjack and grouper.
- The snapper season should last longer for the people who love to be out there and enjoy snapper fishing not just open longer for charters
- The state agencies are the best ones to make these decisions. they are well educated on species population unlike federal agencies..
- The State agencies have done a far better job managing all fisheries that the federal government has.
- The state authorities have a better understanding of their local fisheries. Because of this access in information, they are better fit to properly manage the local waters.
- the state can control the harvesting of Red Snapper in their own waters and their own federal waters much better than the federal government.
- The state does a far superior job of managing the fisheries. The feds cannot come close. The states should take over. However if we do not stop removal of the oil rigs our offshore fisheries will dramatically suffer. Feel free to contact me. [Name, e-mail address, and telephone number withheld]
- The state does an excellent job in whatever species it manages. I have faith in our great state
- The state has a far greater understanding of the fishery.
- The State has a much better handle on the species and needs to preserve the species. Keep the Feds out!!!!
- The state has done a great job of saltwater creel surveys. Almost every time we come in at Venice la we are asked about if we saltwater fished and completed survey. no surveys are taken if we only freshwater fished.
- The state has done an excellent job in similar fishery management areas and I believe they would do a better job.
- The state has proven over and over how much more effective they are than noaa. I will support la in every way possible and hope all other coastal states will follow suit.

- The state is better at managing.
- The state is better qualified to regulate our fish. They are very proactive with all the surveys and studies they are doing. Keep up the good work LDWF
- The State is far better at managing its own resources. We cannot treat Louisiana the same as Florida. Our estuaries and abundance of sea life is completely different from other states along the gulf coast.
- The state is more uniquely qualified to set fish quotas and seasons. Our fishery is quite different from other states because of the oil rigs.
- The state is much more in tune with the resources of their respective state than the federal mgmt currently in place. Move all fisheries responsibilities to the state level.
- The state is the logical entity to manage its own fishery. The state conducts far more accurate surveys while the Feds don't have a clue. Seems like the fed bases its quota on data from commercial catch sources which gives inaccurate figures. I fish in LA waters n you can't get your hook to the bottom without catching snapper
- The state is the only agency that wants to do it correctly. Please make it happen.
- The state knows about local conditions.
- The state knows more about our own waters than the feds do. The feds don't understand or know because they do not research the amount of fish within state water territory. In order to know as much as possible about setting bag limits the States should control from land to as far out as necessary.
- The state knows more what goes on in this state
- The state line out to 10 miles
- The state needs to manage our fisheries. The current method of management is totally one-sided in favor of the commercial interests at the expense of the recreational fisherman. It is time for the State of Louisiana to manage our fisheries and extend said management out to a minimum of the 20 fathom line.
- The state needs to manage the local resources based on new and current techniques using a good scientific method as well as being able to quickly adapt to changes that occur in the region.
- The State of LA should be managing all fisheries off its coast. The Federal Government is destroying the rest of the species population in the Gulf by allowing the Red Snapper to "take over". You can catch anything but red snapper anymore.
- The state of Louisiana has stepped up to protect the red snapper recreational fishery, but can do more. I would strongly suggest that seasons be extended into the fall on "weekends" only. The recreational fishermen have to work for a living and getting off during the week to fish is a luxury many cannot afford. Weather in the fall days is likewise a limiting factor. I would strongly suggest increasing the bag limit from 2 fish to 4. It is ridiculous to travel offshore so many miles, spend big dollars to catch 2 fish per man in less than 10 minutes. Nuts I would say!!
- The state of Louisiana needs to be able to have authority on red snapper bag limits.
- The state of Louisiana should be in charge of all species of fish within 200 mile perimeter
- The State of Louisiana should have the authority on seasons, limits, and size. They know the waters around Louisiana best.
- The state should control all fisheries in that particular state. The federal government base a majority of their information with all the states combined as one complete total. However, Louisiana's fisheries are much different than the fisheries in other states, such as Texas, Florida, etc.
- The State should control snapper season and reward the residents of Louisiana, not the nonresident commercial fisherman.

- The state should govern its own waters for everything.
- The state should have control fisheries
- The state should have control of our part of the gulf all the way out and the fed should over see the whole gulf. We see what is landed not the fed.
- THE STATE SHOULD HAVE MORE CONTROL OF FISHERIES.
- The state surely deserves to have full control of its fisheries in both state and fed waters, if not, the gulf should be zoned and fish counts should be made within each zone and regulations should be made accordingly.
- The State would do a much better job with management of the local fisheries because they have the local voices and ability to create a more comprehensive plan to cover everyone.
- The state would probably do a better job providing they use current data obtained from fishermen, whether they be recreational or commercial. Don't think commercial should have a bigger quota than recreational fishermen I think the recreational fishermen have a larger economic impact than the commercial side.
- The States can do a better job, as opposed to the FED'S one size fits all.
- The states can't do any worse than the Feds have!
- The states no matter what is going on in the waters near them. They should be managing all of their resources instead of the federal government. Different areas of the Gulf have different numbers of particular species. The states should manage those.
- The States should control the fishery resources as they do the hunting resources. The current make-up of the Marine Console is weight too much toward commercial interest and does not fairly consideration recreational fishermen. Also the methodology use to obtained data on fish population is flawed. This is simply another example of the Federal Government mismanaging a natural resource. Also how can different states have different lengths to the Red Snapper Season? We is the "equal Protection under the Law"?????
- The states should have control of their own fisheries
- The state's should manage and make the decision on what's best for the anglers highly not fair that charters and commercial fishers have the advantage when we spend just as much money to fish
- The states should manage their fish located in their region. Florida does not have the same structure and waters as Louisiana, so why should it be under the same set of rules? The answer is it should not be under the same rules.
- The states should stay the [expletive deleted]out of red snapper management. Get CCA members off WLF commission
- The states understand each individual states particular circumstances when it comes to fish management We also need to stop pulling offshore rigs and make them living reefs
- The system is flawed and it needs change!!!
- The ultimate goal with would be red snapper declared a game fish similar to speckled trout and redfish and therefore not be allowed to commercially harvest.
- The way fishing regulations are there is no infinitive to go fishing offshore unless you own a tuna boat and not everyone can afford them.
- The way it is now is too confusing and unfair. It seems the agencies have no idea the situation of recreational anglers.
- There appears to be an abundance of red snapper, the seasons need to be longer. It's hardly worth going offshore anymore with the snapper and amberjack seasons so short.
- There appears to be plenty of red snapper in the Gulf and hopefully with good management we can keep it like that for future generations.
- There are (4) groups commercial, federal charter, state charter and rec .anglers there seasons

should all be the same if caught being a glutton on limits stiffer fines, loss of license for a year and it should be multiplied times the number of fish over the limit.

- There are a lot more snapper than NOAA realizes I believe the data they use is inaccurate based upon my knowledge of the industry as I was a commercial snapper fisherman for many years from the age of 9-28 and I never saw recreational boats with catches of 50 or more fish averaging 20lbs like I have seen these days That did not happen when I was snapper fishing and seeing recreational fishermen's catches We who fished on charter boats or commercial boats would catch fish like that but not the general public We would average 2500lbs a day in the 70s&80s but the average fishermen struggled to catch 200lbs Now everyone I know catches big snapper routinely because they throw back all the smaller fish which generally die just so they can keep 2 20lbbers
- There are a lot of snapper. More than I have ever seen. I believe they are eating all the juvenile reef fish.
- There are better ways to manage snapper fishing. Restricting recreational fisherman to only 10 days a year with a daily quota of two fish per person has a negative effect to the fishery in several ways. The angler is going to make sure he catches two large fishing so he culls the others until he finds the biggest two of the day. This culling takes more fish than out to the fisheries than the actual catch. In addition, with only 10 days to fish fewer fisherman venture into the gulf which means fewer dollars in the economy. There is a better way to do this and I'm sure you have already figured it out.
- There are currently a ridiculous number of red snapper in Louisiana waters and federal waters. I'm noticing less and less trigger fish and sheep's head in the same areas. Probably due to large Snapper eating the other reef species.
- There are millions of red snapper on those rigs. Let them boys fish! Up the limit from two and make the season longer.
- There are more red snapper in the gulf than I have ever seen. Don't let me down, i.e., get it state regulated and decrease our season! Also, we are removing rigs at a record rate. Y'all do realize those are reefs? Wake up!
- There are more red snapper than ever. We went snapper twice. Then if u go out when's it's not snapper you catch them and release them dead or vice versa with the amberjack. Also lets tear down all the rigs while we at and kill thousands of fish
- There are more red snapper than NOAA could imagine. While spearfishing oil rigs out of Grand Isle and Fourchon, red snapper are by far the most plentiful species found. Also, the way the current seasons are set, it isn't worth one's time to just go after red snapper as the amberjack and triggerfish seasons are closed.
- There are plenty of red snapper to go around. With us only allowed to keep 2 per person, it's barely worth going out and fishing. There are tons and tons of snapper being killed by platform removal projects; while the fisherman can only keep 2 fish a day for the 9 day season....that's [expletive deleted]!! Check Up!!!! Quit being a bunch of [expletive deleted]!!! 5 snapper per person / same season dates for everyone!! Booyah!!
- There are so many red snapper it is hard to fish for other species. The average trip is two hours boat time , less than 10 minutes to get your limit.
- There are so many red snapper out there these days.
- There are so many red snapper u don't catch black grouper or trigger fish no more they are taking over reefs need to go back like it was snapper are smart fish they can see u line and do t need management
- There are so many red snapper you almost can't catch anything else when bottom fishing. 100 to 3 outside of the occasional shark and amberjack, it's not worth the gas to go off the coast of Texas unless you are going 90 miles to fish for tuna. It's very different in LA as you can actually get state snapper be as you can find keepable fish within 9 miles. The water doesn't get

deep here until you've burn quite a bit of fuel. You need at least a 100 ft. to catch keepable snapper. That is federal waters in TX so 97% of bottom fishing is a waste because you can't keep the fish except for the 7-10 day season. Even then you can't get the weather to cooperate more than 1-2 days. So the real season is 1-2 days. FYI We've fished offshore for 4 yrs. never once caught a grouper.

- There are so many snapper offshore it is a shame we are not allowed a little more time to catch them and enjoy eating them. Go dive a rig and see how many there are
- There are too many confusion between the state regulation and the federal regulation making it difficult for us fisherman to follow. It's best just to have the state make the regulations.
- There is a dire need for local management of red snapper fisheries here in Louisiana. Local agencies have the knowledge, resources and the first hand data needed for effective management. Even Ray Charles could see that the red snapper population is booming and in no need of the stringent regulations imposed upon recreational anglers.
- There is a huge disconnect between the way in which the feds are placing limits in Louisiana waters, and the actual number of red snapper in the water. It is "automatic" to catch red snapper yet we have a limit of 2 as if this is some rare species. NOTE: if there is something special about the physiology/breeding/feeding habits of red snapper which justifies this type of management, then that too is a failure on the part of the feds to explain the lunacy which is the current program.
- There is already too much duplication of resources within all Gulf states for management of the saltwater species, and there is little that can ultimately be accomplished without total control over the ecosystems involved. So the taxpayers continue to underwrite the cost of this duplication.
- There is an abundance of red snapper and the general public should have access to catch them.
- There is an abundance of red snapper available. I only go 2 or 3 days a year and should not be limited to 2 fish
- There is an abundance of red snapper in the Gulf. We cannot fish for other species without catching and releasing red snapper (which sometimes ultimately die anyway). It is unfair to penalize recreational fishermen the way the catch is allocated.
- There is an abundance of red snapper off Louisiana coast. Recreational fisherman should have reasonable opportunity to harvest a catch that warrants the expense of fishing offshore.
- There is no shortage of red snapper.
- There is no shortage of red snapper. Every trip offshore, it's hard to get through the snapper to the amberjack n white trout.
- There is no shortage of red snapper. I've seen them, I've caught them, I've watched their #'s explode in the northern Gulf of Mexico. This whole campaign concerning red snapper is about government profits.
- There are 20,000 red snapper at each rig there is no tease why the limit should be 2 that's absolutely ridiculous
- There seem to be plenty snapper. But charter boats take too much in my opinion.
- There seemed to a lot of snapper and I only get to fish the Gulf once per year. An increase in the limit would be welcome.
- There should be a higher limit on ref snapper, because we caught lots of them when we went offshore
- There should be equal representation of sport fishermen and commercial concerns on all voting for seasons and quotas
- There should be no limit for recreational!
- There should not be separate rules or seasons for charter , commercial and recreational fishermen. Charter and commercial fisherman take more than the recreational fishermen do.

- There's an over-abundance of red snapper. Some depart locations are more shorter navigating than others. We fish out of Cypremort Point and it's a very long run just to get to snapper waters therefore we don't often get to fishing other species because of the travel distances required. We would like more days to fish recreational snapper. This past season yielded great weather and we were able to get out. Years past we not as conducive and out of the minimal days awarded we were only able to make a couple of trips at best. So in a nut shell, weather drives our ability to fish or not fish plus work. Some of us can only fish weekends and if it's blown out then we missed than entire snapper season. I am a law abiding citizen and my boat follows all seasons and regulations to the book but I am aware of many that these snapper regulations have turned them into outlaws.
- These types of decisions should get votes from the citizens of the state. We should put this on the election ballots
- They ate so many snapper out there your just don't know. You need to get rid of more sharks!!!!
- They have more red snapper more amberjacks that they need to move up the limit
- They must allow the hard working people that pay federal and state taxes to have more red snapper fishing days myself and everyone that I know was only able to make one trip this season and last season we have jobs that doesn't allow us to be able to fish for a whole 9 day season.
- They open all fish season at the same time it is too expensive to go for 2 fish
- They should At least raise the bag limit to 5 red snapper like red fish and also who's the moron that pushed duck season to November 7 it should have started November 20th almost in December
- Think red snapper limit should be raised to 3 fish
- Think that Venus is awesome place to fish don't fix what isn't broke
- This has to be regulated on a state level. LA is a huge difference from Florida for example with fish population. Just like deer population that differs even within a few miles. It's not regulated by the council. I'm all for conservation but when we have the same regulations as some states, there is no common sense in that decision.
- This is the only salvation for saltwater recreational fisheries. If this doesn't take place, saltwater offshore recreational fishing will gradually die along with all the industry's that support this, boat sales, tackle, marinas, etc.
- This survey could get better answers if it listed what's going on with the system. All I concluded is that it's asking me if I support the management move. I don't understand the reasons why someone would want to move. My choice on management would be to use whatever method that could provide proper management of the species considering the uniqueness of our coastal waters.
- This was the first year we actually benefitted from the Federal season. As a charter captain I can't fish the state season and would prefer to stay under the Federal Authorities.
- Think the feds need to stay out of this all together
- To be perfectly clear the red snapper are in such abundance that it is difficult to catch other species while fishing rigs or structures. Our limits have on average been caught in less than thirty min per trip. That's with four people.
- Too many fish for today's limits
- Too much govt. in our lives
- Too many authorities making different laws and boundaries and when you ask wildlife, or coast guard, etc., you always get different answers.
- Too many cooks in the kitchen. Need one set of clear regulations to remember not several to search through so you can decide the differences. What happened to fishing and catching what's there then eating it. Not for monetary gain or political lobbying. ..????

- Too many questions, not enough change.
- Too many red snapper out there and not enough time for recreational anglers to fish for them.
- Too many red snapper. Cannot catch anything but snapper. Raise the limit and increase the season.
- Too many rules and regulations leave anglers confused therefore infringed by ignorance.
- Too many rules, seasons, and size! Make it simple offshore reef fishing season May-Sept. This is fair to all fishermen, they would have plenty chances to get out due to weather.(not charter guys with 200K boats). I sat and watched a head boat in federal water fishing out of Fourchon throwing back red snapper that was floating down current of rig. What a sad site! Is 5 months out of the year asking too much?
- Too many snapper. Can't catch other species at closer rigs.
- Too many user groups are being negatively affected by the laws as they are now considering the population of red snapper in Louisiana waters.
- Total joke on what they have done to the recreational anglers. As for the State opening the season in State waters is no relief for us in the Western side of the State. We need more days in Federal waters. Also against including for Hire boats in our quota. They are making money off of fishing and need to be considered in the commercial quota.
- Transfer all authority to the State.
- Transfer management to the Gulf states.
- Transfer management to the State of Louisiana
- Try and come up with a real season!!!!
- Until the federal government does a better job at its appropriately enumerated powers (i.e. Secure the border), I will support moving control back to the states.
- Up the bag limit I've had to throw back lots of snapper every time I went fishing in the gulf. Make it at least 3 per person
- up the limit there are tons of fish and they are over populated
- use local/ state data to determine creel limits, not other states data for our local state laws
- Use some common sense unlike NOAA
- use underwater video to aid in determining quotas
- Use your head people. Management practices are so out of control now it is hurting all species. We now catch red snapper in 600 feet of water. There's your sign.
- Very expensive to go fishing just to be able to catch one or two fish. Rather than daily limit I would rather see a season limit.
- Very satisfied with fishery management by Louisiana, strongly opposed to allowing poor Federal management of any species to continue.
- Very simply put, the red snapper fishery is as poorly managed as any other "business" in the country. As a angler with 20 years of off shore and near costal fishing, I can firmly attest to the fact that red snapper populations have not only rebounded but may be at a more abundant population then all agencies are estimating. It's become a great challenge to catch other fish at rigs, platforms, and well heads along the coast because you can't keep your bait away from red snapper. But like many other anglers the state has now lost my funds and money that I put into the system because I have not went in two seasons. It's too expensive to plan a fishing trip around two red snapper per angler, I hope the state actually makes the necessary changes before next season!
- Very unfair that charter can get their money back and they over-fish areas an look down on recreational fisherman and we cannot recover funds it's not cheap! They get respect from WLF we don't because they have a business they are all drug heads who could care less it's all about the money I love to fish and will always do it but am backed in a Conner with strict rules

because of charters and commercial fisheries I pay more taxes than them and get less, so I feel we as residential fishermen should have more rights

- Want to catch more snapper
- Waters off Terrebonne Parish have more red snapper than I've ever seen. There is no shortage of red snapper by anyone's estimation
- Way too many red snapper in the gulf. They are taking over platforms that they shouldn't be at.
- We absolutely need to remove the Gulf Council's control of our resources. They have [expletive deleted] up our red snapper fishing. There are so many ARS at some of my fishing spots that it's almost impossible to fish for anything else but I'm only allowed 2 ARS per day for a 2-3 week season per year in a time period where the weather keeps me from going 98% of the time, this is total [EXPLETIVE DELETED]. This is causing law-abiding people to turn into law breakers because they feel like they are getting [expletive deleted] in an effort to save the ARS for the commercial guys. Please do whatever it takes to remove Gulf Council control of our state waters out to NINE miles...
- We are only able to fish offshore one week out of the year. It is disheartening to only have 9 days to catch red snapper. It is also disheartening to know that we can only catch and keep red snapper during snapper season and catch and keep AJ's when that season is open. I don't understand why both seasons can be open at the same time. The same can be said about Grouper. With only a few days out of the year to fish not counting weather problems leaves fishermen little time to take advantage of the great fishery. Thank you for looking at this problem and hopefully this situation can be rectified with state control.
- WE AS LIFELONG RESIDENTS OF LOUISIANA DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE LAWS. WHEN WE GO FISHING OFFSHORE FOR GROUPEL OR AMBERJACK, MOST OF THE TIME WE CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THE RED SNAPPER. THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF RED SNAPPER. AT LEAST WE SEE NO EVIDENCE OF IT!!! PLEASES GIVE US MORE ACCES TO FISH RED SNAPPER
- We believe our state has a better understanding of our fishery
- We cannot catch grouper because the red snapper are so plentiful.
- We cannot catch red snapper in state waters in our area. Seems like that law is only for east of state of La. I think we got a raw deal with only 9 days of snapper season. Could not get off of work when season was open. What a bad deal for the state as a whole
- We caught our limits of snapper EVERY TIME within 20 minutes of getting to the rig. A2-fish limit makes no sense. it's not worth the fuel to get out for two fish. The population is fine.
- We concern ourselves with the anthropogenic deduction of the singular species fisheries, yet I have concerns of giving certain species the upper hand. I do not particularly like the amount and non-simultaneous nature of offshore seasons... but I don't have a better idea at this time. Other than snapper, how well has the season restrictions 'repaired' other fisheries?
- We experience the same issues along the gulf coast on these matters.
- We have a different marine habitat here in Louisiana shore lines and different structural components and different shelf outline. Control regulations on ANY species should be different than other gulf "areas" based on many factors. Federal laws will not control healthy fish populations as an "overall" speculation.
- We have a unique and plentiful environment for fishing that other states do not have - (i.e., 1,000's of gas and oil rig "reefs"). Therefore it is not really appropriate or reasonable to include our snapper fishery with other federally managed fisheries of the surrounding states
- We have more snapper now than 10 years ago!!
- We have too many out of state boats fishing in our waters off the Louisiana coast and the federal program does not limit them from going from state to state and their own resource is depleted
- We have too many Red snapper in the gulf. They are eating all the bait fish

- We need a change
- We need a change in the regulation. It cost a fortune to fish. We spend as much as some charter fishermen and don't get any fish. It's ridiculous!
- We need a few more snapper per person per day. We have to run a long way with considerable fuel cost for just a few fish. Raise the size to 18" and let us keep 5 per person please. Make it worth our expense to go put fish in the freezer.
- We need a longer red snapper fishing season and an increase in the bag limit.
- We need a longer red snapper season
- We need a split season March 20 to August 5 and Oct 1 to Nov. 10
- We need more fishing days so that we can spend more time teaching our youth about the outdoors and more time to share with those who wouldn't otherwise have access to the outdoors
- We need more the 10 days of snapper season we work and weather not always good when your off 10 days is not long enough
- We need to allow recreational fishermen as many days they want to fish or all the fish they want to catch.
- We need to change the Snapper rules
- we need to get rid of these rocket scientist running the fed side and get some people with good old common sense in office
- We need to have the state run this. The sport fishermen are put on the back burner.
- We only went off shore one day this year during our short snapper season due to weather and work schedule.
- We pay a lot of money to fish sometimes I don't think it is worth it anymore
- We personally throw numerous red snapper back at rigs all year long due to the strict red snapper laws. It is horrible to kill these fish and have to throw them back each time.
- We saw on our fish finder more red snapper than I have seen since I started fishing in the Gulf of Mexico 50 years ago. The fishery is horribly mismanaged at present and it's time for the state to take over .
- We should be allowed to fish more red snapper. We are killing so many trying to throw them back its ridiculous.
- We should be allowed to manage our own resources no matter what they may be without the federal government.
- We should close 1 entire region of blocks per year (i.e., all of smi) to reef fishing to allow fish to grow and spawn. Each year close a different region of blocks. Next season close vermilion etc...0 pressure assures great spawn and free to grow.
- We should manage our state limits
- Well I like what y'all doing so keep it up
- Went fishing for ling several weeks ago out of Pecan Island. Saw only saw three, but we (3 anglers caught and RELEASED over twenty 5 to 10 lb. red snapper. Someone is not managing this fishery.
- What about in Cameron Louisiana where you can't catch red snapper and state waters I think they need to do something about that
- Whatever happens the season should be easier to understand When it starts and ends
- Whatever was done in 2015 needs to continue. A long snapper season made fishing in the Gulf worthwhile, since the trout fishing was way down.
- What I have seen in the gulf there is a real need to manage the Red Snapper better. There is an abundant amount of Red Snapper in the Gulf. I do not think raising the limits marginally would affect the stock we have in the Gulf right now.
- What is best for the conservation and stabilization of a health fish population is in my interest.

- What is in place now is broken and needs to be fixed!
- When I fish for red snapper I am upset to see we can only keep a few and I see shrimp boats tossing dead ones over board and if I picked them up I would get fined. Also when you unhook a fish and it swallowed the hook it's a dead fish anyhow but if you keep it you will be fined if the fish is not legal, so different rules should apply because a person wasted many fish just to get their 1 limit. Now that is ridiculous!
- When we are talking red snapper I don't feel there should be a size limit because most come from deep and they are going you become food for other species instead of human consumption. I don't think there should be a limit, size or season on any sport fisherman because I believe that truly sport fisherman cannot hurt any species. It's the nets that hurt species.
- When we go offshore fishing around the rigs the red snapper are so abundant that the water around the fish you're pulling in has a red hue from the number of snapper following the caught fish. Sport fishermen are allowed two snapper and there are now more snapper than ever. The limit needs to be adjusted back to 5 per person at a minimum.
- When you buy all Offshore boat and had to pay \$1200 in gas and you can only go out and catch two red snappers is it worth it would like to see it go back up to at least three or four for the recreational people not charters
- When you see how the destruction & removal of offshore rigs affects the fish population, you have to wonder how can the federal government think that they know what is best for conserving & preserving the fish in any body of water? Their population data they use for each year is inaccurate. Let the state W&F regulate what is best, that's what they are trained & educated in.
- When/where and who does the snapper surveys? When the surveys are done I think the results should be made public. It should be noted as to where, how, and the result of the survey.
- Where are the game enforcement agents. It seems they don't want to get their boots dirty in lower Plaquemine parish! They certainly do not enforce the game laws.
- Where we fish out of its a long run to get to red snapper 35-40 NM so I made 1 trip targeting snapper. Snapper are the most abundant fish in the gulf & the most regulated! All gulf fish need to be revised.
- Where's my boat?!
- While fishing offshore (20 to 50 miles south of vermilion bay) we catch mainly red snapper, or Red drum. It is difficult to catch other species because these two populations are so dense. This is highly discouraging, because the majority of these fish when thrown back most likely do not survive. If there were a min daily limit of even 2 per vessel or something similar, at least we would come home with something and would not be damaging the species by having to throw the fish back to most certainly die anyways.
- While I did not have the opportunity to fish offshore this is by far my type of fishing. Since I work in retail sporting goods my schedule and weather conditions when I was off did not permit me from going. As I no longer have a large enough boat of my own, I must depend on others for an opportunity to go. You know, the present state of seasons (days to fish) offer little incentive to purchase a boat (new or used
- While I do not care for the way NOAA handles by region, I would care less if the regions were broken down into states which would cause border conflict and confusion for the recreational, commercial and policing authorities. there is no perfect solution
- While I don't fish as often as I used to, I have been fishing off shore and for red snapper since I was about 10 years old (early 1970's). The current federal management plan for red snapper and amberjack and other species for that matter is absurd, from the perspective of a person who owns a boat and recreational fishes. I think the situation is slightly different for charter boats as they fish more days but I can't speak for them. Thank you for all that you have done and are

continuing to do for us private recreational fishermen/women.

- While I have been a state charter captain in the past and may do it again in the future, I am primarily a recreational fisher now - taking lots of youth in the city out rig fishing. I do not believe NOAA does a creditable job of managing Snapper or Amberjack in the SE Gulf of Mexico. Most of their decisions seem to be made on conditions observed around the panhandle of Florida. From all the local studies I have seen, and being a regular offshore fisherman the last 35 years, I do not see an overfishing condition on Red Snapper or AJ in the coastal waters off Louisiana. I believe LA state authorities maintain a much more accurate picture of what is happening to the fisheries in our coastal waters (to include the federal water off La) than NOAA - in fact I have no confidence that the NOAA Council is dedicating resources to this area and making decisions on fish population in this area at all.
- While you're at it lets get the Feds out of the duck hunting also.
- Why are we assuming these commercial fishermen get 50 percent? Their licenses should never transfer and they should be eliminated based on death, felony conviction, failure to pay child support and any meditate or sever wildlife regulation infraction. Their percentage of the quota reduced 2 percent per year.
- Why commercial fishermen are able to bring smaller red snapper than private anglers?
- Why consider issuing red snapper tags, like alligators, then when can fish when we want and the weather is good.
- Why go fishing if you only get 9 days and have to fight the weather also
- Why is there a season on trigger fish?
- Why is there not a counting system?
- Why isn't the state red snapper season open all year. I have enjoyed the ability to catch red snapper in state waters and not have to worry about the federal season.
- Why not go up on size limits and give us more than 2 snapper. I live in Slidell, La. I take 3 to 4 trips a year to Fouchon. Between gas, ice, motel stay and bait, it's just not worth the trip for 2 fish per day . Other than the love of the sport. Why in the world would the Feds give the commercial fishermen more % on fish than the recreational fishermen when we are the ones that pay their salaries. It's seems to be the same old story big money wins out over the working class once again. If the state can find a way to raise the bag limit I'm all for the change. But if the state is going act on what the Feds tell them to do. Then why bother? It will only create more paper work at a state level and we know what that means! Yep tax increases which will be followed by a fishing license increase. Let's work together for a bigger bag limit for recreational fishermen. So people up north may have to pay an extra dollar for a plate of snapper. You don't hear us [expletive deleted] about the price of lobster when they set the market price every year . Do what's right for the people of Louisiana and don't forget about the people of Mississippi who over pay to fish Louisiana waters. I've fished offshore enough to know, read the state data there's enough snapper out there for everyone . The federal government is out of touch with the state data . Come on, people!
- Why not let anglers harvest Amberjack during The Red Snapper season? How many fish are lost because they have to be released?
- Why should I be penalized for not wanting to hire a guide and pay their super high prices?
- Wildlife should not be regulated to the benefit of commercial interest above the general public!!!!!!
- Wildlife and fisheries of Louisiana has done an extremely good job of conservation of the large carnivores, the bears, so much so that there will soon be a black bear hunting season, these bears were becoming endangered and are now plentiful in areas. If they can be that with bears there is no reason that they could not do the same for snapper, amberjack, and groupers, with hunting and fishing being such a big part of LA it would only make sense to let those who hunt

it, preserve it. It is apparent that we have the highest creel limits on the south east portion of the country for inshore fish, there's no doubt we could do the same for our offshore species

- Wish Texas would do the same. I frequent Venice Louisiana once a year and seems each year the Feds are taking away access to our fisheries. They have no real science to justify their actions. Texas and Louisiana do a fantastic job regulating their fisheries. Just wish the federal government could do the same.
- Wish we could catch a certain amount of snapper per year
- Wish you could clean your fish at the camp, tag them and transport the fillets on the water..
- With a 10 day season, your average working fisherman who can't just up and take off work to go Snapper fishing has only 2 days to fish with the season starting on a Monday.
- With red snapper and amber jack season not being the same in federal water you must perforate the diaphragm and release. Even if it survives they probably don't make it back down before they are taken by sharks or other predator species. Terrible waste of one of the finest fish in the gulf
- With the crazy weather pattern and shorter season it's not worth anymore to go fishing.
- With the limited snapper season and over-abundance of snappers that I have personally noticed I think the states could do a better job regulating
- With the recs one rule and CFH another it causes too much confusion. You come back to the dock and the recs have a larger limit of 20lb snapper "caught in 12 miles" and it makes the CFH boats look like idiots. Of course the questions of why couldn't we do that? Comes out. I was on the AP and there is too much cut-throating going on. Everyone has his own axe to grind and is starting to be a circus. I have been in the charter business since 1986 and it is where young kids are looking for a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. I have seen snapper go from fair, to terrible and back to great now. We just don't get enough days. Capt [Name withheld]
- Without knowing the extent of research that the fed government uses to determine current regulations, it's difficult to compare and hand all authority to states. Also, I am replacing my [E-mail address withheld]@yahoo.com account with [E-mail address withheld]@gmail.com. Please make a note of that change.
- Work in south La. and have a camp on the La side of the Mississippi river.
- Working class! Non charter boat men and women get shafted on snapper season! We had one weekend in the season this year. It's [expletive deleted]...
- Would also support tags such as used for deer if needed
- Would fish more offshore if limits on red snapper were increased moderately. Same on amberjack and grouper.
- Would like more time to fish red snapper
- Would like no federal intervention at all, ever, in state waters.
- Would like to have states manage rec red snapper in the long term, but have GMFMC control commercials for another 3-4 years to prove states can control take of red snapper in the rec group first - that would mean commercial could not oppose the transfer to the states because states could manage red snapper and possibly other species
- Would like to once again be able to enjoy fishing for red snapper but didn't even get a chance to fish for red snapper this year because the season was too short in duration.
- Would like to see all reef fish under state management. Seasons and limits based on current Sound Scientific Data. I'm a CCA state board member, I feel red snappers quota could place at least 11.5 -12 million lbs. per yr.
- Would like to see moderate expansion of daily limit of red snapper as well as expansion of legal season
- Would prefer a tag system similar to deer management that would allow say 8 red snapper per angler per year and which would allow the entire limit to be caught in one day. It is cost

prohibitive to fish for two fish since snapper and other species have different seasons.

- Yes I strongly believe the states should manage the fisheries we the working people don't get to fish every day like the charter men so we need more days to have a chance to catch fish when we get days off
- You can't give too much authority to La. politicians or agencies
- You can't drop a line in the GOM without catching a red snapper, making it difficult to target other species.
- You have trouble catching other fish because there is too many red snapper
- You need to desperately raise the recreational bag limit of Red Snapper. There are too many and limit the ability to catch other species.
- You need to reevaluate the Red Snapper population and up the bag limit to at least 4 per person per day
- You should also take over the commercial side. [Name withheld]
- You should worry more about commercial fishermen.
- Your records are incorrect. Did fish on the gulf in the last 12 months



January 14, 2016

Mr. Kevin Anson, Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2205 North Lois Avenue
Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

RE: Red Snapper Recreational Management and For-Hire Electronic Reporting

Dear Chairman Anson,

On behalf of The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), please accept these comments on management and accountability of recreational fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. It is important to maintain the conservation and legal requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) while providing sufficient access to fishing and the ability to operate stable businesses. At the January 2016 meeting, the Gulf Council can take significant steps to implement data collection and management systems that have the potential to more effectively meet the needs of stakeholders, while promoting sound conservation of the resource. With that in mind, we urge the Council to:

- **Remove the charter for-hire sector from Amendment 39 (Regional Management) before taking final action (Action 2, Alternative 2).** We support final approval of Amendment 39 only if this plan applies specifically and solely to the private recreational component of the red snapper fishery. This provides a means to design tailored management plans that address data needs and include strong accountability measures for each sector, which fosters conservation and maximizes flexibility.
 - **Alternative 3 in Action 2, which would give individual states the option to manage the for-hire and private angler sectors separately, is not a workable solution** for the for-hire component. It would make monitoring of the Gulf-wide recreational fishery much more difficult, and could negate plans for an electronic reporting system for the charter for-hire sector.
- **Approve the Generic Charter Electronic Logbook Amendment with the current preferred alternatives.** Requiring electronic reporting of all catch and bycatch by the for-hire fleet is an important part of an overall move towards a more accountable management system for this sector.

- **Continue to move forward with Amendments 41 and 42 to establish new management programs for the for-hire fleets** that have the potential to improve accountability, reduce discards¹, and provide more stability to these businesses.

Red Snapper Recreational Management and Accountability

The Council initiated Amendment 39 in 2012, after several years of discussing the regional management concept, to allow each Gulf state to manage aspects of the red snapper recreational fishery. The amendment may provide some benefits for private anglers, many of whom already work closely with their state managers. State-run programs under development could be specifically designed to collect data from private anglers and monitor that type of fishing. Moreover, the current plan maintains requirements for compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

However, if charter for-hire operators are included in this amendment in any way, it will nullify proposals for new management programs under development for the charter and headboat sectors. Many members of the charter for-hire industries have been working with the Council to create management and data collection plans for their sector through the ad hoc advisory panels established by the Council for this purpose. Amendments 41 and 42 propose management approaches for the charter and headboat industries that, together with a properly implemented electronic logbook program, have the potential to provide improved accountability; better catch monitoring and data on landings and discards; and more stability for these businesses. If Amendment 39 passes with the charter fleet included in any way it will render Amendments 41 and 42 null, and make implementation of the proposed charter electronic logbook amendment overly complex and thus unlikely to succeed. Therefore, **we support final approval of Amendment 39 only if Alternative 2 in Action 2 is selected as the preferred alternative.** This action removes the federally permitted for-hire boats from the amendment, and allows the Council to continue working with stakeholders to develop management strategies and data collection and monitoring programs that suit their specific and unique needs.

Alternative 3 in Action 2 of Amendment 39, which would allow each state to decide whether to manage the for-hire sector, is not a workable solution for the for-hire fleet. Having some, but not all, states manage their for-hire boats separately from the private boats for one out of a suite of reef fish would make monitoring and accountability of the catch from the entire fleet much more difficult. This would likely result in even more uncertainty associated with the catch data. It could also increase the level of management uncertainty that is the basis for the buffer between the annual catch limit and the annual catch target (ACT). In other words, there may be fewer fish available to catch if the Council were to choose Alternative 3, Action 2 as the preferred alternative. This runs counter to the goal of decreasing management uncertainty and the associated buffers.

¹ The Gulf Headboat Collaborative: Preliminary Findings from Year 1. Joshua Abbott. Arizona State University School of Sustainability. March 31, 2015. Agenda item B-5, March 2015 Gulf Council briefing book.

Additionally, this action would prevent the entire for-hire fleet from being included in a Gulf-wide electronic reporting and management system. This strikes counter to achieving one of the few goals upon which nearly all stakeholder agree: improving data. Furthermore, maintaining red snapper under federal management for the entire for-hire fleet sustains continuity of management for the entire reef fish complex. This makes more sense since the for-hire reef fish permit requirements apply to other reef fish species besides red snapper.

If the charter for-hire fleet is included in Amendment 39, we cannot support final approval.

If that is the case, we urge the Council to vote it down, and to develop alternative management strategies that can better meet the unique needs of private anglers, in partnership with members of that sector and other stakeholders.

We further encourage the Council to continue developing Amendment 41 for charter vessels and Amendment 42 for headboats with industry input and support. Implementing strategies for the separate components of the recreational fishery has the potential to more effectively maintain catch within sustainable limits for each component; better align fishing opportunities to the needs of each sector; reduce the 20% accountability buffer for each facet; and ultimately, keep the red snapper rebuilding plan on track.

Approve Electronic Logbooks for the For-Hire Fishery

We support approval of the generic plan amendment modifying charter and headboat reporting requirements with all of the current preferred alternatives. This action would require all federally permitted for-hire vessels to submit trip and catch information electronically prior to returning to the dock. “Trip level” reporting offers the most accurate and timely application of electronic logbooks, as it reduces “recall bias”² and provides for a strong validation component of the data program. Law enforcement officers and biological samplers can effectively check the electronic logbook data for each trip to ensure accuracy. A well-designed electronic logbook program, coupled with management strategies under development in Amendments 41 and 42, can provide maximum flexibility and accountability. It can also improve data used for catch monitoring and stock assessments for all federally managed species caught by charter vessels and headboats, not just red snapper. Specifically, the data obtained through the electronic reporting program may:

- Improve catch monitoring, which should also reduce the uncertainty regarding retained and discarded fish in stock assessments.
- Allow for responsive in-season management.
- Lead to stability in the for-hire fleet in conjunction with properly designed management plans offered in Amendments 41 and 42.

² Recall bias is the amount of error or uncertainty to an event relative to the gap in time in reporting that event.

- Increase user confidence in the data and management.

However, many practical details remain undefined. We urge the council and staff to continue working with NOAA Fisheries staff and other technical experts, as well as representatives from the for-hire industry and other stakeholders, to develop data elements and protocols that will ensure this system works well to monitor and manage the for-hire fishery.

Conclusion

We urge the Council to remove the charter for-hire sector from Amendment 39 before taking final action, and to continue developing Amendments 41 and 42. In addition, we encourage adoption of the generic plan amendment requiring electronic logbook reporting for the for-hire industry with the current preferred alternatives. Thank you for considering these comments. We look forward to continuing to work with the Council and stakeholders on these and other important issues.

Sincerely,



Chad W. Hanson
Officer, U.S. Oceans, Southeast
The Pew Charitable Trusts