



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

JAN 18 2018

F/SER24:PH

Mr. Doug Gregory, Executive Director  
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council  
2203 N Lois Avenue, Suite 1100  
Tampa, Florida 33607

006672JAN2018

Dear Mr. Gregory:

NOAA Fisheries requests the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council review the enclosed Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) applications at their January 2018 meeting. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Mississippi Department of Marine Resource, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department have requested EFPs for the 2018 and 2019 fishing years to allow recreationally caught red snapper to be landed within certain time periods determined by the respective states.

Red snapper landings would be monitored by the states and the respective state seasons would close when a state's quota is caught or projected to be caught. These studies, to be conducted in the exclusive economic zone of the Gulf of Mexico, are intended to demonstrate the effectiveness of state management of recreationally caught red snapper.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy E. Crabtree".

for Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.  
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

