

Public Comment Summary

**Framework Action: Modification to the Recreational Red Snapper
Annual Catch Target Buffers**

20 written comments were received.

- Support for no action.
- The buffer on the for-hire sector should be decreased to allow the federal for-hire component to reach its annual catch limit.
- The red snapper fishery is robust and has recovered to the point that anglers must actively avoid them. The red snapper annual catch limit should be increased so that the recreational sector can increase its buffer to 25% without impacting fishing days.
- The for-hire sector's buffer should be reduced to 10%.
- The for-hire ACT should be reduced while the private recreational ACT should remain the same.
- There needs to be true scientific analysis of for-hire landings before the ACTs are adjusted.
- There is no accountability or special data collection for the recently separated for-hire sector, so the Council should not be able to saddle the private anglers with a higher buffer while easing the buffer on the for-hire sector.
- 407D mandates that all within the sector must be punished for overages. For-hire is a subcomponent of the recreational quota, not a sector in itself, so it should be managed alongside the private anglers unless the entire quota is split three ways.
- It's more appropriate to reset the total allocation between for-hire and private components based on an equal number of days fished. Manipulating the annual catch target is the wrong approach and discriminates unfairly against the private anglers. If the for-hire fleet can't catch its allocation, then the allocation is wrong.

Other Comments:

- There is no way that the private sector catches more fish than the for-hire sector.
- The Council needs real recreational representatives without ties to the commercial fishing industry.
- There is no way the private angling component catches its quota.
- The recreational sector should be able to fish for red snapper 317 days a year and commercial fishing should be banned.
- There should be no closed seasons and only limits, gear restrictions, and small area closures.
- Rig removal is killing thousands of pounds of red snapper.
- The Council should delay voting until the new members are seated.