



October 19, 2015

The Honorable John Fleming
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water, Power, & Oceans
1324 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water, Power, & Oceans
1329 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Fleming and Ranking Member Huffman,

The Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance (Shareholders' Alliance) is a non-profit organization that represents the interests of commercial reef fish fishermen and other stakeholders in the Gulf of Mexico. By working closely with regional managers, state agencies, and federal representatives, we strive to stabilize and improve fishery management to ensure that we can continue to provide the American public with a sustainable source of domestically-caught Gulf of Mexico seafood. Everything we do is founded in our belief that conservation and stewardship protect fish populations *and* fishermen's businesses.

On behalf of the Shareholders' Alliance, please accept the attached documents that showcase our strong opposition to H.R. 3094 – Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority Act:

1. A July 2015 press statement from the Shareholders' Alliance opposing the multiple proposals attempting to legislate state management of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico.
2. An April 2015 press release from the Shareholders' Alliance opposing this concept as it was announced.
3. An April 2015 commercial fishing organization sign-on letter coordinated by the Shareholders' Alliance with over 40 commercial fishing organizations from throughout the United States opposing this move and the federal precedent it sets.

H.R. 3094 is a threat to our fishing businesses, fishery jobs, and the fishing communities of the Gulf of Mexico. We also believe H.R. 3094 will jeopardize the strong rebuilding we've seen in the red snapper fishery in recent years. It creates loopholes that will undermine our businesses to the point where the commercial fishery could actually be eliminated, and raises questions of transparency, accountability, enforcement, and funding. The Gulf states do not have the best long term interests of commercial fishermen or seafood suppliers at heart, and we therefore ask to remain under federal management. Please do not advance this controversial, ill-advised, and precedent-setting proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

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