Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper: Preliminary 2017 Landings, 2018 Season
### Preliminary 2017 Landings

Landings in millions of pounds, whole weight, from MRIP, LA Creel and Headboat data (January 1 through December, 31 2017) and TPWD data (January through May 14, 2017).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wave</th>
<th>FL</th>
<th>AL</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>LA</th>
<th>TX</th>
<th>FFH</th>
<th>PANG</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>0.163</td>
<td>0.194</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>0.000</td>
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<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>0.008</td>
<td>0.163</td>
<td>0.170</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>0.711</td>
<td>0.508</td>
<td>0.031</td>
<td>0.131</td>
<td>0.147</td>
<td>1.529</td>
<td>3.328</td>
<td>4.857</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.154</td>
<td>0.222</td>
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<td>0.001</td>
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<td>0.499</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.865</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.730</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.034</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.178</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.323</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.554</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.724</strong></td>
<td><strong>8.488</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%Comp.</th>
<th>41%</th>
<th>34%</th>
<th>2%</th>
<th>8%</th>
<th>15%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>43%</th>
<th>4%</th>
<th>12%</th>
<th>1%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%Total</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**The 2017 Federal recreational season for red snapper by the federal for-hire component was June 1-July 20; for the private angling component, the season was June 1-3, then beginning June 16th through September 4 (Labor Day), the private angling component season was:**

- **OPEN:** Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and July 3-4 and September 4 [42 days total]
- **CLOSED:** Monday-Thursday, (not including July 3-4, and September 4)
Preliminary 2017 Landings

Federal For-Hire

- FL: 34%
- AL: 15%
- MS: 8%
- LA: 4%
- TX: 2%
- Other: 41%

Private Angling

- FL: 43%
- AL: 40%
- MS: 12%
- LA: 4%
- TX: 1%
- Other: 1%
Preliminary 2017 Landings

Federal For-Hire Landings (MP)

Private Angling Landings (MP)

TX
LA
MS
AL
FL
FFH ACT
FFH ACL
PVT ACT
PVT ACL
EFPs

- Each Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) state marine resource agency has submitted an application for an EFP that would allow them to set private angler and/or for-hire fishing season(s) for red snapper landed in each respective state for 2018 and 2019.
- The EFPs would do so by exempting persons landing red snapper in the participating states from the closed federal fishing season.
- The purpose of these EFPs is to allow states to demonstrate the effectiveness of state management of recreationally caught red snapper and data collection methods through 2-year pilot programs.
EFP Requirements

• States would establish seasons when red snapper could be landed.

• Recreational fishermen with the appropriate licenses from the state would be able to land fish caught in federal waters during the state season.

• States would require fishermen to land their red snapper following state-specific rules.

• States would monitor red snapper landings and close their seasons if a state’s assigned quota is reached or projected to be reached.
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

- FWC requests that 1,305,360 pounds of red snapper from the Gulf recreational private angling component quota be made available each year for red snapper landed in Florida.
- The requested quota is based on the proportion of red snapper landed in Florida during 2006 through 2015, except for 2010 landings (excluded as a result of the Deepwater Horizon MC252 oil spill).
- The quota would be reduced by a 20 percent buffer.
- For 2018, the projected red snapper fishing season for private anglers would be May 25 through June 17 for the Gulf waters off Florida, based on the requested quota. The 2019 state private angling recreational season would be determined at a later date.
- Private anglers would be required to sign up for the state's Gulf Reef Fish Angler Program to be able to land select reef fish species including red snapper.
- Landings would be monitored through the state's Gulf Reef Fish Survey.
- If recreational landings are less than the assigned quota at the end of this season, fishing could reopen in the fall of 2018 and/or 2019 to land the uncaught portion of the quota.
- If the recreational quota is exceeded in 2018, FWC proposes a quota overage adjustment (payback) for the following year.
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR)

- ADCNR requests an annual state private angling component quota of 984,291 pounds for 2018 and 2019.
- The requested quota equals 10 percent of the red snapper biomass estimated by university researchers to occur in waters off Alabama, and is estimated from fishery-independent biomass estimates.
- The quota would be reduced by a 10 percent buffer.
- For 2018, red snapper could be landed in Alabama on weekends (Friday through Sunday) starting on June 1 and continuing until the quota is reached or projected to be reached.
- Currently, ADCNR is projecting a season of 47 fishing days. The 2019 state private angling recreational season would be determined at a later date. If there is sufficient quota available, ACDNR would reopen the season in the fall.
- Landings would be monitored through Snapper Check, a mandatory electronic reporting program.
- If the 2018 quota were to be exceeded, payback of the quota overage would occur for the following year.
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR)

- MDMR requests an annual quota of 137,949 pounds of red snapper for the private angling component to be landed in Mississippi for 2018 and 2019.
- The quota is based on 2017 landings reported to MDMR’s mandatory Tails n’ Scales electronic reporting system.
- A 10 percent buffer would be applied.
- The red snapper season would begin on May 1 of each year and remain open until the quota is projected to be reached.
- Landings in 2018 and 2019 would be tracked by the state through the Tails n’ Scales electronic reporting system.
- Landings would be validated by MDMR staff through a dockside survey, phone survey, and visual effort survey conducted by MDMR.
- Should the quota be exceeded in 2018, a payback of the quota overage would be applied for 2019.
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF)

- LDWF requests that the state recreational quota be 743,000 pounds for the private angling component and 317,000 pounds for the federal for-hire component for 2018 and 2019.
- The quotas are based on the historical landings formula used to separate the recreational sector into two components.
- LDWF proposes to begin both the private angling and for-hire seasons on May 25 in 2018, and May 24 in 2019 (the Friday before Memorial Day) until the respective quotas are reached.
- The private angling season would consist of 3-day weekends (Friday through Sunday), but also include the Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day holidays each year.
- The federal for-hire season would be 7 days per week.
- Recreational landings would be monitored through LDWF’s LA Creel survey.
- Private anglers and for-hire operators would also be encouraged to report landings though a state-approved electronic reporting system.
- Should the overall recreational quota be exceeded in 2018, a payback would be applied in 2019.
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD)

- TPWD requests 1,056,495 pounds of red snapper to be used by the private angling and federal for-hire components.
- The quota is 16 percent of the Gulf-wide recreational quota and was Texas preferred percentage in a draft regional management amendment being developed by the Council.
- The red snapper private angling season in state waters would still begin on January 1 each year.
- Because offshore weather conditions off Texas are generally unfavorable around the traditional June 1 federal recreational red snapper season start date, TPWD proposes to allow the season for red snapper caught in federal waters to start sometime after June 1.
- In 2019, the recreational season for fish caught in federal waters could start prior to June 1 to take advantage of better weather conditions that occur off Texas in the winter and spring.
- The red snapper recreational harvest would be monitored using the Texas Marine Sport Harvest Monitoring Program, NOAA's Southeast Region Headboat Survey, and a self-reported harvest system using the iSnapper application for smartphones and tablets.
- TPWD would project total landings by sector based on the number of red snapper observed by samplers during the season.
- All red snapper landed in Texas would be counted against Texas’ assigned recreational quota and the Texas season would be closed when the combined estimated recreational red snapper landings are projected to reach the recreational quota.
- If the quota should be exceeded in 2018, TPWD proposes to make adjustments in 2019 red snapper regulations to account for the overage.
More Information on EFPs

- FB18-016

- Comment Period ends April 2
- Federal For-Hire component season will be determined after SERO considers comments on EFPs