
GULF FISHERY NEWS

ADDENDUM

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GULF FISHERY NEWS is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council for persons interested in the Gulf's fishery resources. Editor: Steven Atran.

CORRECTION - NEW RED SNAPPER BAG LIMIT BECOMES EFFECTIVE APRIL 29, 1998

The January-February/March-April issue of *Gulf Fishery News* incorrectly reported that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) action to reduce the red snapper recreational bag limit from 5 fish to 4 fish was expected to become effective about May 14. After that issue was published, NMFS distributed a news bulletin announcing the correct implementation date of April 29, 1998. The complete NMFS news bulletin follows.

RED SNAPPER RECREATIONAL BAG LIMIT REDUCED TO 4 PER PERSON IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS, EFFECTIVE APRIL 29, 1998

NMFS, April 15, 1998 - Constituents are advised that the recreational bag limit for red snapper will be decreased from 5 per person to 4 per person, effective April 29, 1998, in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, announced Dr. Andrew J. Kemmerer, Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The bag limit reduction is contained in an interim rule implemented by NMFS, authorized by Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and published in the Federal Register.

This interim rule also implements changes to the availability of the recreational red snapper quota and the procedures that allow the recreational and commercial quotas to be taken. Specifically, this interim rule (1) makes available a 2.94-million-pound (MP) apportionment to recreational fishermen beginning January 1, 1998; (2) reserves 3.12 MP of the red snapper total allowable catch (TAC), which may be made available on September 1, 1998; and (3) establishes the procedure for releasing the reserved TAC on September 1, 1998, based on observed efficiency of bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) used in shrimp trawls, and apportioned between the recreational and commercial red snapper fisheries.

A copy of the interim rule is being mailed to owners of vessels with federal Gulf of Mexico reef fish commercial and/or charter/headboat permits. Copies of the interim rule, and other documents supporting this action, may be obtained from Robert Sadler, NMFS, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702, telephone (813) 570-5305, FAX (813) 570-5583, e-mail Robert.Sadler@noaa.gov.

The interim rule will be in effect through October 13, 1998. It may be extended for one additional period of not more than 180 days, provided the public has had an opportunity to comment on the interim measure.

Public comments on this interim rule will be considered in determining whether to maintain or extend this rule for an additional 180 days to address overfishing of red snapper. Comments must be sent to Robert Sadler, at the address above, and be received on or before May 14, 1998.

This and other news releases are available on the NMFS Southeast Regional Office homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>.

The NMFS is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils that were established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976. The Council is responsible for the development and modification of fishery management plans (FMPs) that are designed to manage fishery resources in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico from state boundaries to the 200-mile limit. This is a publication of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and financial assistance for this news release was provided by grant funds pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA87FC0003.
