

# Management reform in Gulf of Mexico mixed-use fisheries

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NAAFE Forum 2015

May 20, 2015



# Gulf of Mexico reef fish

### Red Grouper



Red Grouper

### Gag Grouper



Gag

### Red Snapper



Red Snapper

### Shallow Water Grouper (SWG)



Black Grouper



Yellowmouth Grouper



Scamp



Yellowfin Grouper



Warsaw Grouper

### Deep Water Grouper (DWG)



Speckled Hind



Snowy Grouper



Yellowedge Grouper

### Tilefishes



Golden Tilefish

Also includes Goldface Tilefish



Blueline Tilefish

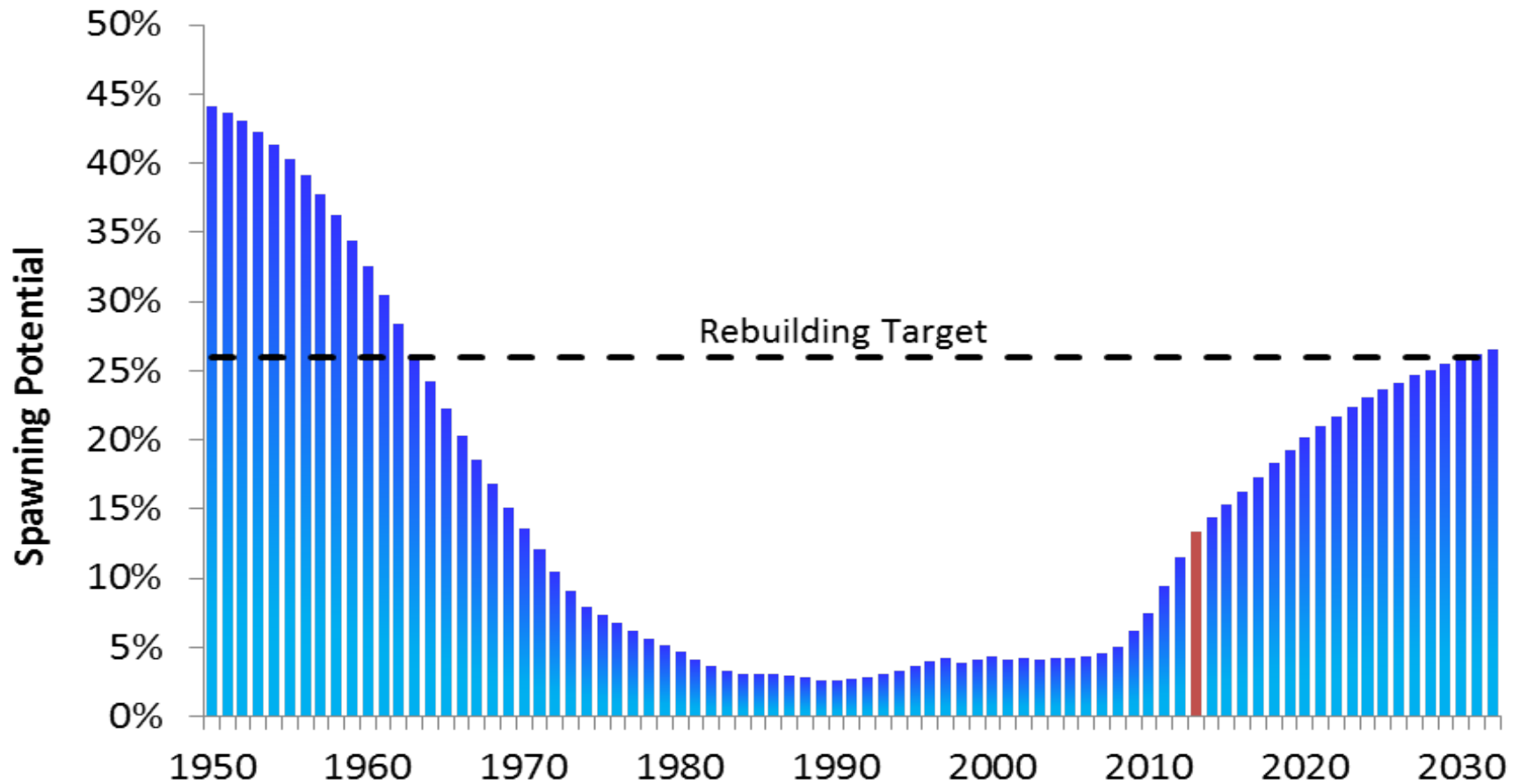






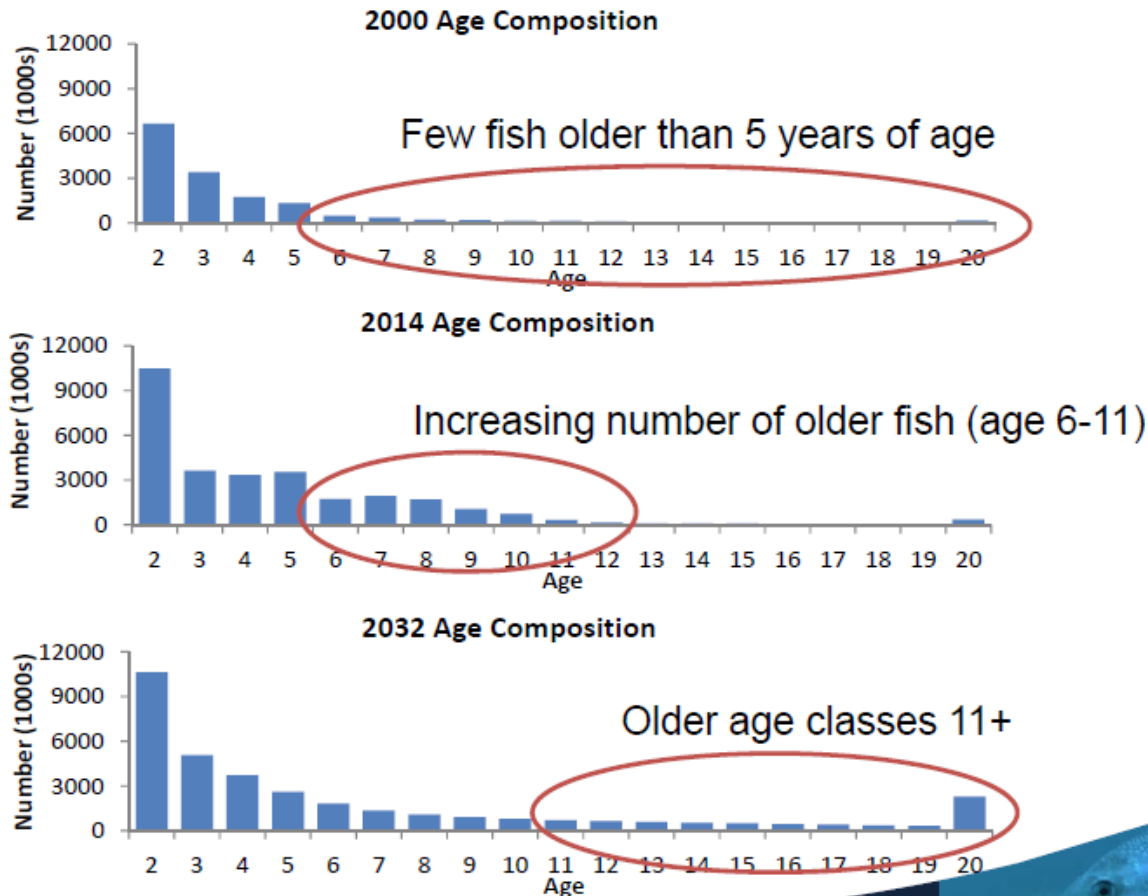


# Red snapper rebuilding plan



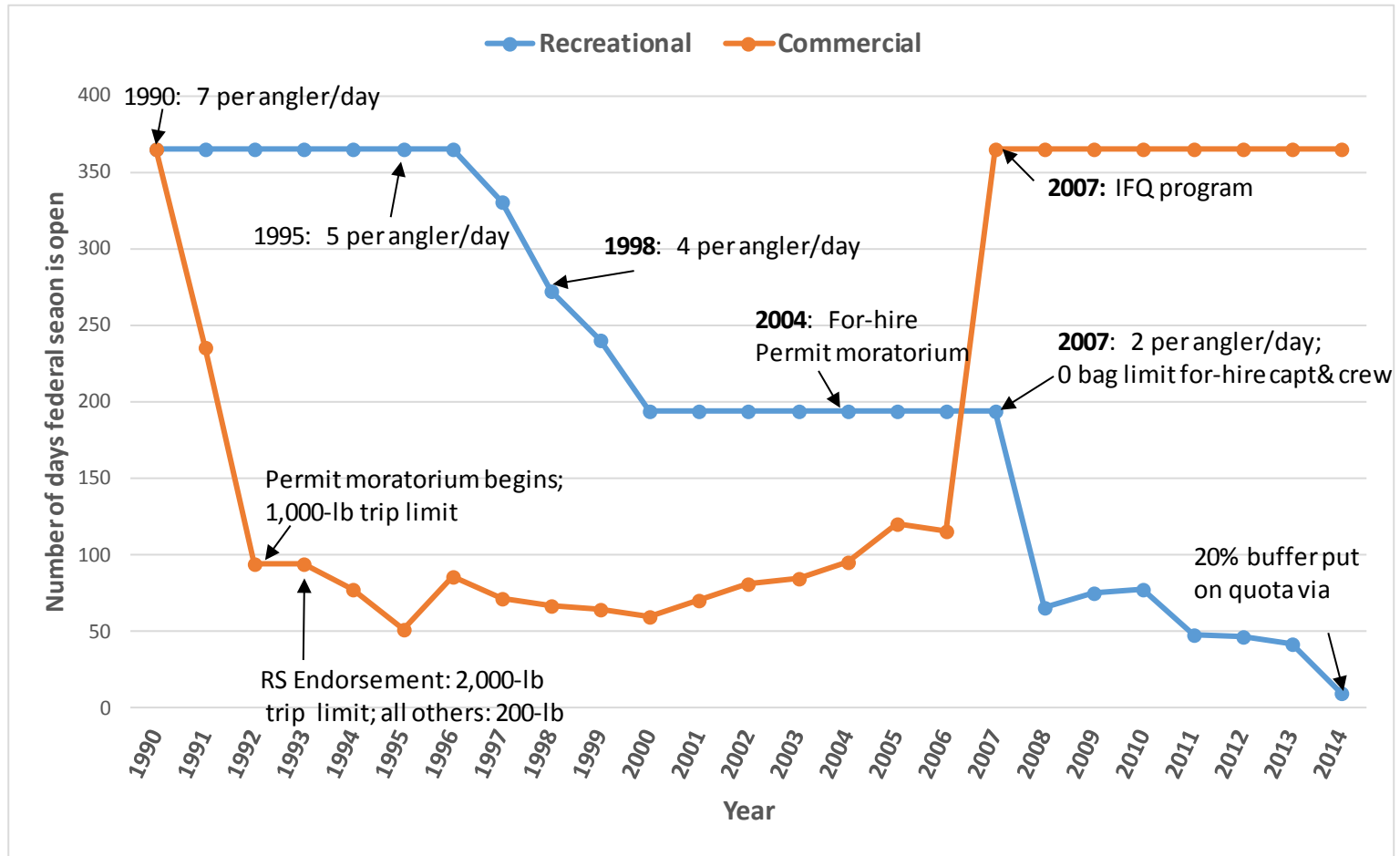
Source: NMFS SERO

# Red snapper rebuilding plan



Source: NMFS SEFSC

# Red snapper management history



Source: Gulf of Mexico FMC



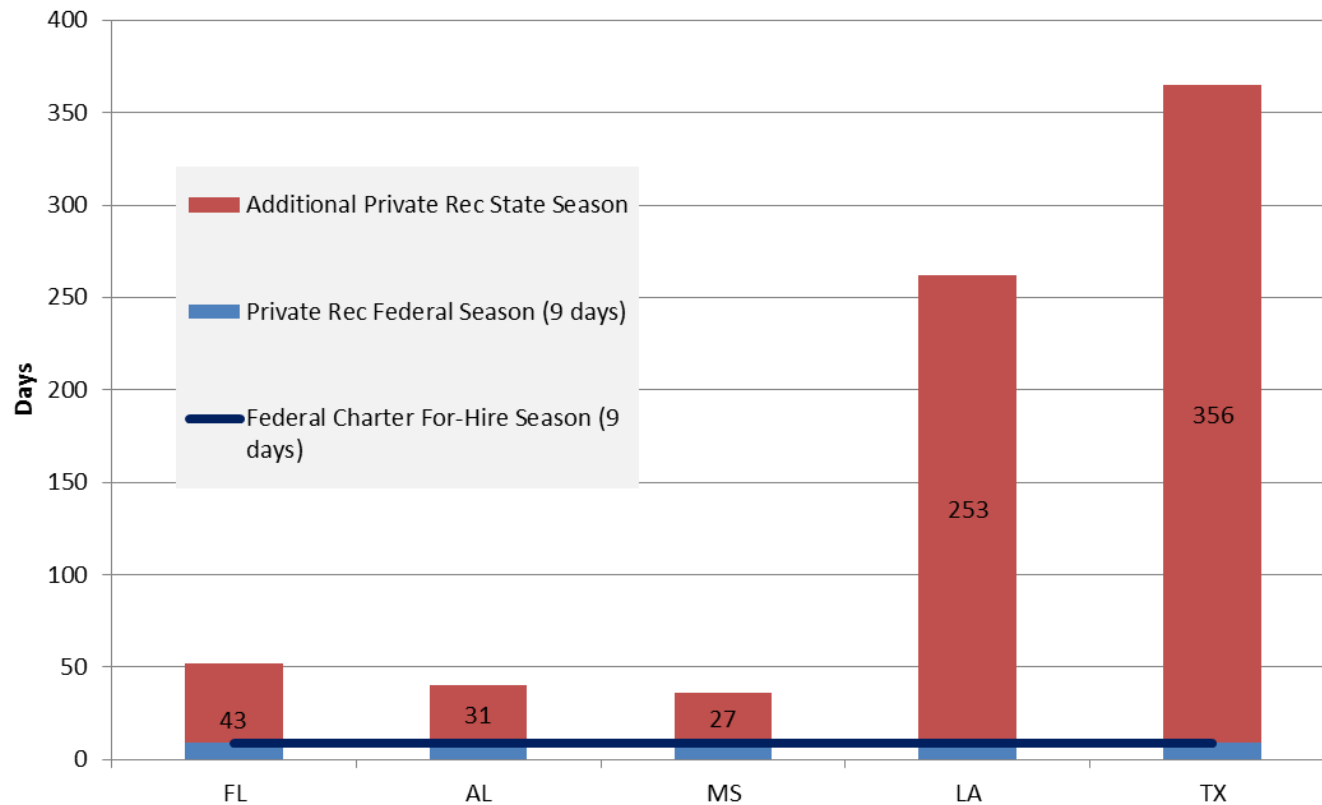
# Reef fish FMP allocated species

Reef fish species	Recreational allocation	Commercial allocation
Gray triggerfish	79%	21%
Greater amberjack	73%	27%
Grouper, black	27%	73%
Grouper, gag	61%	39%
Grouper, red	24%	76%
Red snapper	49%	51%

# De jure/de facto reallocation

- Proposed FMP Amendment 28 (red snapper reallocation)
- Recent failed Cong. bills/amendments reg. red snapper
  - H.R. 1335 Am. (Graves)
  - H.R. 981 (Byrne)
  - H.R. 3099 (Miller)
  - S.1661 (Landrieu/Wicker)
  - S. 2363 Am. (Landrieu)
  - S. 105 (Vitter)
- State waters non-compliance
  - Longer seasons (up to 365 days), higher bag limits, lower size limits, asserted (unrecognized) expanded jurisdiction to 9 nm

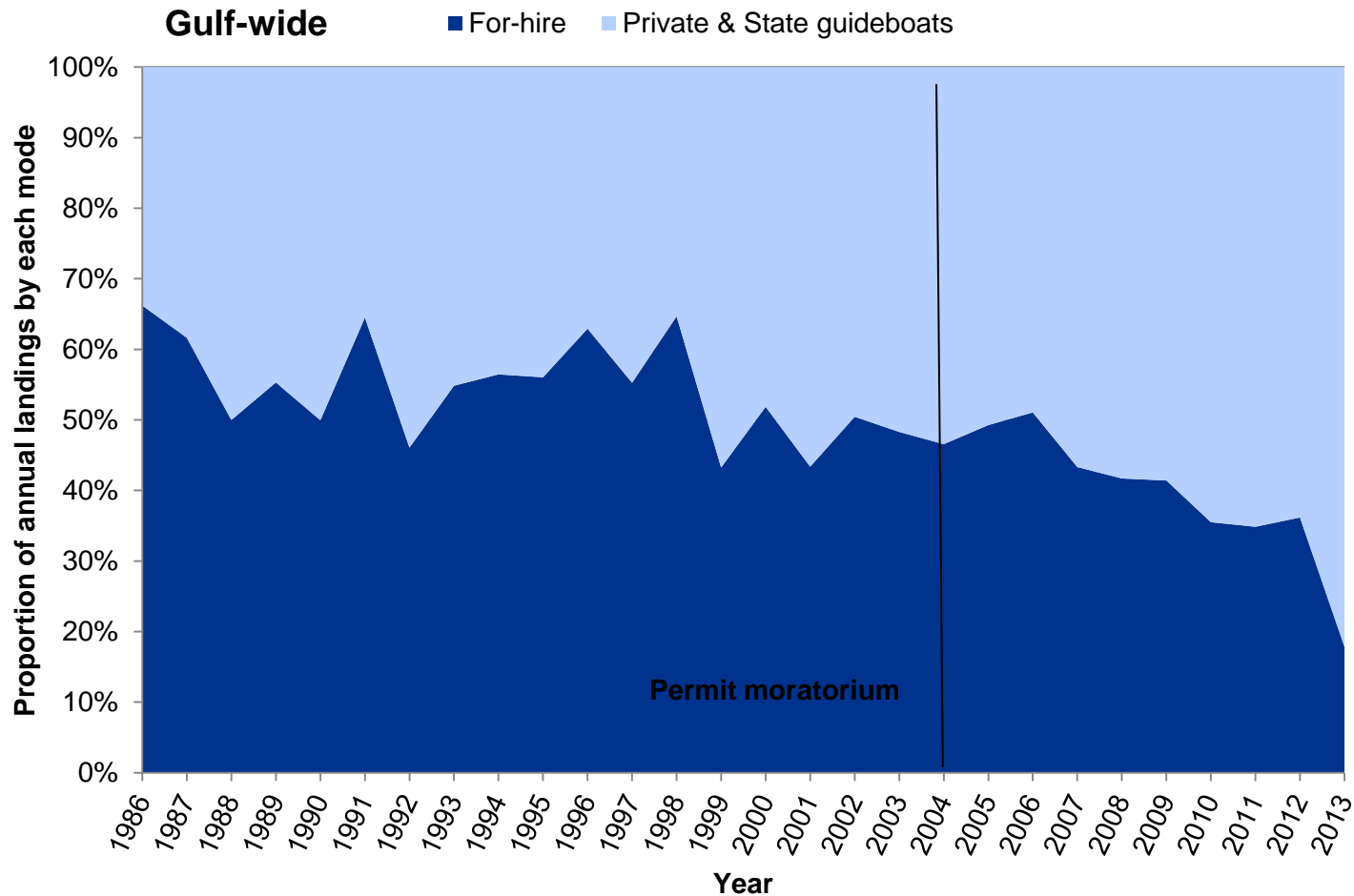
# 2014 recreational red snapper seasons



Source: Pew Charitable Trusts



# Recreational red snapper landings by mode




# Gulf Headboat Collaborative

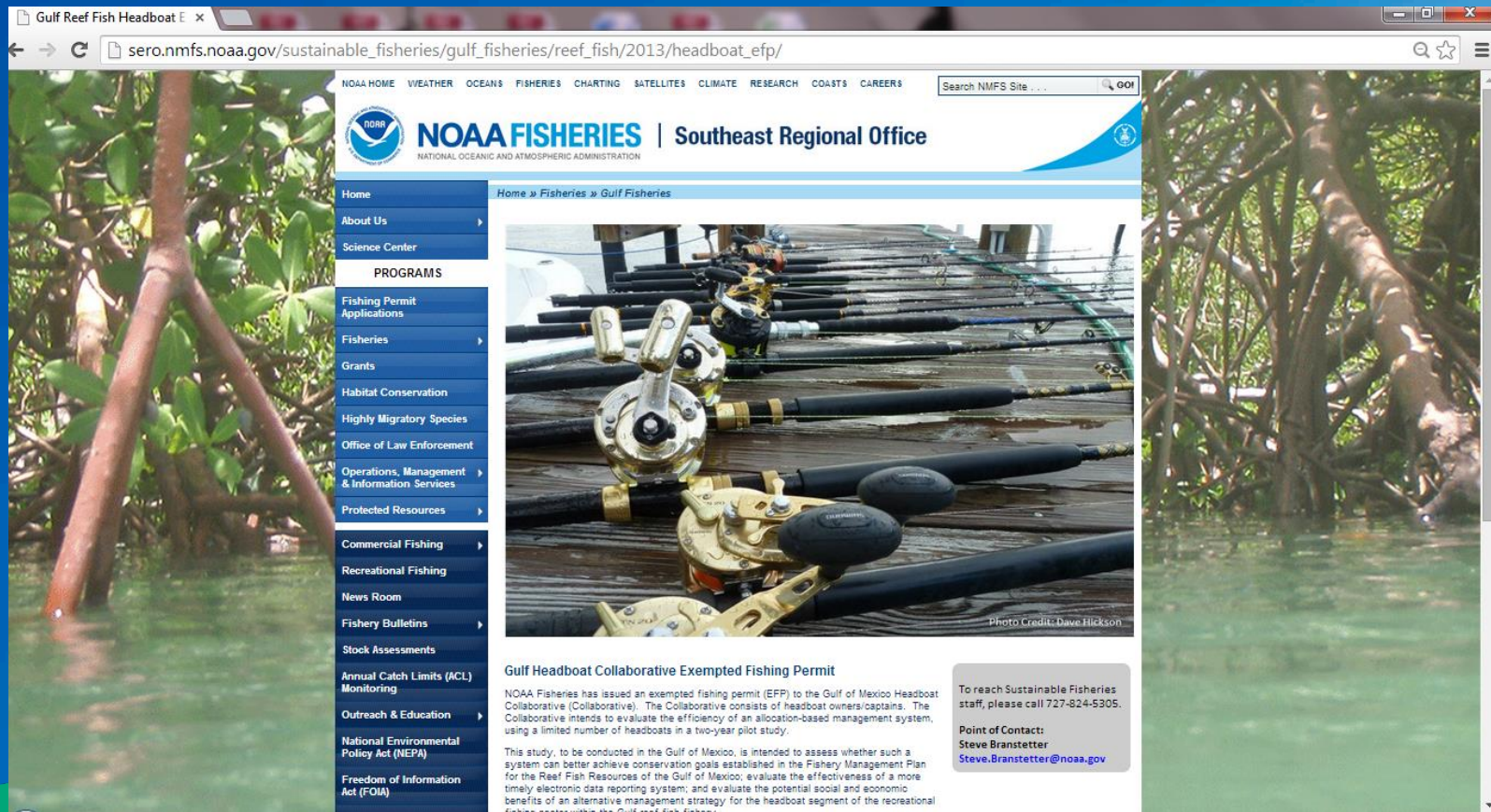




# For-hire recreational rationalization

- Brown, G.M. and J.E. Wilen (2000). “Implications of various transfer and cap policies the halibut charter fishery.” Report for NOAA AFSC.
  - Proposed halibut charter IFQ program in Southeast Alaska, Gulf of Alaska c. 2005.
  - Abbott, J.K. and J.E. Wilen (2009). “Rent dissipation and efficient rationalization in for-hire recreational fishing.” *JEEM* 58(3).
  - Abbott, J.K. Maharaj, V. and J.E. Wilen (2009). “Designing ITQ programs for commercial recreational fishing.” *Marine Policy* 33(5).
  - Leal, D. and V. Maharaj (2009). *Evolving approaches to managing marine recreational fisheries*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
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# GHC exempted fishing permit (EFP) pilot program, 2014-2015



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/gulf\\_fisheries/reef\\_fish/2013/headboat\\_efp/](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/reef_fish/2013/headboat_efp/). The page features a NOAA Fisheries header with the Southeast Regional Office logo. A left sidebar contains navigation links for Home, About Us, Science Center, and various programs including Fishing Permit Applications, Fisheries, Grants, Habitat Conservation, Highly Migratory Species, Office of Law Enforcement, Operations, Management & Information Services, Protected Resources, Commercial Fishing, Recreational Fishing, News Room, Fishery Bulletins, Stock Assessments, Annual Catch Limits (ACL) Monitoring, Outreach & Education, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The main content area is titled "Gulf Headboat Collaborative Exempted Fishing Permit" and includes a photo of fishing equipment on a boat deck. The text describes the permit issued to the Gulf of Mexico Headboat Collaborative (Collaborative) for a two-year pilot study to evaluate an allocation-based management system. It also mentions the study's goals: to assess whether such a system can better achieve conservation goals, evaluate the effectiveness of a more timely electronic data reporting system, and evaluate the potential social and economic benefits of an alternative management strategy for the headboat segment of the recreational fishing fleet in the Gulf of Mexico. A contact box on the right provides the phone number 727-824-5305 and the email [Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov](mailto:Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov).

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**Gulf Headboat Collaborative Exempted Fishing Permit**

NOAA Fisheries has issued an exempted fishing permit (EFP) to the Gulf of Mexico Headboat Collaborative (Collaborative). The Collaborative consists of headboat owners/captains. The Collaborative intends to evaluate the efficiency of an allocation-based management system, using a limited number of headboats in a two-year pilot study.

This study, to be conducted in the Gulf of Mexico, is intended to assess whether such a system can better achieve conservation goals established in the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico; evaluate the effectiveness of a more timely electronic data reporting system; and evaluate the potential social and economic benefits of an alternative management strategy for the headboat segment of the recreational fishing fleet within the Gulf of Mexico fishery.

To reach Sustainable Fisheries staff, please call 727-824-5305.

Point of Contact:  
Steve Branstetter  
[Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov](mailto:Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov)

# GHC ports, 2014-2015



Source: NMFS SERO





## Gulf of Mexico Headboat Collaborative Program Fact Sheet

[portal.sero.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://portal.sero.fisheries.noaa.gov) or [ifq.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://ifq.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov)

(866) 425-7627 (select option 2)

NMFS.SER.CatchShare@noaa.gov



### Species

The program includes two species: red snapper and gag.



### Shares

The Headboat Collaborative received a percentage share of the red snapper and gag recreational quota. The program received 5.3146% of the recreational red snapper quota and 2.8343% of the recreational gag quota. This was based on the % of 2011 Headboat Collaborative's aggregate vessel landings relative to all 2011 recreational landings times the current year's quota.

### Allocation

Allocation was converted from pounds to number of fish for each species based on regional average weights. This is the number of fish you have the opportunity to harvest each calendar year.

### Headboat Collaborative Vessel Accounts

Allocation must be transferred into the vessel account prior to completing a landing. Allocation can be received from the headboat manager account or another headboat vessel account.



### Headboat Collaborative Manager Account

On January 1, allocation in numbers of fish is placed in the headboat manager account. The manager distributes allocation to the vessel accounts. Distribution of allocation is based on agreements within the Headboat Collaborative.

### Steps when going on a Headboat Collaborative fishing trip



Make your VMS declaration through the VMS unit.  
Type: Gulf  
Activity: Reef Fish  
Permit: Headboat



1 hour advanced landing notification through VMS or online. Enter vessel, number of species, landing time, and landing location.



Landings are uploaded to the SE Region's online system and deducted from each vessel's allocation.



Complete the landing transaction through the SE Headboat Survey's e-Log system by the end of the day.



Land at a pre-approved location.

This publication was updated in December 2013 for general informational purposes. Additional requirements and changes to regulations are available at [ifq.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://ifq.sero.nmfs.noaa.gov).  
Fish illustrations by Diane Peebles.

Thorium > SE Catch - Headboat Cooperative EFP Pre-Landing

"This report is required by, and only authorized for, vessels currently operating under the Headboat Cooperative Exempted Fishing Permit. This report is required to be sent at least one hour prior to landing. Total landings by fish for Red Snapper and Gag Grouper must be reported.

OK

Select the State of the landing location:  
FL

Select the City of the landing location:  
Clearwater Beach

Select the Name of the landing location:  
Double Eagle Fleet Slip 51

Select the estimated landing time:  
13:50

Select the timezone:  
CST

Select the arrival date:  
Today

What are the total number of Red Snapper catch onboard?  
100

What are the total number of Gag Grouper catch onboard?  
200

Request confirmation code through email at additional cost?  
No

AT&T 4G 11:57 AM AT&T 4G 11:57 AM

Cancel Trip Report Save Cancel Trip Report Save

<b>Departed</b>	Tue, Sep 17, 2013 11:45 AM
<b>Returned</b>	Tue, Sep 17, 2013 04:00 PM
<b>Captain</b>	Capt Rob
<b>Lat/Long Degrees</b>	29-83
<b>Longitude Minutes</b>	D - (20 - 29)
<b>Latitude Minutes</b>	3 - (30 - 39)
<b>Anglers</b>	20
<b>Min Depth Fished</b>	30
<b>Max Depth Fished</b>	70

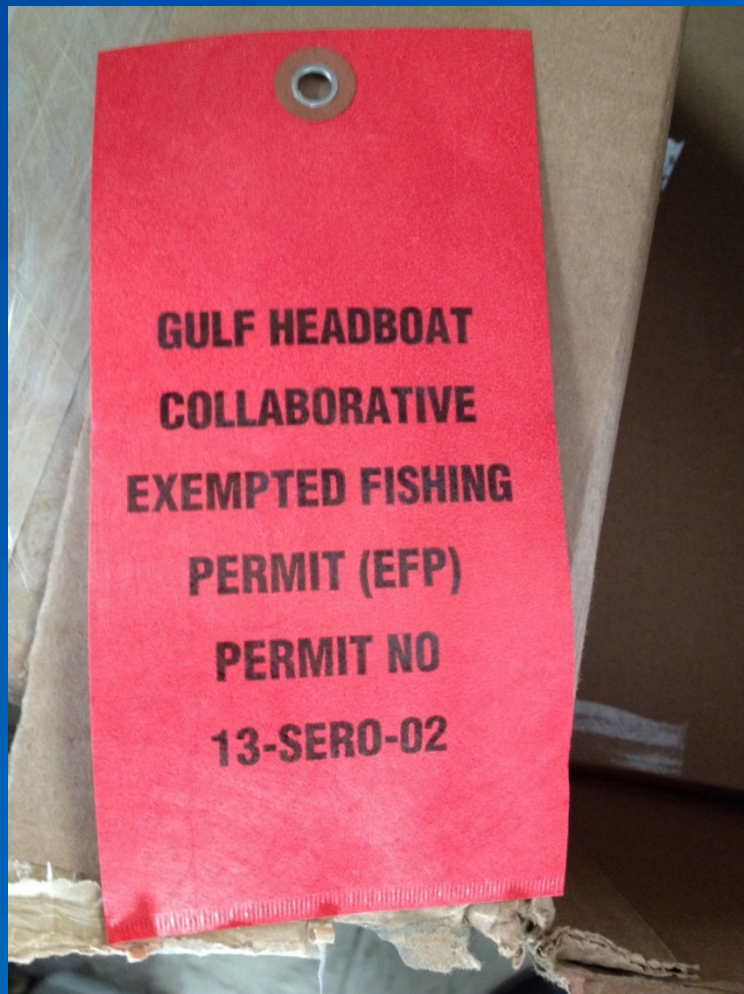
**Catch**

<b>Species</b>	GAG
<b>Number Kept</b>	3
<b>Number Released</b>	2
<b>Species</b>	RED SNAPPER
<b>Number Kept</b>	12
<b>Number Released</b>	8
<b>Add Species</b>	

**Save Trip Report** **Delete Trip Report**

Source: NMFS SERO





# GHC operations, 2014

- Collective allocations proportional to members' landings history
  - 286,457 lbs. red snapper (5.81% of recreational quota), 43,053 lbs. gag (2.83%)
- Self-governance: 5% quota reserve (released with Board approval), retain any fish that appears mortally wounded, \$500/fish overage penalty
- 31 intra-GHC transfers in 2014 (most barter, some \$20/fish)
- 98.9% red snapper, 50.3% gag quota utilization




# GHC operations, 2014

- 103,850 total customers, 62,487 customers on trips where red snapper/gag were retained (+100%)
  - Little change in number and seasonality of total trips, +114% increase in red snapper/gag trips
  - Year-round red snapper/gag fishing s.t. catch limits. 36%/24% reduction in red snapper/gag discards per catch
  - GHC membership expanded to 19 boats in 2015 (28% of federally permitted Gulf of Mexico headboats)
  - Ongoing voluntary research partnership with ASU (Abbott) and EDF (Willard)
  - Draft for-hire management FMP Amendments 41, 42 may include rights-based management options
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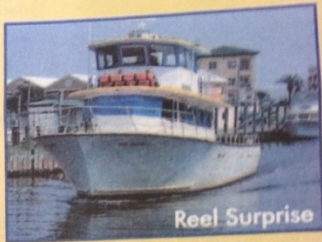


Reel Surprise Charters January 2014 Beachin' 37

# Come Get Your Snapper On!



Gulf Winds II  
251.981.FISH



Reel Surprise  
251.981.FISH



Zeke's Lady  
251.981.ZEKE

Starting  
January 1, 2014

8-hour charter  
**\$125<sup>00</sup>** per person  
(includes limit of snapper;  
special ends May 23, 2014)

*Through a special permit program, you will  
be able to catch and retain red snapper.*

Designed by Gulf Headboat Collaborative  
[www.gulfheadboat.com](http://www.gulfheadboat.com)

# More information

- GHC pilot program evaluation:
  - NMFS SERO (2015). “Headboat Collaborative Pilot Program 2014 Annual Report.” March 2015.
  - Abbott, J.K. (2015). “The Gulf Headboat Collaborative: Preliminary Findings from Year 1.” Presentation to GMFMC. Biloxi, MS. March 31, 2015.
- GHC pilot program design and administration:
  - <http://gulfheadboat.com/>
  - [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/gulf\\_fisheries/reef\\_fish/2013/headboat\\_efp/](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/reef_fish/2013/headboat_efp/)



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