

Anonymous Voice Mail Comment Summary
Comments Received Between June 12 – August 19, 2025

59 voicemail comments received.

Comments Relevant to Current Council Action Items:

Individual Fishing Quota Program Reform

- The IFQ program is the worst thing that ever happened to the fishery in the Gulf.
- A few people hold the rest of the fishery hostage.
- Lease prices are too high.
- The social dynamics of the system are unfair.
- Investors in the IFQ program have driven fishermen out of business.
- Quota increases should go to active fishermen.
- The IFQ program drives up the cost to consumers.
- Overregulation and share prices are driving people out of business.
- Lack of access to red snapper quota is increasing discards.
- The commercial industry is dying because of the cost and all the regulations associated with the IFQ program.
- The Shareholders' Alliance has too much control over the fishery.
- It's impossible to find captain and crew because the profit margins are too small under the IFQ program.
- Fishermen get blackballed if they speak against the IFQ program or the big shareholders and then they can't get quota to fish.

Red Grouper

- The red grouper ACL should be increased.
- Commercial fishermen need more red grouper quota to decrease lease price and keep them fishing for something.

Deep-Water Grouper

- Charters out of Louisiana are catching too many deep-water groupers without accountability and they're decimating the populations.

Executive Orders

- Double the red snapper quota.
- Open all closed fishing areas.
- Don't require observers on commercial vessels.
- Don't require VMS.
- Don't require hail-in or hail-out.
- Remove the IFQ program.

Other Comments:

Red Snapper

- Charter vessels are taking too many red snapper and should have smaller vessel-based possession limits.
- Private red snapper possession limits should be increased, and the season should be shorter. The cost of fuel and distance to catch them makes it hard for just 2-fish.
- The red snapper quota should be higher.
- State management of red snapper had caused a decline in the fishery. You have to fish farther out to get your fish.

King Mackerel

- The kingfish stock is in trouble.
- The bag limit should be dropped to 1-fish per person or even 1-per vessel.

Gag

- There are too many gag in the Gulf.
- Gag discards are a problem because the quota isn't high enough.
- The gag quota should be higher.

Commercial Fishing

- The commercial fleet should be fishing further than 60 miles from shore.
- Longlining should be restricted to the same depth across the Gulf without an exception for Florida. Allowing fishing nearer to shore in Florida harms the stocks that we're already concerned about.
- Commercial fishermen don't need VMS.
- Commercial fishermen are treated like criminals.
- There is too much commercial fishing.
- Trawling should not be allowed.

Miscellaneous

- More habitat is necessary.
- The snapper and amberjack season should be open for citizens over 65. One needs to choose their days wisely at that age as to not get beat up.
- Sand trout (silver trout) should have limits because people are taking too many. 4 or 5 per person would be ok.
- Recreational fishing brings more money to the states, but the seasons are always short.
- Let recreational fishermen fish for grouper in the winter.
- The charter industry should be reporting their harvest.
- Give charter captains incentives to give you data.
- You shouldn't have to buy permits off someone; the government should benefit from permit fees.
- The Council is hosting a meeting away from the coast so only the shareholders show up.