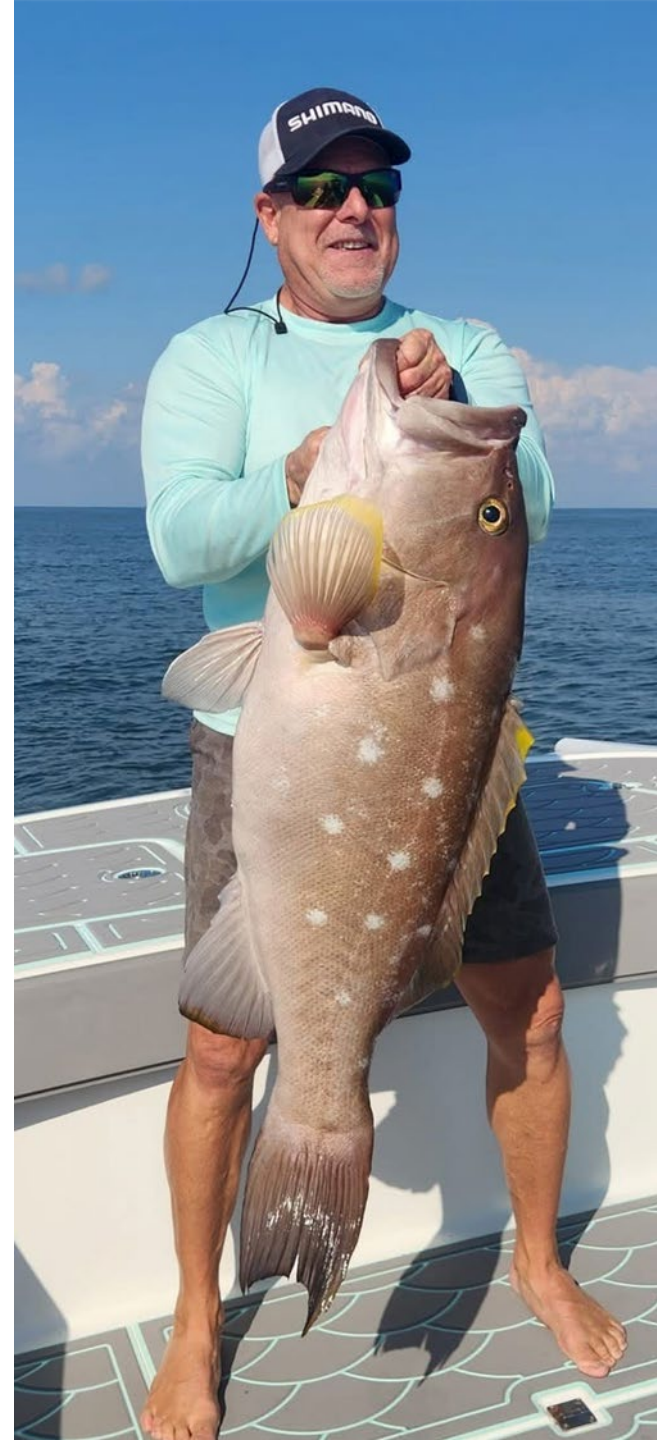


Anglers  
Almanac  
Pilot  
Program:  
Deep-Water  
Grouper  
(DWG)

Gulf of Mexico Fishery  
Management Council

Informational Session  
August 2025



# Need for DWG Monitoring

- DWG are data-poor species.
- Low encounter rates due to non-traditional fishing patterns & misidentification hinder reliable data collection.
- MRIP and LA Creel are not optimized to capture DWG catch.
- Need better data to monitor the new Recreational ACL on DWG.



# Why Catch Precision Matters

- Small errors in catch estimates can mean early closures or exceeding limits.
- A few misreported trips can distort assessments reducing uncertainty & overly conservative assumptions
- Near real-time catch reporting allows managers to respond quickly.
- Builds trust with anglers & supports stronger, defensible management decisions.



| Feedback ID   | Date & Time        | Segmentation model version | Classification model version | Total c |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| 183277  | 8/17/2025 - 1:21pm | 7                          | 9                            | 0       |
| <span style="color: yellow;">●</span> POLYGON 1     |                    |                            |                              |         |
| <span style="color: green;">●</span> POLYGON 2      |                    |                            |                              |         |
| <span style="color: red;">●</span> POLYGON 3        |                    |                            |                              |         |
| <span style="color: cyan;">●</span> POLYGON 4       |                    |                            |                              |         |
| <span style="color: orange;">●</span> POLYGON 5     |                    |                            |                              |         |
| <span style="color: lightgreen;">●</span> POLYGON 6 |                    |                            |                              |         |
| <span style="color: purple;">●</span> POLYGON 7     |                    |                            |                              |         |

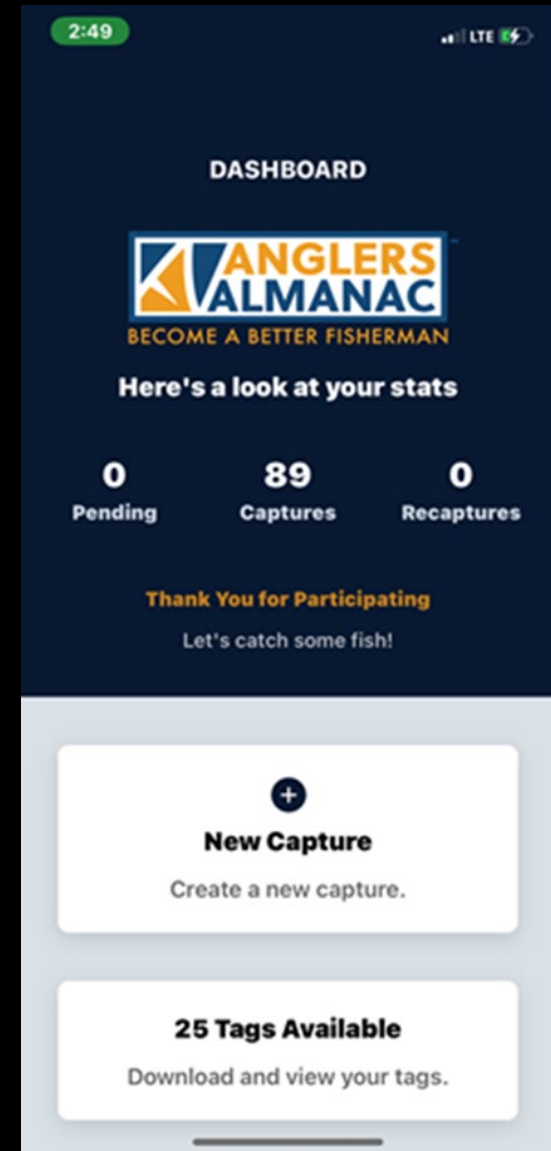


# How the Pilot Works

- Voluntary app-based reporting: anglers log trips with a photo (kept, released, or no catch).
- Photo captures date, time, and GPS.
- Optional depth entry and length auto-detection.
- Self-reported data stored locally and uploaded when connected.

# Validation Strategy

- Goal of 30% of app-reported trips validated dockside.
- Intercepts focused at high-effort marinas during peak return windows.
- Photos matched to fish using AI and human review.
- Discrepancies logged and used to generate correction factors.



# Why Louisiana is Well Positioned

- LA Creel and ROLP already identify anglers fishing in federal waters and allow precision targeting of intercepts.
- These tools enabled Louisiana to manage red snapper in-season, this pilot expands that model using modern tech for DWG.



# Benefits for Management

- Gulf Council: improves ACL tracking, supports Amendment 58B, enables in-season tools.



- NMFS: better discard, size frequency, and behavior data; supports MRIP recalibration.



- States: localized validation, better marina coverage, stronger public trust.



# Path Forward & Scaling

- Pilot can be voluntary and non-regulatory.
- If successful, could inform Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) or Council action.
- Expandable to other low-encounter species and Gulf states.
- Stakeholder-driven, science-ready, and scalable.



**RFRI**

WITH A PURPOSE

## Thank You / Contact Info

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- The goal is better decisions, not more restrictions, supporting smarter, more adaptive management.