

Summary of Alabama Private Recreational Red Snapper Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Request



*Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Marine Resources Division*

*Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting
New Orleans, LA
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EFP Summary:

The EFP request is made to test an alternative Red Snapper management plan for Alabama's recreational anglers; private recreational anglers and anglers fishing from state-licensed charter boats

The EFP is anticipated to provide several benefits to identified anglers including;

- Increasing accountability through the use of a mandatory electronic reporting program
- Increasing fishing opportunities through use of near real-time landings data to reduce the initial buffer compared to the buffer used in the existing management strategy
- Providing the opportunity to increase season length if fishing is reduced due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. bad weather)
- Providing additional access to artificial habitat created through the State and private individuals

EFP Highlights:

EFP is requested for a two-year period beginning with the 2018 fishing season

Allocation is based on the three-year average of biomass estimated from fishery-independent surveys of habitat (artificial and natural) and abundance of red snapper

Allocation is 984,291 pounds for both years of EFP

A 10% buffer will be utilized prior to calculating fishing season

Season will begin June 1st in 2018 and include weekends (Fri-Sun) and weekdays of July 4th holiday week (47 days) with a possible start prior to Memorial Day in 2019

Size and bag limits will remain at 16" TL and 2 fish/person/day

Monitoring of Red Snapper fishing activities

Mandatory reporting prior to landing fish in Alabama will be required through established program (Snapper Check)

DCNR/MRD enforcement will conduct dockside patrols to check vessels for compliance with reporting requirement

Estimates of total landings will be sent to NOAA Fisheries SERO each week for landings through the previous week

If landings are projected to exceed allocation the Commissioner of DCNR/MRD will close state waters to possession of Red Snapper

If season ends and significant allocation is remaining a fall season may be established

Thank You!