



April 16, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner, Leader McConnell, and Leader Pelosi:

The Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery has a historic and significant economic benefit to the Gulf states and the nation. However, federal management conflicts impacting both the commercial and recreational sectors have created a situation that is negatively impacting the coastal economies and citizens of our states.

In 2013, NOAA Fisheries has declared that recreational anglers in Texas will have a 12-day snapper season in federal waters, nine days in Louisiana, 28 days in Mississippi and Alabama, and 21 days in Florida. With a stock that is recovering steadily, our recreational anglers are being allowed to fish less and less, and there is no hint of willingness from NOAA Fisheries to deviate from this present, unsatisfactory course. As governors of Gulf states, we believe this confusing management is just the latest evidence of a federal management system that is irretrievably broken.

We seek to establish a better fishery management approach for Gulf red snapper based on effective interstate management measures coordinated by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC). Modeled after the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, we believe a coordinated Gulf states partnership for red snapper management would be more capable of delivering a robust fishery that is more accessible for the citizens of

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our states. State-based fishery management has proven to be far more effective, and has engineered some of the greatest marine conservation victories in the country, including red drum, speckled trout, snook and striped bass. It is in the national interest to implement procedures and measures to provide for effective inter-jurisdictional Gulf coastal state conservation and management of this species.

After more than three decades under federal management, the red snapper fishery remains mired in confusion and turmoil. We are determined to find a constructive path to resolve this unsatisfactory situation, and seek your support of legislation to allow the states to take greater responsibilities in the management of fishery resources.

Sincerely,



Governor Bobby Jindal
State of Louisiana



Governor Rick Perry
State of Texas



Governor Rick Scott
State of Florida



Governor Phil Bryant
State of Mississippi

cc: President Barack Obama
Louisiana Congressional Delegation
Texas Congressional Delegation
Florida Congressional Delegation
Mississippi Congressional Delegation
The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
The Honorable John Thune
The Honorable Mark Begich
The Honorable Marco Rubio
The Honorable Doc Hastings
The Honorable Ed Markey
The Honorable John Fleming
The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Dr. Rebecca Blank
Dr. Kathryn Sullivan
Eric Schwaab
Samuel Rauch
Roy Crabtree