



GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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NEWS BULLETIN

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Interim Measures for Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Finalized

April 2, 2007 - A final rule by NOAA Fisheries Service implementing interim measures in the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery published today, April 2, 2007. The measures are intended to temporarily address overfishing of red snapper in 2007, while the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council develops additional, long-term measures to end overfishing and rebuild the red snapper stock.

The interim measures will:

- reduce the commercial red snapper minimum size limit to 13" total length (effective April 2, 2007);
- reduce the daily recreational bag limit to two fish (effective May 2, 2007);
- prohibit captain and crew of for-hire vessels from retaining a recreational bag limit (effective May 2, 2007);
- reduce total allowable catch (TAC) to 6.5 million pounds (mp) – 3.315 mp commercial and 3.185 mp recreational (effective May 2, 2007);
- establish in the shrimp fishery a red snapper bycatch mortality reduction goal of 50% of the 2001-2003 average (effective May 2, 2007).

Since the interim rule does not become effective until May 2, 2007, during the first 11 days of the 2007 recreational season, captain and crew may retain a bag limit, and the four-fish bag limit will apply.

NOAA Fisheries Service will adjust the 2007 commercial red snapper quota after the 2007 TAC becomes effective May 2, 2007, but no later than July 1, 2007.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council prepares fishery management plans designed to manage fishery resources in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

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