



August 6, 2015

## Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

### Commissioners

**Brian Yablonski**  
Chairman  
Tallahassee

**Aliese P. "Liesa" Priddy**  
Vice Chairman  
Immokalee

**Ronald M. Bergeron**  
Fort Lauderdale

**Richard A. Corbett**  
Tampa

**Richard Hanas**  
Oviedo

**Bo Rivard**  
Panama City

**Charles W. Roberts III**  
Tallahassee

### Executive Staff

**Nick Wiley**  
Executive Director

**Eric Sutton**  
Assistant Executive Director

**Jennifer Fitzwater**  
Chief of Staff

### Office of the Executive Director

**Nick Wiley**  
Executive Director

(850) 487-3796  
(850) 921-5786 FAX

*Managing fish and wildlife  
resources for their long-term  
well-being and the benefit  
of people.*

620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, Florida  
32399-1600  
Voice: (850) 488-4676

Hearing/speech-impaired:  
(800) 955-8771 (T)  
(800) 955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com

The Honorable Garret Graves  
U.S. House of Representatives  
204 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Graves:

On behalf of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), I am pleased to support H.R. 3094, the "Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority (GSRMSA) Act."

The Gulf of Mexico is one of America's great natural resources. Tourists from the United States and the rest of the world flock to the Gulf of Mexico to enjoy everything it has to offer: world-class fishing, beautiful beaches, great food, and diverse wildlife.

Unfortunately, fishing for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico is becoming more and more challenging for all parties involved because of the manner in which red snapper is being managed. This uncertainty and challenging environment is leading to increasingly more dissatisfaction for all.

GSRMSA is a step in the right direction for anglers and conservationists. By joining together with our colleagues in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, FWC believes the five states in the Gulf of Mexico are better equipped to manage the red snapper fishery, to establish and meet conservation goals based on sound scientific data, and to respond faster to the needs of all anglers.

Representative Graves, thank you for your leadership on this issue. FWC looks forward to working with you, Congressman Jeff Miller, your colleagues in Congress, and our colleagues along the Gulf to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Nick Wiley  
Executive Director

nw/mb



BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

*State of Louisiana*  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

ROBERT J. BARHAM  
SECRETARY

August 7, 2015

The Honorable Garret Graves  
U.S. House of Representatives  
204 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Graves:

On behalf of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), I am pleased to support H.R. 3094, the "Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority (GSRsMA) Act."

Red snapper is an iconic American fish—it is well-known and appreciated by both residents and visitors of Louisiana, whether it is on the end of an angler's line or on a diner's plate at one of our fine restaurants. Both recreational and commercial fisheries for red snapper are extremely important to our economy and way of life. We should take great care in managing these fisheries for the benefit of all users. We should strive to have sound data to guide our management decisions and seek out solutions to ensure our fisheries are ecologically and economically sustainable.

As such, we are especially troubled with the current management of Gulf red snapper, namely management of the recreational fishery, as it continues to face challenges due to inadequate data and an inflexible, unresponsive management framework. The GSRsMA Act would address these challenges. Along with our colleagues in Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, LDWF is confident the five Gulf states have the necessary tools to provide the data needed to better manage red snapper fisheries, improving access for recreational anglers while maintaining a viable commercial fishery. We are also more receptive and responsive to the wants and needs of our constituents while still addressing Gulf-wide conservation goals.

Representative Graves, we appreciate your leadership on this issue. LDWF looks forward to working with you, your co-sponsors and colleagues in Congress, and our colleagues along the Gulf to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Robert Barham  
Secretary



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
64 NORTH UNION STREET, SUITE 468  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130  
(334) 242-3486  
FAX (334) 242-3489

ROBERT BENTLEY  
GOVERNOR

N. GUNTER GUY, JR.  
COMMISSIONER

CURTIS JONES  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

September 23, 2015

The Honorable Garret Graves  
U.S. House of Representatives  
204 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Graves:

On behalf of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), I am pleased to support H.R. 3094, the "Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority (GSR SMA) Act."

Red snapper is one of the most valuable recreational and commercial fisheries to the State of Alabama. Orange Beach, Alabama, is well-known as the "Red Snapper Capital of the World." Even though Alabama has less than 5% of the Gulf of Mexico coastline, more than 30% of all red snapper caught in the Gulf of Mexico are landed in Alabama. The management of this most sought after species is of the utmost importance to our State. We have worked diligently through the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service to sustainably manage red snapper. However, the current federal management system is not working.

The federal data collection methods currently being utilized, as well as the red snapper stock assessments and management strategies, have resulted in shorter and shorter seasons at the time when our state scientists, fisheries managers and fishermen feel that the stock is recovered and growing. Along with our counterparts in Mississippi, Texas, Florida and Louisiana, Alabama is confident that the five Gulf states have the ability to provide the data collection and assessments needed to better manage this fishery and improve access for anglers while maintaining a viable commercial red snapper fishery. The Marine Resources Division of ADCNR is in close contact with the recreational, charter and commercial fishermen on our coast and can better assess the needs of the fishery and respond accordingly to ensure access while sustainably managing this most valuable fishery.

Thank you for your work on this issue. I look forward to continuing to work with you, Representative Bradley Byrne from Alabama and the other members of Congress to provide relief to our fishermen and better sustainable management of the red snapper fishery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Gunter Guy, Jr.", written over the word "Sincerely,".

N. Gunter Guy, Jr.  
Commissioner





**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

Phil Bryant  
Governor

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

Jamie M. Miller, Executive Director

September 24, 2015

The Honorable Garret Graves  
U.S. House of Representatives  
204 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Graves:

On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), I am pleased to support H.R. 3094, the "Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority (GSRMA) Act."

Red snapper is a valuable recreational and commercial fishery in Mississippi. We have worked diligently through the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service to sustainably manage red snapper. However, the current federal management system is not working or at best working too slow.

The federal data collection methods currently being utilized, as well as the red snapper stock assessments and management strategies, have resulted in shorter and shorter seasons at the time when our state scientists and fisheries managers believe the stock is recovered and growing. I am confident the five Gulf States have the ability to provide the data collection and assessments needed to manage this fishery and improve access for anglers while maintaining a viable commercial red snapper fishery. The MDMR hosted a Red Snapper Summit in May of 2014 and have remained in contact with the recreational, charter and commercial fishermen to ensure access while sustainably managing this most valuable fishery.

Thank you for your work on this important issue. I look forward to continuing to work with you, Representative Steven Palazzo from Mississippi and the other members of Congress to provide our fisherman the best opportunities and access to this valuable fishery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie M. Miller".  
Jamie M. Miller  
Executive Director

Cc:

Honorable Steven Palazzo MS-04



Life's better outside.®

October 20, 2015

The Honorable Garret Graves  
United States House of Representatives  
State of Louisiana  
204 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Commissioners

T. Dan Friedkin  
Chairman  
Houston

Ralph H. Duggins  
Vice-Chairman  
Fort Worth

Dan Allen Hughes, Jr.  
Beeville

Bill Jones  
Austin

James H. Lee  
Houston

Margaret Martin  
Boerne

S. Reed Morlan  
Houston

Dick Scott  
Wimberley

Lee M. Bass  
Chairman-Emeritus  
Fort Worth

Carter P. Smith  
Executive Director

**Via Facsimile 202-225-7313**

Re: H.R. 3094 – Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority Act

Dear Congressman Graves:

As Chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, I write to express my strong support for H.R. 3094, a proposed amendment to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, for the purpose of transferring to the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, the responsibility and authority to manage red snapper fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico.

Recent history has demonstrated that management of red snapper fishing in federal waters has been uncertain, arbitrary and has not been based upon sound science. Although the numbers of red snapper have dramatically increased in recent years, federal management has led to inequities and has made it difficult for the states to manage state waters. There can be little question that the current system has failed and caused significant dissatisfaction among red snapper anglers.

The proposed bill is a positive step that in my view, will be supported by conservationists interested in this fish. H.R. 3094 would require each of the five states to establish a science-based fishery management plan and then submit that plan for approval by each of the other four states. I believe that the state agencies who work with this fish in these waters are better equipped to manage the fishery and to establish and pursue conservation goals founded on scientific data. Each of the states is also able to move quickly when necessary to respond to any challenges that may arise in the fishery.

I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in Congress and our counterparts in the other four Gulf states, regarding this important bill. The mission of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. I am excited about this bill and believe that it provides the best assurance that present and future generations of snapper anglers will enjoy improved red snapper fishing in the future.

Very Sincerely Yours,

T. Dan Friedkin, Chairman  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission

TDF:mk