



GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

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November 16, 2020

The Honorable Garret Graves
United States House of Representatives
2402 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Graves,

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) would like to express its support of H.R. 5126, the “Direct Enhancement of Snapper Conservation and the Economy through Novel Devices Act of 2020”. As you know, the Commission is an organization of the five states whose coastal waters are the Gulf of Mexico. The Commission’s principal objectives are the conservation, development, and full utilization of the fishery resources of the Gulf of Mexico to provide food, employment, income, and recreation to the people of these United States.

The Commission believes this piece of legislation will be very beneficial in addressing the serious issue of discard mortality within Gulf of Mexico reef fish fisheries and promoting conservation of fisheries for the future. Gulf-wide use of fish descending devices, venting tools, and other methods promoting improved release handling practices, in conjunction with conducting research on discard mortality, is a positive step for fisheries conservation, the economy, and the anglers who enjoy and rely on those resources.

The Commission commends you for your knowledge on the issue and dedication to make positive impacts on Gulf of Mexico fisheries and would like to extend our support for H.R. 5126.

Sincerely,

David M. Donaldson
Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Executive Director