

BRADLEY BYRNE
1ST DISTRICT, ALABAMA

SERVING BALDWIN, CLARKE,
ESCAMBIA, MOBILE, MONROE AND
WASHINGTON COUNTIES

HOUSE COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
RULES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 20, 2017

Mr. Chris Oliver, Assistant Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dr. Roy Crabtree, Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Mr. Oliver and Dr. Crabtree:

I write today in support of the State of Alabama's application for an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) for the 2018 and 2019 Red Snapper seasons. As you are well aware, fishermen along the Gulf Coast have faced increasingly short fishing seasons for Red Snapper, despite the fact that numbers show there are an abundance of Red Snapper in the Gulf of Mexico.

Alabama's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ALDCNR) is applying for an EFP that will allow for the monitoring of in-season daily Red Snapper landings to maximize season length and benefit anglers, while ensuring harvests stay within set limits. I have always been an advocate for states using innovative methods to manage local fisheries and applaud ALDCNR for their application for an EFP.

I am grateful for the Department's support of extending the 2017 season to provide fishermen with a 39 day season and hope you will approve the State of Alabama's application for an EFP. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Miriam Fry in my office at Miriam.fry@mail.house.gov or 202-225-4931 with any questions or for more information.

Sincerely,



Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress