

Gulf Council Outreach Updates



June 2026: Caribbean OEAP

Highlights



Anonymous Voice Mail Public Comment

Management Areas and Boundaries on
Commercially Available Mapping Tools



Anonymous Voicemail Public Comment

Provide a platform for public comment that:

- allows commentors to remain anonymous;
- allows commentors to provide comment without having to write or submit electronically.

December 2024
O&E Technical
Committee
recommended
piloting the
program



January 2025
Gulf Council
approves pilot



June 2025
Launched



January 2026
Made
permanent

Anonymous Voicemail Public Comment



O&E / Council Concerns Prior to Launch:

- Written comment is overlooked and that voicemails would suffer the same problem.
- Staff time necessary to operationalize.
- Comments would be low-value.
- Lack of background information on commentors would remove context.
- People would take advantage of the platform because of the anonymity.



VOICE MAIL
GULF COUNCIL

Pilot Details



Cost: \$58/month
Nearly automated/real-time updates
79 Comments Received (so far)

- Comments are relevant.
- Anonymity does allow for commentators to discuss issues they may otherwise not talk about on record.
 - Not all comments are controversial.
- Staff commitment is low.

Date	Time	Comment
6/12/2025	9:00 AM	Yeah, my personal belief is that the commercial fisherman that take out these, I guess they wouldn't call them commercial fisherman, but captains, they take out these people in charters are slaying snappers that are barely above legal limit, and they have so many of them it just makes me sick, that they keep so many and that they are allowed to. I just think its too much, and I am hoping they can lower those limits per boat because I think it ruins the fishing ground out there and for the people that go out there by themselves and don't have their captains license and have charters and just want to fish. They go out there and they empty out all these fishing holes pretty quickly. That's all I got. Thanks.
6/12/2025	9:43 AM	Hi possibly make commercial fisherman stay like stay without past 60 miles from shoreline off the Gulf Coast for snappers, reef fish, maybe make the commercial fisherman have a distance close to shore they can use smaller boats, better opportunity for the spot. We need more habitat in the Gulf. I am off the Texas coast, out to Galveston, I'll say that. We need more habitat and drop the Kingfish limit to one per person, maybe one per boat. They're gone. Right now they're gone, they need to come back. Thanks.
6/12/2025	9:41 AM	Good morning council. Hope you are well. Thank you for this opportunity. Just passing on my thoughts for what they are worth, opinion is what you paid for. I'm a long time resident in Florida been a fisherman since before God and water. I have an offshore boat. I spend a lot of time offshore catching Snapper, Grouper and whatever goes along and it's great that there's just long term opportunity to get American Red Snappers particularly this year. However the limit of 2 fishes is kind of ridiculous considering the fact that I have to run somewhere in the area of a minimal of 45 miles to get to those fish up to 90 or a 100 miles and the fuel costs are outrageous for that type of trip and although I'm able to pickup possibly 2 Grouper and 2 Snapper the offset is not adequate. Please consider shortening the season somewhat and allowing more fish per run versus this long season that you've been gracefully gave to us. It's just under consideration, I'm sure you hear thousands of them. Thank you for your time.
6/12/2025	11:38 AM	I am asking that you consider keeping the season open for Snapper and Amberjack for senior citizens over 65. We no longer go out there and beat ourselves to death in tough weather to catch bears, we wait for calm, slick days which are very few of them any more. So it would be very helpful to us in our last few years to have a little season that gives us a chance to still enjoy fishing. It's not like we're depleting the population we just, like I say, we just going out there only on calm days due to the short seasons we have now. You don't have near a million calm days, I went one time last year. So far I've gone one time this year. So I ask that you consider that, sort of like a senior citizen discount like other stores give people. Thank you.
6/12/2025	11:51 AM	Hi, I'd like to mention that we need some kind of a, we need more control on Sand Trap. There is way too many Sand Trap being taken and if we had a limit of 5 that would be great, or even 4, but having pretty much an unlimited amount of harvest is not sustainable or for our Gulf. Thank you.
6/12/2025	3:57 PM	We're starting with good intentions, soon start into a hedge fund investors paradise. Making huge sums of money off of fisherman's backs. With the council's help puts most fishermen out of business and has driven the Red Snapper price out of most peoples budget. These big shareholders have the money which comes power to keep prices high and production low. The new executive order has given the council his marching orders. Management with maximum production. It's want Trump wants and the fishermen can deliver if the council will get out of our way. First we need to double the Red Snapper quota, open all closed fishing areas to fishing. No more BMS observers and triple ports are good enough to keep fishermen stocks well protected. Probably the best thing to do is give it to the state. Let the state handle Red Snappers like they do the recreational fishes. I pay on average to a share which are one of the large shareholders \$75,000 a year and enforced and pay over \$50,000 a year to harass me. The fish are a public resource. They don't belong to anybody. Give them back to the fishermen now.
6/12/2025	5:00 PM	Hello, I'm calling about the Red Grouper, that allotment is going to be given to the fishermen this year 2025. We definitely need those fish. We have just been, they have taken and taken and taken and it is huge and vital to help this industry, for those fish to go back to the fishermen asap, as soon as possible. I mean we have got to have them, the longevity of this industry and for us to stay alive and Hey Y'all counsel. Concerned fisherman. We definitely need this grouper quota for sure. We have got to have it, it's a must for us. It's yeah it's a survival thing. Y'all have taken, taken, taken, it's time to give back as soon as you can do it. It will help us out huge. Y'all took our gags, we need our gags back too and red snapper, we need more red snapper quota. You guys got to start helping us out or
6/13/2025	7:02 AM	

Management Areas and Boundaries on Mapping Tools



Marine
Positioning and
mapping units



Fish Rules

Council Mapping Tool
(Under Development)



Codified
Federal
Regulations

NOAA Fisheries
GIS Portal



NOAA
Cartography

Management Areas and Boundaries on Mapping Tools



Ideal Scenario:

Codified Federal Regulations



REST API



Marine
Positioning and
mapping units



Council
Mapping Tool &
Fish Rules



February 2026: Gulf Council Letter to SERO encouraging NOAA Fisheries to dedicate effort and resources toward the development of a system for providing marine regulatory areas, boundaries, and associated regulations to companies that produce marine charts, mapping applications, and electronic navigation units.

Management Areas and Boundaries on Mapping Tools



In the meantime,...

- Gulf Council develop, beta test, and launch a web tool displaying boundaries, areas, and associated regulations.
- Determining best way to share areas for download and addition to personal devices
 - No great way to share areas
 - Points and tracks
 - Gulf-wide file would be too large
 - Each brand and generation of device has unique file needs and unique process for adding
 - HUGE outreach burden



The End

GULF OF AMERICA