



Press Release June 8, 2016

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NOAA Fisheries Extends Red Snapper Season Through June 11

NOAA Fisheries announced today that the red snapper season for recreational vessels will be extended through Saturday, June 11, 2016. The extension is due to the rough seas, high winds, and heavy rains associated with Tropical Storm Colin. These weather conditions prevented anglers in Alabama and Florida from participating in a significant portion of the nine-day federal red snapper season. The season was originally set to close on Thursday, June 9, 2016. The daily bag limit will remain two red snapper per person per day. The minimum size for red snapper is 16 inches total length.

"We appreciate the quick response from NOAA Fisheries to add days to the season that were lost due to the severe winds and tropical weather that occurred over the only weekend of the federal red snapper season," said Conservation Commissioner N. Gunter Guy, Jr., "Alabama has a vibrant red snapper fishery and even though the season is still not long enough, every day it is open is good for the economy of Coastal Alabama."

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division (MRD) previously announced that Alabama's waters will be open for the recreational harvest of red snapper through Sunday, July 31, 2016. Alabama state waters extend nine miles from shore for reef fish management.

"Red snapper fishing was outstanding the first two days of the federal season. The rough weather began on June 3 and severely limited the number of vessels that could fish over the last several days. I am very pleased that NOAA has worked cooperatively with the states to give fishermen additional opportunities to enjoy the outstanding red snapper fishery off the Alabama coast," said Chris Blankenship, Director of the Alabama Marine Resources Division.

Fishermen are reminded that they are still required to report their red snapper harvest through Snapper Check to the Marine Resources Division during this period as well as any other time red snapper are allowed to be landed in Alabama. Only one report is required per vessel trip, and anglers can provide details via a smartphone app available under "Outdoor Alabama" in the iTunes or Google Play app stores; online at outdooralabama.com; by phone at 1-844-REDSNAP (1-844-733-7627); or by paper forms available at select coastal public boat launches. Additional

information can be found at www.outdooralabama.com/red-snapper-data-and-mandatory-reporting-faqs.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through four divisions: Marine Resources, State Lands, State Parks, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. To learn more about ADCNR, visit www.outdooralabama.com.

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