

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EXTENSION OF 2017 GULF OF MEXICO
FEDERAL RED SNAPPER RECREATIONAL FISHING SEASON

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced a three-day 2017 Gulf of Mexico federal red snapper fishing season for recreational anglers, beginning on June 1, 2017, at 12:01 a.m. and ending June 4, 2017, at 12:01 a.m.; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 season will be the shortest in history for Gulf red snapper fishing in federal waters; and

WHEREAS, red snapper fishing is a major tourism attraction for the Alabama Gulf Coast, with an economic impact benefitting coastal communities and counties in the hundreds of millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, the shortened recreational red snapper fishing season will negatively impact these areas, and the public, by creating a period of tremendously high traffic on the water and roadways, and pressuring sportsmen to fish in inclement and dangerous weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has worked with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers since the 1950s to build an expansive artificial reef system, and has continuously worked with the federal government and the other Gulf states to responsibly manage fishery in federal waters while properly managing Alabama waters; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama conducts a mandatory red snapper survey known as the Snapper Check program, which indicates that NOAA's estimate of the number of snapper landed in Alabama in 2016 is grossly overestimated; and

WHEREAS, the extension of the federal red snapper fishing season is supported by environmental experts and state data and will serve a public purpose, benefitting residents, visitors, and businesses in coastal communities and counties, by providing sustenance, recreational opportunities, and economic growth;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises, the Mobile County Commission strongly supports the extension of the federal red snapper fishing season for recreational anglers, and specifically requests thirteen (13) three-day weekends of recreational red snapper fishing, in addition to the currently scheduled June 1-4, 2017 season.

STATE OF ALABAMA }

COUNTY OF MOBILE }

I, John F. Pafenbach, County Administrator, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Mobile County Commission in regular meeting convened the 18th day of May, 2017.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the Mobile County Commission on this the 18th day of May, 2017.



John F. Pafenbach
County Administrator