

Gulf Headboat Cooperative
Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP)
PERMIT NO.: 13-SERO-01

Evaluation and Feasibility of an Alternative Allocation-Based Management Strategy

This EFP is issued to the Gulf Headboat Cooperative (Cooperative) in accordance with procedures established at 50 CFR 600.745(b). The Cooperative consists of eight headboat owners/captains who operate 11 different vessels (see attached Appendix 1). The EFP establishes a specific allocation of red snapper and gag, as described in the attached "Terms and Conditions" (Appendix 2), to be harvested during the fishing year by the 11 Cooperative vessels. The EFP exempts the Cooperative's listed vessels from regulations at 50 CFR § 622.34(b) and (e); recreational season closures for red snapper and gag. The exemption does not apply to 622.34(d), addressing the February-March shallow-water grouper closure offshore of 20 fathoms in the Gulf of Mexico. For gag, the EFP exempts the Cooperative's participating vessels from regulations at 50 CFR § 622.8(b), which closes the recreational sector when the gag catch target is reached. NOAA Fisheries will account for the Cooperative's allocation of gag in its projections of when the catch target will be met. However, this EFP does not exempt the Cooperative's participating vessels from Section 407(d) (16 U.S.C. 1883) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Section 407(d) requires that if NOAA Fisheries determines the Gulf of Mexico red snapper recreational quota has been met, harvest must be prohibit for the remainder of the fishing year, even if the Cooperative had allocation remaining.

The EFP is valid for the period January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2015, when signed by both the Regional Administrator and the authorized representative of the Cooperative, and becomes effective on the later of the two signature dates.

All vessels engaging in the activities authorized pursuant to this EFP must have a copy of this EFP onboard. As specified in 50 C.F.R. § 600.745(b)(9), failure to comply with any of the attached Appendix 2 may be grounds for revocation, suspension, or modification of the EFP with respect to all persons and vessels conducting activities under the EFP.


Signature
Date Signed 8/26/13

for Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D. Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service


Signature
Date Signed 8-26-13

Randy Boggs, EFP Holder

By signing this document, the EFP holder agrees that the owners and crews of the participating vessels identified in the attached Appendix 1 understand and will comply with the intent and the terms and conditions, outlined in Appendix 2, of this permit.