

RESOLUTION NO. 17-104

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EXTENSION OF THE
FEDERAL RED SNAPPER FISHING SEASON FOR RECREATIONAL ANGLERS**


FINDINGS:

1. Fishing for red snapper is a major economic draw for the Alabama Gulf Coast with local impact for the City of Orange Beach in the hundreds of millions of dollars.
2. The Federal Red Snapper Fishing Season for recreational anglers has been dramatically shortened year after year, beginning in 2009 when the season was reduced from 122 days to 65 days and the per-person limit dropped from four fish per day to two. The fishing season for 2016 was a mere nine days with a two day extension due to Tropical Storm Colin. The fishing season just announced for 2017 is an almost nonexistent three days.
3. The shortened recreational red snapper fishing season creates three days of extremely high traffic on the water and on the roadways and may pressure recreational fishermen to fish in weather that is normally outside of their comfort zone.
4. The Federal Red Snapper Fishing Season is set based on data gathered by the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Marine Fisheries Service, which is an office of NOAA. NOAA and Marine Fisheries have admitted their data is inaccurate. The quota system developed by NOAA is regulated based on weight, rather than the number of fish caught. As larger snapper are caught due to a healthy and rapidly growing population, the estimated quota becomes ever more exceeded, which ironically triggers NOAA to recommend a shorter season.
5. In 2014, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources began tracking red snapper data with a mandatory reporting process, and preliminary results show that Alabama's harvest estimate for 2014 was 63% less than the federal estimate and the harvest estimate for 2015 was 56% less than the federal estimate.
6. The State of Alabama has worked with the Corps of Engineers since the 1950s to build an expansive artificial reef system, which is now comprised of over 17,000 artificial reefs. Red snapper have become so populous that they now threaten several other species of reef fish.
7. The extension of the Federal Red Snapper Fishing Season serves a public purpose for residents, visitors, and businesses of the City of Orange Beach, Alabama, by providing sustenance, recreation, and economic profit.
8. The request to extend the Federal Red Snapper Fishing Season is supported by environmental experts and State data.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE BEACH, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

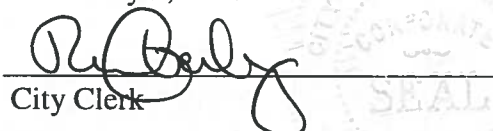
1. That the Orange Beach City Council strongly supports the extension of the Federal Red Snapper Fishing Season for Recreational Anglers; and
2. That the City of Orange Beach is specifically requesting thirteen additional three-day weekends of recreational red snapper fishing in federal waters over the current June 1-4, 2017, Federal Red Snapper Fishing Season.

ADOPTED THIS 9th DAY OF MAY, 2017.


Tony Kennon
Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, Renee Eberly, City Clerk of the City of Orange Beach, Alabama, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 17-104, which was duly and legally adopted at a special-called meeting of the City Council on May 9, 2017.


City Clerk

