

Summary of the Alabama Red Snapper Exempted Fishing Permit Conditions and 2018 Season

**Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources / Marine Resources Division**



Exempted Fishing Permit: Background

An Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) is issued by the Office of Fisheries within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

An EFP allows for temporary suspension of fishing regulations in federal waters to test ideas related to fisheries management or new fishing gear

Alabama DCNR/Marine Resources Division submitted an EFP application in early 2018

The EFP application included an exemption from federal recreational fishing regulations for recreational red snapper anglers in federal waters (anglers on private and state-licensed charter vessels).

Anglers fishing from federally-permitted charter vessels are not included in the EFP and their season will be from June 1 – July 21, 2018

The EFP was approved by NOAA Fisheries for the 2018 and 2019 seasons



EFP Conditions: 2018 Season

What are the dates of the season?

Alabama's season will potentially be 47 days including Fridays-Sundays from June 1st – Sept. 3rd, weekdays during the week of July 4th holiday, and Labor Day

Season length was calculated based on the pounds of red snapper requested in the EFP application (984,291 lbs) and the average daily catch rate estimated to have occurred during the 2017 season

Throughout the season, the harvest will be monitored and if the harvest is anticipated to exceed the requested amount of red snapper the season will be closed early. The season may be extended if harvest is less than requested total.



EFP Conditions: 2018 Season

Who can fish under the Alabama EFP?

Anglers must possess the appropriate fishing license* in order to legally fish under the EFP;

- Anglers between the ages of 16 and 64 must possess a current Alabama saltwater fishing license
- Alabama resident anglers over age 64 must be registered in the saltwater angler registry (requires renewal each year)
- Anglers with a lifetime Alabama saltwater license must register in the Alabama saltwater angler registry (requires renewal each year)
- Disabled anglers need to possess the saltwater disability license
- Anglers under age of 16 are exempt from license or registry requirements

* - Fishing license and angler registry information can be found at:
<http://outdooralabama.com/licenses/saltwater-recreational-licenses>



EFP Conditions: 2018 Season

Where can I fish during the Alabama season?

Alabama's state waters are open to possession of red snapper caught by recreational anglers (anglers on a valid federally-permitted charter vessel are exempt)

Federal waters are also open to possession of red snapper by appropriately licensed Alabama anglers

Anglers on state-licensed charter boats without a federal permit may only fish in Alabama's waters (within 9 nautical miles for reef fish)

Federally-permitted charter vessels may fish in Alabama's waters only when the Alabama season is open



EFP Conditions: 2018 Season

What are the size and bag limits?

Minimum size of 16" Total Length (TL)

Bag limit of two red snapper per person per day

Can I fish during another state's open season and transit through Alabama waters when Alabama's season is closed?

No, unless there is a medical emergency, possession of red snapper on Alabama's waters outside the Alabama season will be a violation



EFP Conditions: 2018 Season

Do I need to report red snapper that are kept?

Red snapper that are landed in Alabama must be reported **prior** to landing fish

Report red snapper through the Snapper Check app or on paper forms at selected coastal public boat ramps including;

Baldwin County ramps:

Boggy Point, Cotton Bayou, and Fort Morgan

Mobile County ramps:

Bayou La Batre docks, Billy Goat Hole, and Little Billy Goat Hole

A new Snapper Check app will be available around 5/5/18, replace old app

Look for this logo after searching "Outdoor Alabama" in Apple and Android App stores



* - To find out where to download the Snapper Check app go to;

<http://www.outdooralabama.com/mrd-fisheries-section/red-snapper-faqs>



EFP Conditions: 2018 Season

How will EFP conditions be enforced?

Enforcement by DCNR/Marine Resources enforcement staff may occur in federal or state waters. Staff will be checking the following items to ensure compliance with the EFP conditions;

- Anglers have appropriate fishing license or angler registry registration
- Red snapper are being appropriately reported (i.e. correct vessel registration number, number of fish harvested, and/or timing of reporting)
- Enforcing closed season prohibition of red snapper possession in Alabama waters

When will the 2019 season be determined?

It is anticipated a decision will be made in early 2019



EFP Conditions: 2018 Season

What are the seasons in other states?

Similar EFP's were issued to all Gulf States. If landing red snapper in another state check that state's EFP requirements. Appropriate licensing will be used to enforce EFP participation in federal waters.

Florida: June 11 - July 21

Mississippi: May 25 - Labor Day; closure July 9-22

Louisiana: May 25 - until quota is caught

Texas: June 1 – August 21st (state waters open remainder of the year)



EFP Conditions: 2018 Season

Trip examples:

1) Alabama's red snapper season is closed but Mississippi's season is open. Anglers can depart Alabama but they must acquire a hail-out trip number from Mississippi's Tails n' Scales program before fishing in Mississippi waters. Anglers must also have appropriate Mississippi fishing licenses, stay within Mississippi size and bag limits, and land red snapper in Mississippi. Any harvested red snapper must be reported through Tails n' Scales and landed in Mississippi. The vessel cannot travel through Alabama waters with red snapper on board.

2) Alabama's red snapper season is closed but Florida's season is open. Anglers can depart Alabama and fish in Florida's waters for red snapper. Anglers must have purchased appropriate Florida fishing license and signed up for the Gulf Reef Fish Survey. All harvested fish must meet Florida's size and bag limits and any harvested red snapper must be landed in Florida. The vessel cannot travel through Alabama waters with red snapper on board.



If you have questions, please call the Alabama Marine Resources Division:

Dauphin Island – (251)861-2882

Gulf Shores – (251)968-7576

