

From: [Ben Banks](#)
To: [John Carmichael](#); [Chip Collier](#); [Myra Brouwer](#); [Kelly Klasnick](#); [Allie Iberle](#); [Christina Wiegand](#); [Cindy Chaya](#); [John Hadley](#); [Judd Curtis](#); [Julia Byrd](#); [Kim Iverson](#); [Mike Schmidtke](#); [Nick Smillie](#); [Roger Pugliese](#); [Suzanna Thomas](#)
Subject: Re: Red Snapper Recreational Season
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2022 8:40:46 AM

Good morning SAFMC Team,

I understand you are now looking at a total closure of the Atlantic for "bottom" fishing.

Great idea. I went out two weeks ago and literally fished 5 different spots until I caught something other than a red snapper. Several in the 17 to 20 lb range (I know because I weighed one at the house before filleting it).

You are about to start a mutiny with recreational anglers. Either set reasonable regulations that are backed by science or expect us to manage ourselves as responsible anglers. Obviously, since I never received a response to my prior email below, the support of recreational anglers is not a focus point for this group - but perhaps the interest of commercial anglers is of greater interest.

I'm hereby declaring myself a "commercial" angler.

Ben Banks, VP

230 Nordic Way
Pooler, GA 31322

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T: 4000 M: 678.201.5113 E: bbanks@tcwonline.com F: 912-966-0914

On Thu, Jul 7, 2022 at 8:25 AM Ben Banks <bbanks@tcwonline.com> wrote:

Good morning,

As you likely know, our forecast is predicted to be too rough to safely fish for ARS this "season". I am frankly sick and tired of the mismanagement of this species. On any given day, I can easily catch 30 or 40. Two anglers and I caught over 100 last December within 3 hours or so of fishing. You LITERALLY cannot get away from them, yet we struggle to catch other such as vermillion snapper and grouper due to the overpopulation of ARS. My experience is corroborated across the recreational fishing sector in our region. Most of us really care about the sustainability of our fishery. We care about taking other folks out to experience the memories for generations to come. But quite simply, the absurd tactics of management that overwhelmingly favor the commercial fishing industry are to the point where it almost doesn't make sense to bottom fish in the Atlantic. If you HONESTLY believe this species is threatened, you have not spent 30 minutes in the last 5 years fishing in the Atlantic.

I'm not just giving up on our sport though. Occasionally when I go fishing, I'll bring one Red Snapper back with me - regardless of "season". At some point I'll get inspected and I will be very upfront with DNR/NOAA officers. I realize the fine is \$600 for the first violation for ARS and intend to fight this in court. To be clear, I'll be in a 2002 yellow 26' Sailfish center console, fishing out of Sunbury, GA. If I lose in court, so be it, but our fishing community and resident anglers deserve better.

Ben Banks, VP

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