LDWF Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Application
Fact Sheet

1. This pilot project is NOT meant to eventually turn the red snapper recreational fishery into an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) system, a system that restricts harvest through the use of tags, or an annual catch share system. This test does not utilize tags. LDWF does not intend to ultimately restrict harvest of red snapper to a select few anglers. While this pilot project utilizes only 150 anglers, it is so that we can test electronic reporting using a sub-segment of the fishing public.

2. This pilot project is a management test; it is not regulation or law. It is strategically designed to increase Louisiana’s ability to manage recreational harvest under state-based management of red snapper in the federal EEZ. The program will use near real-time electronic reporting methods to validate and improve the accuracy of Louisiana’s LA CREEL data collection.

3. By proving we can accurately track harvest in near real-time utilizing a combination of electronic reporting and LA Creel, we hope to convince the federal government and the Gulf Council that we can sustainably manage the harvest of fish in federal waters. By validating our LA Creel data against real time data, Louisiana will be able to reduce the existing 20% buffer currently applied to the Annual Catch Limit (ACL), thereby making more of the ACL available for harvest to Louisiana anglers once state or regional management of the federal waters becomes a reality.

4. This pilot project is just one part of a larger, multi-faceted approach to the red snapper issue. One part of the approach is to obtain state-based management through the LA-Only Recreational Red Snapper amendment at the Gulf Council. However, the pilot project, if successful, could show that our data collection provides a harvest estimate with very little uncertainty (small margins of error). As such, we are capable of responsibly managing federal waters off of Louisiana, and deserve to manage toward the highest limit possible under a conservation ethic.

5. Better data collection results in smaller margins of error; smaller margins of error results in smaller buffers applied to the ACL; smaller buffers in the ACL results in more fish available for harvest; more fish available results in more days for Louisiana anglers.

6. This pilot project is the result of meeting with recreational stakeholders and Gulf Council appointees, and receiving input on the merits of several different EFP proposals.

7. LDWF is unwavering in its ultimate goal to achieve state management control of red snapper for the recreational and for-hire sectors. LDWF is tirelessly working to achieve this goal by any means possible, whether through the Gulf Council or by Congressional action. If state management is achieved prior to the completion of this pilot project, we may choose to abandon this test in favor of a new approach.

8. LDWF has been charged by the Governor to test solutions for a federal system that provides Louisiana’s recreational anglers inadequate access to a resource that is abundant off of our shores. By being proactive, LDWF can ensure that we can maximize harvest of the resource when the state is given the authority to manage red snapper out to 200 miles.