

**JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR**



**TYLER M. BOSWORTH
SECRETARY**

PO BOX 98000 | BATON ROUGE LA | 70898

September 8, 2025

**Mr. Andy Strelcheck
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701**

Re: Commercial Greater Amberjack Consistency Request

Dear Mr. Strelcheck,

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has received your letter requesting a closure of state waters to the commercial harvest of Greater Amberjack, consistent with the September 2 closure in federal waters. It is extremely disappointing that the existing federal framework has deprived Louisiana's commercial reef fishermen of the opportunity to harvest Greater Amberjack. Because commercial reef fish may only be legally harvested in Louisiana by holders of valid federal reef fish vessel permits, the federal closure dictates closures in state waters as well. In effect, the federal government leaves the state with no real discretion, forcing a parallel closure in state waters. This federal action puts Louisiana's commercial reef fishermen in the untenable position of either foregoing their season altogether or violating the conditions of their federal permits.

This is yet another example of how federal reef fish regulations in the Gulf of America have failed Louisiana fishermen despite the ample fisheries resources off Louisiana's coast and the relatively low harvest landed by Louisiana's commercial fleet as compared to the rest of the Gulf.

President Trump's Executive Order 14276: Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness, directs the states to implement actions that stabilize markets, improve access, enhance economic profitability, and prevent closures. Current federal regulations governing Greater Amberjack are inconsistent with this Executive Order by cutting the 2025 commercial season short by two full months, resulting in lost revenue to our commercial fishing industry and impacting the entire wholesale and retail supply chain in Louisiana and across the nation.

Recent scientific publications show that Greater Amberjack are not experiencing overfishing off the coast of Louisiana, and a closure of recreational harvest is not

warranted. The citizens of Louisiana deserve the opportunity to utilize the abundant fisheries resources off our coast.

As you are aware, Louisiana is actively working towards state management of private recreational Greater Amberjack by utilizing our higher precision recreational saltwater landings data collection program, LA Creel. The use of LA Creel has been crucial in developing state management of Louisiana's recreational red snapper season. The near real-time data provides Louisiana the ability to set flexible fishing seasons that allow anglers to take full advantage of available fishery resources. State management of Greater Amberjack would provide more flexibility in setting seasons and regulations allowing greater ability to tailor state-specific management.

We oppose any effort by the National Marine Fisheries Service to curtail the recreational Greater Amberjack season and urge you to honor the established October 31 closure date in federal waters. Should the federal government nevertheless take premature action to close the recreational season, Louisiana will keep state waters open to recreational harvest through October 31, 2025.

Please feel free to contact me or Assistant Secretary of Fisheries, Ryan Montegut if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tyler M. Bosworth, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries



Jeff Landry, Governor
Governor of Louisiana

CC: Eugenio Pineiro-Soler—Assistant Administrator, NOAA Fisheries
Laura Grimm— Acting Administrator, NOAA Fisheries
Kelli O'Donnell— Fisheries Biologist, Southeast Regional Office, NOAA Fisheries
Ryan Montegut— Assistant Secretary Fisheries, LDWF
Chris Schieble— Deputy Assistant Secretary Fisheries, LDWF