

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

TCC Crab Subcommittee

Standard Operating Procedures

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization unit of the Gulf states Marine Fisheries Commission's (GSMFC) Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), is the Crab Subcommittee.

Section 2. GSMFC Purpose

GSMFC is an organization of the five states (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas) whose common coastal waters are the Gulf of Mexico. This compact, authorized under Public Law 81-66, was signed by the representatives of the Governors of the five Gulf states on July 16, 1949, in Mobile, Alabama. It has as its principal objective the conservation, development, and full utilization of the fishery resources of the Gulf of Mexico, to provide food, employment, income, and recreation to the people of these United States.

Section 3. Purpose of the Crab Subcommittee

- A. The purpose of the Crab Subcommittee is to provide status of the various crab management programs for each of the five Gulf states including Blue Crabs, Stone Crabs, and other crab species of interest. The status shall include, but not be limited to: environmental, regulatory, research, monitoring, program and industry metrics.
- B. The Crab Subcommittee will operate commencing from the start of the first schedule meeting, after the GSMFC votes and approves the establishment of the Crab Subcommittee.
- C. The GSMFC will reevaluate the necessity of continuing with the Crab Subcommittee every three (3) years. However, the GSMFC may evaluate the purpose, goals and establishment of the Crab Subcommittee at any of its annual meetings.
- D. Goals of the Crab Subcommittee are to:
 - 1. Improve communication between the five Gulf states on the status and condition of their respective crab fisheries and regulatory programs.
 - 2. Provide the TCC with relevant updated information on each Gulf states' crab fisheries and regulatory programs.
 - 3. Provide a mechanism to fishery participants to provide feed-back to the Crab Subcommittee and TCC.
 - 4. Continue and improve the collection of pertinent fishery data (e.g. landings, resource condition and relevant management program input) that may be used in stock assessments.
 - 5. Encourage conservation of crab and other resources targeted by the commercial and recreational fisheries in the region.
 - 6. Improve the overall value of the Gulf crab fishery.
- E. Objectives of the Crab Subcommittee are:

1. Identify and prioritize problems and issues in the crab fisheries.
2. Recommend potential solutions that will achieve a balance among the commercial and recreational fishermen, and related industries/fisheries that are based upon sound biological, sociologic, scientific, and economic principles.
3. Encourage the promotion of crab fisheries both inside and outside the Gulf of Mexico.

Section 4. Governing Body

- A. The Crab Subcommittee shall operate under the authority of the TCC.

Section 5. Membership

- A. A body of voting members shall manage affairs of the Crab Subcommittee.
- B. The Crab Subcommittee Membership shall include two categories of membership; Appointed Members (or their Alternates), and Lifetime Members.
1. Appointed Members (one vote each)
 - a. One state representative from Alabama appointed by the respective state agency
 - b. One state representative from Florida appointed by the respective state agency
 - c. One state representative from Louisiana appointed by the respective state agency
 - d. One state representative from Mississippi appointed by the respective state agency
 - e. One state representative from Texas appointed by the respective state agency
 - f. Alternates: Each state agency will be able to appoint one alternate representative who will serve as proxy when the Appointed Member is not in attendance. Alternates have the Appointed Members voting rights.
 2. Lifetime Members (as approved by the TCC and GSMFC)
 - a. Lifetime Membership may be granted to legacy members of the Subcommittee who have provided service over the life of the Subcommittee. Lifetime Membership shall be approved unanimously by the Appointed Members and recommended for approval by the TCC and the GSMFC.
 - b. Full voting privileges shall be given to a Lifetime Member.
 - c. The Lifetime Member will not be allowed an alternate should they not be able to be in attendance.
 - d. The Lifetime Member is not replaced should they become inactive or otherwise no longer able to participate on regular Subcommittee business.
- C. The TCC shall approve all membership before appointments are made if the designee is not a state agency employee (i.e., academic, industry, or other expert).

Section 6. Meetings

- A. The Crab Subcommittee meetings ~~may be held twice a year in coordination with the two (2) annual GSMFC meetings~~ **be held twice a year: one in the spring (virtual or in-person if necessary) and one in coordination with the annual GSMFC meeting.** However, the Crab Subcommittee may hold other meetings for specific crab resource and/or management program reasons as deemed necessary.
- B. Meetings shall be "duly convened" when a quorum **(50 percent)** of a simple majority of the

membership, excluding vacant slots, is present at a scheduled meeting.

- C. When a quorum of voting members is not present, the Crab Subcommittee may convene in a work session but shall not take any actions, nor make any motions or recommendations.
- D. At the last meeting of ~~the year~~ **an even numbered**, elections shall be held, at which time a chairman and vice-chairman will be elected for the ~~coming year~~ **next two years**. A simple majority of votes by the membership shall elect a Chairman and Vice-chairman.

Section 7. Voting

- A. Robert's Rules of Order for conducting meeting shall be followed as a rule.
- B. Motions are considered "Carried" upon approval of a majority of voting members at any duly convened meeting.
- C. Each state will have one vote.
- D. In case of matters concerning the groups decisions an approval of three-fifths (3/5) of the voting members present at any duly convened meeting is required for a motion to be "Carried".
- E. In the case of changes to the bylaws, an approval of three-fifths (3/5) of the voting members present at any duly convened meeting shall be required.

Section 8. Powers and Limitations of the Chairman

- A. The Crab Subcommittee Chairman shall present all recommendations of the Crab Subcommittee to the TCC. The chairman shall, however, have the power to appoint a speaker in his place.
- B. The Crab Subcommittee Chairman (or designated speaker) shall represent the expressed wishes of the Crab Subcommittee and not personal opinion when representing the Crab Subcommittee.
- C. The presiding Crab Subcommittee Chairman shall have full power to call "out of order" members who engage in personal attacks and abusive behavior and language.
- D. The presiding Crab Subcommittee Chairman shall use his own discretion on calling for a vote. With this authority, the Chairman shall seek consensus whenever possible.
- E. Additional duties:
 - 1. To acquire a working knowledge of parliamentary procedure and a thorough understanding of the bylaws and standing laws of the organization.
 - 2. Preside and maintain order.
 - 3. Explain and decide all questions of order.
 - 4. Be informed of the Crab Subcommittee agenda for each meeting.
 - 5. Enforce rules of decorum and discipline.
 - 6. Be absolutely fair and impartial.
 - 7. Extend every courtesy to the opponents of a motion even though the motion is one that the presiding officer favors.
 - 8. Give signature when necessary.
 - 9. Perform such other duties as are prescribed in by-laws.
- F. Additional Privileges:

1. To use "general consent," which saves time when routine matters are considered. Form: "If there is no objection, we will... " If there is an objection, he must take the vote.
2. To preside during nominations and elections even if he is the candidate.

Section 9. Powers and Limitations of Crab Subcommittee Members

- A. Members shall not voluntarily use their Crab Subcommittee credentials when testifying in front of public bodies or other meetings and expressing their personal or association's views. This does not prevent acknowledgement of Crab Subcommittee membership if asked directly.
- B. Additional duties:
 1. To keep upon the question then pending.
 2. To yield the floor to calls to order.
 3. To avoid disturbing speakers of the assembly.
- C. Additional rights:
 1. To offer any motion that is truly relevant to the organization.
 2. To explain or discuss that motion, or any matter properly before the meeting.
 3. To call to order if necessary.
 4. To hold the floor, when legally obtained until through speaking.
 5. To appeal from the decision of the chair to that of the body.

Section 10. Public Input

- A. Public testimony and comments shall be allowed at Crab Subcommittee meetings and location on the official Crab Subcommittee agenda established by a simple majority of voting members.
- B. Each speaker from the public shall be limited to three minutes as monitored by the Crab Subcommittee Chairman or their designee.

GSMFC Chairman:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Crab Subcommittee Chairman

Name: _____ Date: _____