

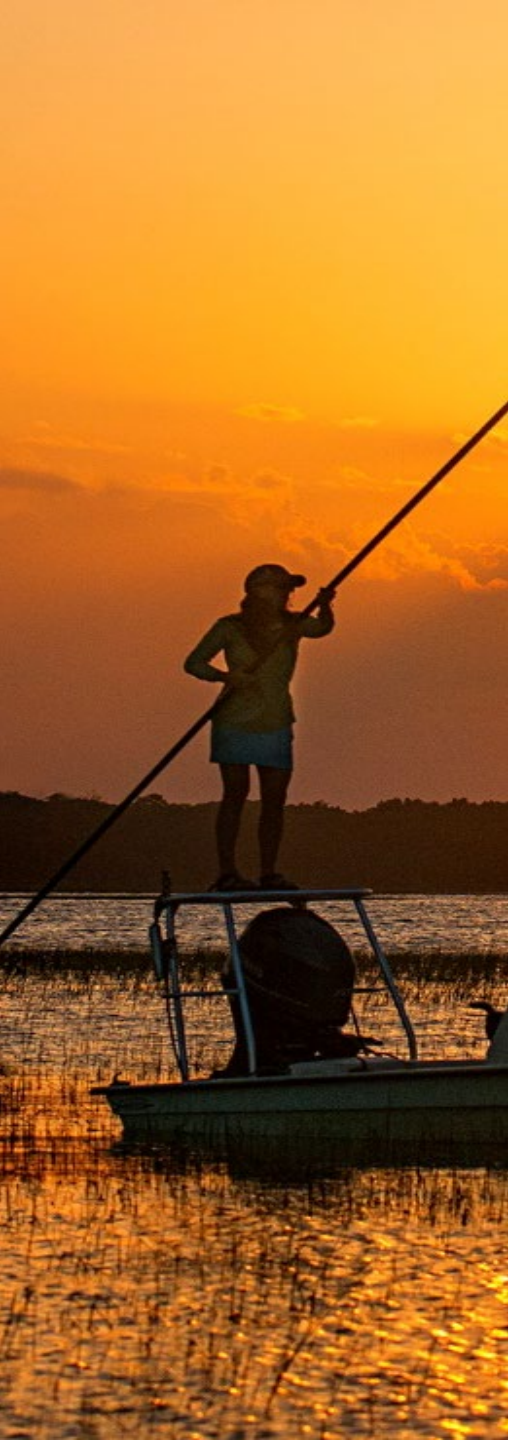
Fisheries Information Network (FIN) Report

Gregg Bray

Program Manager

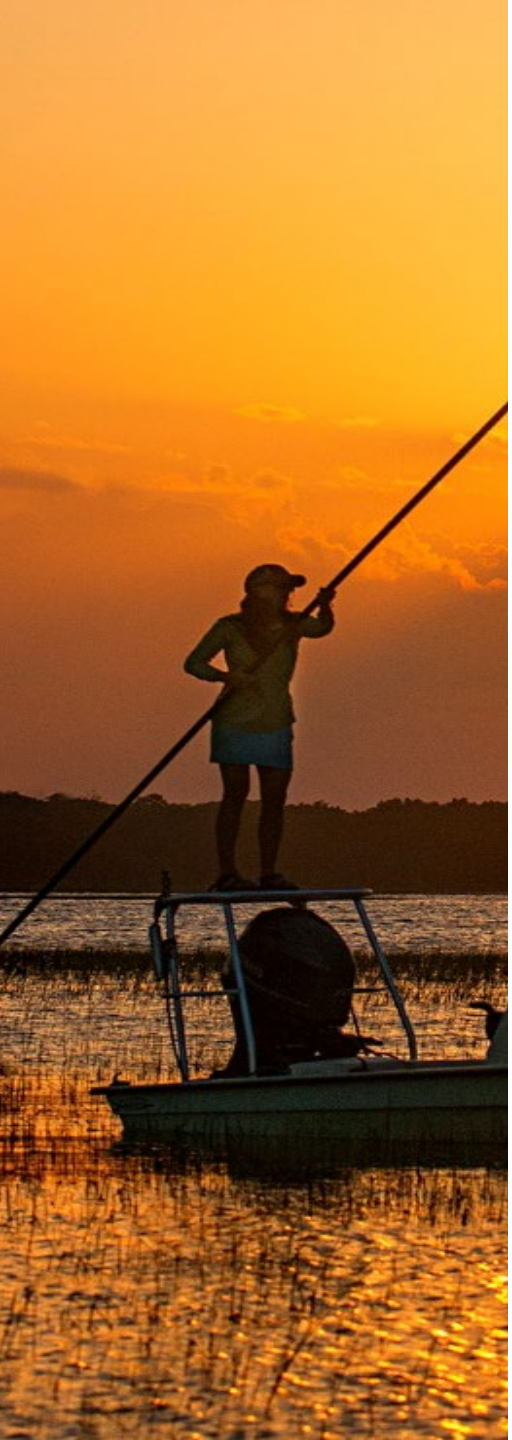
Commission Business Meeting
Biloxi, MS
October 30, 2025



A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide shows a person standing in a small boat, using a long pole to fish in a marshy area. The scene is set against a warm, orange sunset sky. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt and shorts. The boat is small and appears to be a skiff or similar small fishing vessel. The water is calm, and the marshy ground is visible in the foreground.

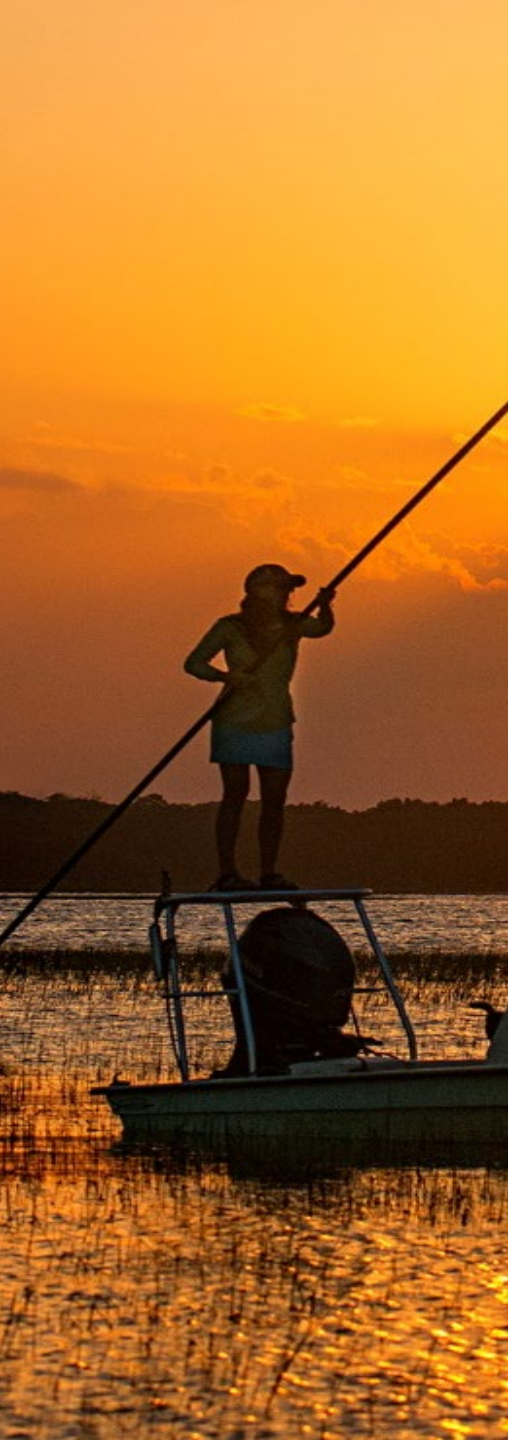
Fisheries Information Network

- **2025 ongoing work included:**
 - **Recreational landings sampling**
 - **Commercial Trip Ticket Programs**
 - **GulfFIN Program Administration**
 - **Data Management System Administration**
- **GSMFC Infrastructure Coordination**
- **GSMFC/NOAA Fisheries Red Snapper Research Agreement**
- **At-Sea Observer Expansion Development**
- **Shrimp eLB Coordination**

A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide shows a person standing in a small boat on a body of water. The person is holding a long pole, possibly a fishing rod or a net. The background is a bright orange and yellow sunset sky. The water is calm, and the overall scene is peaceful.

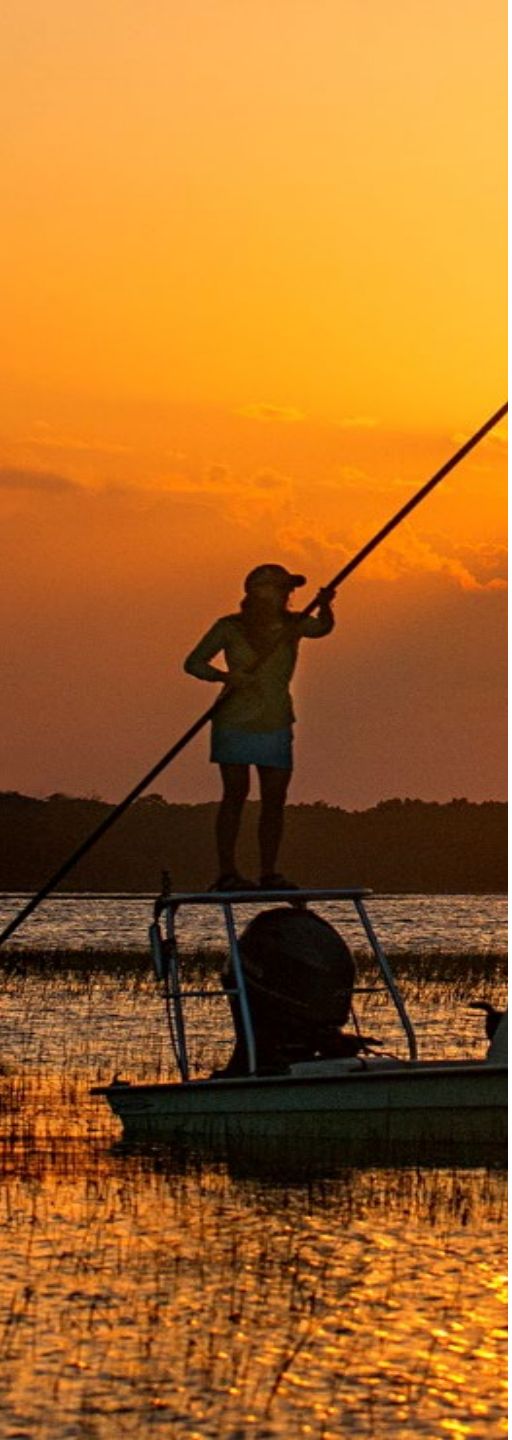
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- **GSMFC Infrastructure Agreement:**
- **Completed final workshop in February**
 - **Rec data standards; data warehouse development**
- **Warehouse development started**
 - **Completed import for TPWD and LA Creel**
 - **Working on FL SRFS**
 - **LA Creel is template for AL and MS Creel**
 - **Working with state and federal partners on development**

A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide shows a person standing in a small boat on a body of water. The person is holding a long pole, possibly a fishing rod or a net. The background is a bright orange sunset sky. The water is calm, and there are some reeds or grasses in the foreground.

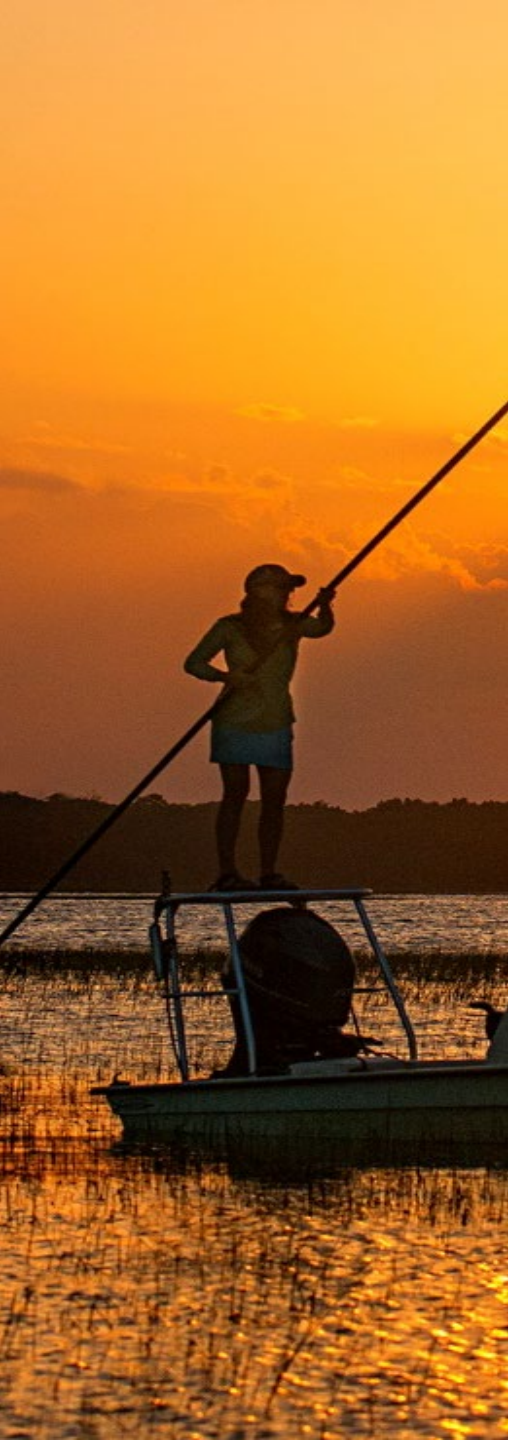
Fisheries Information Network

- **GSMFC Red Snapper Research Agreement:**
- **\$7.5M in recreational research projects**
 - **7 projects selected from RFP**
 - **Focused on researching novel approaches for improving rec effort and discard sampling**
 - **Study period January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027**

A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide shows a person standing on a small boat in a marshy area. The person is holding a long pole, possibly for fishing or sampling. The background is a bright orange sunset sky over a body of water with reeds.

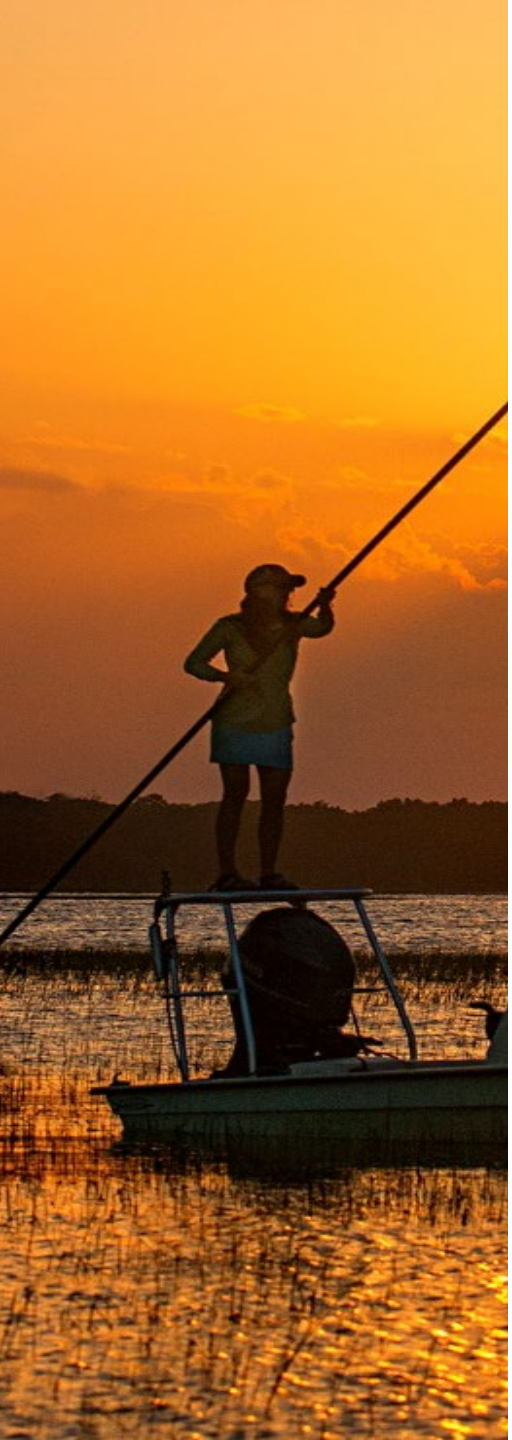
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- **At-Sea Observer Expansion:**
- **Expanding for-hire at-sea observer program into LA and TX**
 - **Sampling started May 2025**
 - **Sampled over 50 offshore trips**
 - **More successful in TX (Corpus Christi and Galveston)**
 - **LA has been difficult**
 - **Sampling will continue through Dec. 31, 2026**

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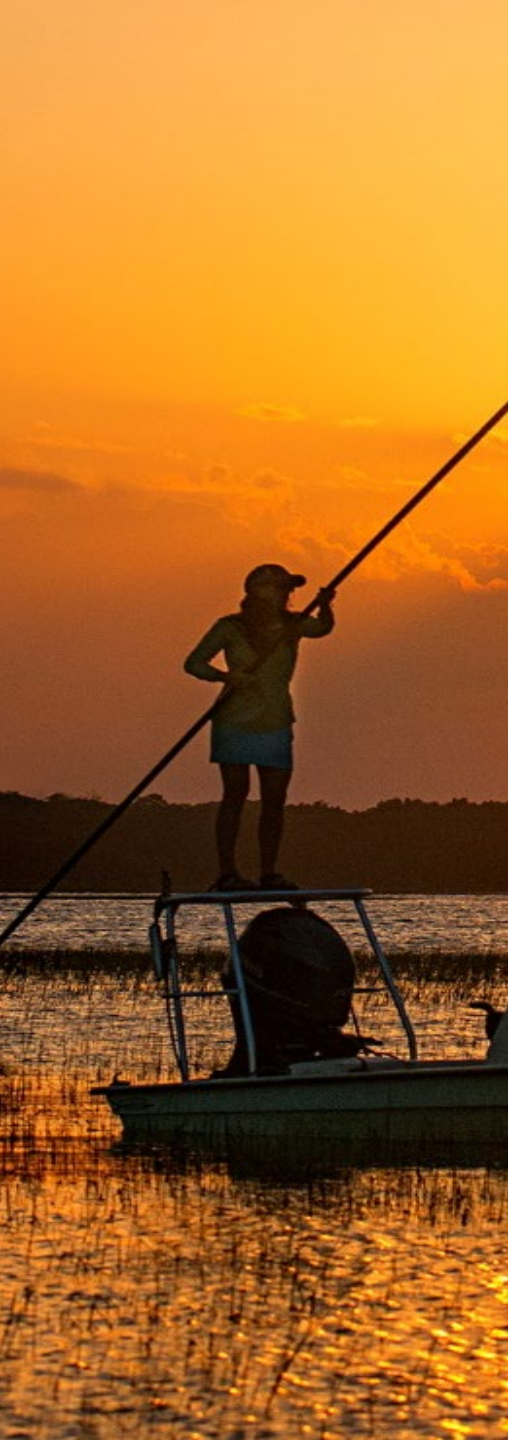
Fisheries Information Network

- **Shrimp eLB Early Adopter Project:**
- **Received \$360k in August 2023 to start early adopter program for new effort collecting devices**
- **Received \$430k (FY24) and \$660k (FY25) in September 2025**
 - **Contracted with LGL Ecological Associates**
 - **Currently 225 volunteers**
 - **Completed 124 installations**

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2026 Highlights

- **\$9.3M in GulfFIN funding proposed**
 - **Ongoing activities**
 - **Administration of FIN**
 - **Recreational sampling**
 - **FL MRIP, AL MRIP & AL Creel; MS Creel; LA Creel; TPWD red snapper sampling**
 - **Alabama Snapper Check**
 - **Commercial trip tickets**
 - **FIN Data Management System**
 - **SE Headboat Port Sampling (pending SEFSC funding availability)**

A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide shows a person standing in a small boat on a body of water. The person is holding a long pole that extends diagonally across the frame. The background is a bright orange and yellow sunset sky. The water is calm with some reeds visible in the foreground.

2026 Highlights

- **Southeast Fishery Observer Program**
 - **Contractual agreement with NOAA Fisheries**
 - **SESFC collects observer data from**
 - **Shrimp trawl, Pelagic, shark coastal gillnet and bottom longline, reef fish fishery, platform removal**
 - **\$1.5M annually to support personnel in Galveston, TX and Panama City, FL**
 - **Six staff focused on data management with potentially 12**
 - **Bethany Bell and Gregg Bray program managers**

Questions?

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