



NOTICE OF MEETING

76th Annual Meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission October 27-30, 2025 – Biloxi, Mississippi

OCEAN SPRINGS, Miss. – The [Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission](#) will hold its 76th Annual Meeting from Monday, October 27 through Thursday, October 30, 2025 at the Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi. A preliminary meeting schedule, which is subject to change at any time, is included in this detailed notice. Jason Froeba with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is the presiding Chairman.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Commission shall convene inside the [Golden Nugget Biloxi Hotel & Casino](#) (151 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, MS 39530) on the beautiful [Mississippi Gulf Coast](#). Owned by Landry's, a nationwide leader in dining, hospitality, and entertainment, the Golden Nugget Biloxi offers a luxury hotel rooms and suites, H2O Pool and Bar, Rush Lounge (with Live music), spa & salon, shops, fitness center, casino gaming space, and restaurants, which include Morton's The Steakhouse, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., and Saltgrass Steak House, Michael Patrick's Sports Café, and Lillie's Asian Cuisine as well as a Starbucks.

Hotel reservations must be made before October 12, 2025. Room availability is not guaranteed beyond this date.

A block of rooms is being held at the negotiated room rate of **\$82.00/night** for a single or double occupancy plus Mississippi sales tax of 7%. Also, a 5% tax is added per room rental of all hotels or motels in Harrison County (effective January 1, 2005); county and state tax are subject to change without prior notice. All rooms are non-smoking. A \$200 charge will be assessed for smoking in a room. **The resort fee has been waived.*** Golden Nugget Biloxi requires a first night's deposit of room and tax, per room, to guarantee your reservation. All major credit cards are accepted and will be charged for the stipulated room and tax at time of reservation.

Reservations can be made by calling the Reservations Department directly at 800.777.7568 and providing the Group Code: **S250358** or identifying yourself as being with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Or, feel free to use this link to make a reservation:

<https://goldennuggetbiloxi.reztrip.com/ext/promoRate?property=1262&mode=b&pm=true&sr=999131&vr=3>

***Note:** The link will indicate that you will be charged a resort fee of \$16.99; however, this fee has been waived for our group and will be reversed upon check-in. We apologize for this inconvenience.

Check-In is 4:00 p.m. and Check-Out is by 11:00 a.m. The hotel will make the best effort to accommodate requests for early check-in or late departures, based upon availability. If you must cancel a reservation, you must notify the hotel directly **no later than 72 hours prior to arrival**, or the first night room and tax deposit will be forfeited.

If you have any problems regarding accommodations, please contact Nancy Marcellus at 228.875.5912 or nmarcellus@gsmfc.org.

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING

Biloxi has quick and easy access to three major airports:

(GPT) [Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport](#) (Mississippi) - 22 miles

(MSY) [Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport](#) (Louisiana) - 103 miles

(MOB) [Mobile Regional Airport](#) (Alabama) - 50 miles

Complimentary Self-Parking and Valet Parking is available at the Golden Nugget Biloxi.

REGISTRATION

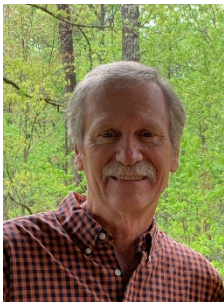
ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER TO RECEIVE YOUR NAMEBADGE AND CONFERENCE MATERIALS.

The Commission encourages you to pre-register online at www.gsmfc.org by Friday, October 24 at NOON (CST). Under Upcoming Meetings click "Learn More" under GSMFC 76th Annual Meeting.

Guests should be included on your registration. Co-workers or associates SHOULD NOT BE REGISTERED AS GUESTS.

The registration fee is \$200 USD/per participant and \$75/per spouse or guest. Attendees with a GSMFC Travel Authorization are **EXEMPT** from paying the registration fee since your participation is included in the grant work plan. Printed registration forms may also be mailed, or faxed to (228) 875-6604. Payments may be made by cash, check, or credit card.

2025 LYLES–SIMPSON AWARD



The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission shall present its **2025 Lyles-Simpson Award** to **Lance Robinson** from **Texas**. This annual, prestigious award recognizes an individual, agency, or organization that has contributed to the betterment of Gulf fisheries through significant biological, industrial, legislative, enforcement, or administrative activities. A program honoring Lance and the presentation of the Lyles-Simpson Award will be held Tuesday, October 28 in the Deer Island Ballroom. Recommended attire is business casual. A reception will be held when doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the dinner and award presentation immediately following. **Registration is required for the dinner.**

Lance worked for Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's (TPWD) Coastal Fisheries Division for almost thirty years; first as the Galveston Bay Ecosystem Leader (1991-2002), then Regional Director for the upper Texas coast (2002-2015). In January 2015, Lance moved to Austin Headquarters after his promotion to Director of Field Operations and Deputy Division Director (2015-2020). His responsibilities included the operational management of the Division's eight ecosystem field stations, located from Sabine Lake to Brownsville, three marine fish hatcheries (Sea Center Texas, Marine Development Center and Perry R. Bass Marine Research Station) and with fishery management policy/legislative issues for the Division. During his career with the Coastal Fisheries Division he was involved with fisheries independent and fisheries dependent monitoring programs that were used to assess Texas' marine resources and worked closely with the Texas recreational and commercial fishing sectors.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

A final agenda and meeting materials will be posted on October 15, 2025
to the Commission website: <https://www.gsmfc.org/#mtg255>.

Monday, October 27, 2025

11:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Early Registration	<i>Pre-Function Area</i>
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	TCC Artificial Reef	<i>Ship Island A</i>
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Welcome Reception	<i>Deer Island Ballroom</i>

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	<i>Pre-Function Area</i>
8:30 am – 12:00 noon	TCC Artificial Reef	<i>Ship Island A</i>
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	FIN Committee	<i>Grand Ballroom A & B</i>
8:30 am – 12 noon	TCC Crab Subcommittee	<i>Ship Island B</i>
8:30 am – 12 noon	TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee	<i>Ship Island C</i>
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Reef Fish Extension Meeting	<i>Petit Bois</i>
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	TCC Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee	<i>Ship Island A</i>
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	S/FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee	<i>Ship Island B</i>
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Reception/2025 Lyles-Simpson Award Dinner	<i>Deer Island Ballroom</i>

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	<i>Pre-Function Area</i>
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	Technical Coordinating Committee	<i>Grand Ballroom A & B</i>
8:30 pm – 5:00 pm	LEC/LETC Meetings	<i>Ship Island A</i>
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Sea Grant Extension Program	<i>Ship Island B</i>
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Reception	<i>Deer Island Ballroom</i>

Thursday, October 30, 2025

7:00 am – 8:30 pm	Executive Committee Breakfast	<i>Round Island B</i>
8:00 am – 12 noon	Registration	<i>Pre-Function Area</i>
8:00 am – 12 noon	State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee	<i>Grand Ballroom A & B</i>
12 noon – 1:00 pm	<i>Commissioner's Luncheon</i>	<i>Ship Island A</i>
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Commission Business Meeting	<i>Grand Ballroom A & B</i>

*All business meetings are open to the public (observers and media).
Attendance is recorded in the minutes for all meetings.*

**Any questions concerning the 76th Annual Meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries
Commission should be relayed to Nancy Marcellus
at (228) 875-5912 or nmarcellus@gsmfc.org.**

We look forward to seeing you all in Biloxi, Mississippi, this October!



PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

76th Annual Meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission October 27 – 30, 2025

Please complete this registration form and return with **OR** without registration fee payable to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, ATTN: Accounts Payable, 2404 Government Street, Ocean Springs, MS 39564.

Your registration packet includes a name badge, agenda book, and other conference materials. These items will be ready for pick up at Registration on the second floor of the Golden Nugget Biloxi Hotel & Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi starting Monday, October 27, 2025.

First & Last Name: _____

Affiliation Name: _____

Circle One: *Government Agency* *Business* *University/Nonprofit* *Media* *Other*

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____

- ☐ Travel Authorization No. _____.
- ☐ Registration fee of \$200.00 is enclosed.
- ☐ Please pre-register me. I will pay upon arrival at the Registration Desk.

Please check events that you plan to attend:

- ☐ Welcome Reception (Monday, October 27)
- ☐ Lyles-Simpson Award Reception (Tuesday, October 28)
- ☐ Reception (Wednesday, October 29)

SPOUSE/GUEST REGISTRATION

(Do Not Register Co-workers or Associates as Guests)

Spouse's/Guest's Name: _____

- ☐ \$75.00 registration fee is enclosed.
- ☐ Please pre-register my spouse/guest. I will pay upon arrival at the Registration Desk.

Please check events that your spouse/guest plan to attend:

- ☐ Welcome Reception (Monday, October 27)
- ☐ Lyles-Simpson Award Dinner (Tuesday, October 28)
- ☐ Reception (Wednesday, October 29)

Please read carefully the following release, waiver and policies, before agreeing and submitting your registration form.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

Liability Release and Waiver; Indemnification

The undersigned (hereinafter referred to as "Attendee") acknowledges, understands, confirms and agrees that Attendee's attendance at, and participation in any activities, events and functions (collectively, the "Activities") associated with, the 76th Annual Meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (the "Annual Meeting") could result in injury to Attendee and/or damage to Attendee's property from a combination of factors including, but not limited to, dangerous conditions at, in or about any lodging, dining, meeting, recreational and/or other facilities utilized for the Annual Meeting and the Activities, transportation of Attendee to and from the Annual Meeting and/or the Activities, third-party vendors contracted to provide goods and services for the Annual Meeting and its attendees, unfavorable weather conditions, and other risks to Attendee from attending the Annual Meeting and participating in the Activities. Attendee fully realizes the dangers and risks to Attendee of attending the Annual Meeting and participating in the Activities.

In consideration of the time, effort and expenses incurred by Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission to host the Annual Meeting and plan the Activities, and as a condition to Attendee being permitted to attend the Annual Meeting and participate in the Activities, **ATTENDEE HEREBY RELEASES, FOREVER DISCHARGES, AND AGREES NOT TO SUE OR BRING ANY OTHER LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE RELEASED PARTIES (AS DEFINED BELOW) WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL CLAIMS AND CAUSES OF ACTION OF ANY NATURE WHETHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, WHICH ATTENDEE HAS OR MAY IN THE FUTURE HAVE AND WHICH COULD BE ASSERTED BY OR ON BEHALF OF ATTENDEE IN CONNECTION WITH ATTENDEE'S ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND/OR ATTENDEE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CLAIMS OF NEGLIGENCE, NEGLIGENCE PER SE, NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION, PREMISES LIABILITY, TORT CLAIMS, BREACH OF WARRANTY, STATUTORY VIOLATIONS AND BREACH OF CONTRACT.** The term "Released Parties" shall mean Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and its commissioners, officers, directors, staff, agents, representatives, volunteers, assigns and successors in interest. The foregoing release and waiver of claims shall not apply to claims arising from the grossly negligent, reckless or intentional conduct by any of the Released Parties.

I understand and agree that I may be photographed during my attendance at the Annual Meeting and while participating in the Activities. I agree to allow my photo, video, or film likeness to be used for any legitimate purpose by Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and/or its affiliates and/or local media without compensation or notice to me.

Signature of Applicant for Registration

Date of Signature