

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

76th ANNUAL MEETING



University of New Hampshire Aquafort – Photo courtesy of Steve VanderKooy

OCTOBER 27 - 30, 2025

Golden Nugget Biloxi Biloxi, Mississippi

**Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
76th Annual Meeting**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, October 27, 2025

Room

11:00 am – 5:00 pm	Early Registration	Pre-Function Space
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee Meeting <i>Craig Newton, Chairman</i>	Ship Island A
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Welcome Reception	Deer Island Ballroom

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

Room

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Pre-Function Space
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee Meeting <i>Craig Newton, Chairman</i>	Ship Island A
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	GulfFIN Committee <i>Nicole Beckham, Chairman</i>	Grand Ballroom A & B
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	TCC Crab Subcommittee <i>Claire McIntyre, Chairman</i>	Ship Island B
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee <i>Ted Switzer, Chairman</i>	Ship Island C
9:00 am – 3:30 pm	Reef Fish Extension Advisory Panel Meeting <i>Marcus Drymon, Chairman</i>	Petit Bois
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	TCC Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee <i>Jason Herrmann, Chairman</i>	Ship Island A
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	S/FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee <i>Ben Landry, Chairman</i>	Ship Island B
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Lyles-Simpson Award Dinner/Reception 2025 Recipient – <i>Lance Robinson</i>	Deer Island Ballroom

**Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
76th Annual Meeting**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Room

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Pre-Function Space
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	Technical Coordinating Committee <i>Nicole Beckham, Chairman</i>	Grand Ballroom A & B
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	GSMFC Law Enforcement Committee/ Gulf Council's Law Enforcement Technical Committee <i>Les Casterline, Chairman</i>	Ship Island A
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Advisory Committee <i>Dominique Seibert, Chairman</i>	Ship Island B
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Reception	Deer Island Ballroom

Thursday, October 30, 2025

Room

7:00 am – 8:30 am	Executive Committee Breakfast	Round Island B
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Registration	Pre-Function Space
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee <i>Luiz Barbieri, Chairman</i>	Grand Ballroom A & B
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Commissioners' Luncheon	Ship Island A
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Commission Business Meeting <i>Jason Froeba, Chairman</i>	Grand Ballroom A & B

Monday, October 27, 2025

**TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee Meeting
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Craig Newton, Chairman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Craig Newton*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 14-15, 2024) – *Craig Newton*
4. Archaeological Survey Requirements for Artificial Reef Planning – *Keith Mille*
5. Artificial Reef Planning Implications Due to Rice's Whale – *Clay George*
6. Update on National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, Gulf Ecosystem Initiative – *Avery Paxton*

--BREAK--

7. MARAD Ship Disposal and Reefing Opportunities – *Keith Mille*
8. State Management of Private Aids to Navigation for Inshore Reefs – *Craig Newton*

--RECESS--

Meeting Room: Ship Island A

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

**TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee Meeting (Cont'd)
8:30 am – 12:00 pm**

9. Call to Order – *Craig Newton*
10. Overview of Artificial Reef Activities – *All*
 - a. Texas
 - b. Louisiana
 - c. Mississippi
 - d. Alabama
 - e. Florida

--BREAK--

11. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Update – *Jasmine Baloch*
12. Election of Officers
13. Other Business
14. Public Comments

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Ship Island A

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

**GulfFIN Committee Meeting
8:30 am – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Nicole Beckham, Chairman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Nicole Beckham*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 15, 2024) – *Nicole Beckham*
4. MRIP Update
 - a. FES Transition Update
 - b. Programmatic Updates – *Richard Cody/Katherine Papacostas*
5. AL and MS Creel Transition Research Update – *Eric Gigli/Marie Head*
6. State Recreational Data Warehouse Development – *Dalton Powell*

--BREAK--

7. Red Snapper Recreational Research Projects Update – *Gregg Bray*
8. Data Warehouse Improvement Funding Discussion – *Gregg Bray*
9. Update on SEFHIER Development Discussions – *Lisa Hollensead/Jessica Stephen*

--LUNCH--

10. Discussion of Deepwater Grouper Reporting Application – *Lisa Hollensead*
11. LA Wallet Trip Ticket Project – *Nicole Smith*
12. VESL Implementation Updates and Discussion – *Andrew Peterson*
 - Discussion of Pack Out Only Situations – *Chris Bradshaw*

--BREAK--

13. Discussion of Aquaculture Data Collection through Trip Tickets – *Clete Ootshi*
14. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Grand Ballroom A & B

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

**TCC Crab Subcommittee Meeting
8:30 am – 12:00 pm**

1. Call to Order – *Claire McIntyre, Chairman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *All*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 15, 2024) – *All*
4. Terrapin/Bycatch Issues and Pending Regulations – *All*
5. 2024-2025 Supporting State-led Derelict Crab Trap Detection and Removal
 - a. Outreach Videos for Crab Trap Loss Prevention in the Gulf of Mexico – *Ali Robertson*
 - b. State Clean-ups Updates – *All*
6. Blue Crab Early Life History and Habitat Bottlenecks – *Sharon Herzka*

--BREAK--

7. Impacts of Drought on Blue Crab Populations – *Mai Fung*
8. History of Blue Crab Industry in the Region: Update – *Julie Lively*
9. Summary of Written Reports – *All*
 - a. State Fishery Updates
 - b. Recreational Crab Fisheries
 1. License Sales
 2. Number of Traps
 3. Locations/Recreational areas
 4. Catch Reporting Requirements
10. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

**TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee Meeting
8:30 am – 12:00 pm**

1. Call to Order – *Ted Switzer, Chairman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Ted Switzer*
3. Approval of Minutes (March 18, 2025) – *Ted Switzer*
4. Administrative Report – *Jeff Rester*
5. Review of All SEAMAP 2025 Sampling – *All*
 - a. Spring Plankton Survey
 - b. Bottom Longline Survey
 - c. Reef Fish Survey
 - d. Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey
 - e. Fall Plankton Survey
 - f. Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey

--BREAK--

6. 2026 SEAMAP Budget – *Jeff Rester*
7. SEAMAP Only Trawl Database Development – *Michael Brochard*
8. SEAMAP 2026-2030 Management Plan Review – *All*
9. SEAMAP Online Web Mapping Applications – *Michael Brochard*
10. Possible SEAMAP Publication Topics – *All*
11. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Ship Island C

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

**Reef Fish Extension Advisory Panel Meeting
9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

1. Welcome and Introductions – *Marcus Drymon, Chairman*
2. Synthesis of Reef Fish Extension Longitudinal Survey Results – *Sarah Gibbs*

--BREAK--

3. South Atlantic Sea Grant's Reef Fish Update – *Scott Baker*
4. Florida Sea Grant's Reef Fish Update – *Angela Collins*
5. Return 'Em Right Program Update – *Nicholas Haddad*
6. Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant's Reef Fish Update – *Marcus Drymon*

--LUNCH--

7. Texas Sea Grant's Reef Fish Update – *Laura Picariello*
8. Louisiana Sea Grant's Reef Fish Update – *Julie Lively*
9. Reef Fish Extension Final Products Discussion – Format(s), Distribution – *All*
10. Wrap Up – *All*

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Petit Bois

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

**State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee
Menhaden Advisory Committee Meeting
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order – *Ben Landry, Chairman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *All*
3. Approval of Minutes (April 23, 2025) – *All*
4. Overview of 2025 Gulf Fishing Season – *Steve VanderKooy*
5. Report on Texas Cap for 2025 – *Carey Gelpi*
6. Louisiana Purse Seine Bycatch Results – *Scott Raborn*

--BREAK--

7. Review of Port Sample Acquisition and Processing in 2025 – *Steve VanderKooy*
8. Electronic CDFR Reporting Update – *Steve VanderKooy*
9. Marine Stewardship Certification of Gulf Menhaden Update – *Peter Himchak*
10. Final Discussion and Adoption of Menhaden Advisory Committee SOPs – *All*
11. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Ship Island B

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

**TCC Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee Meeting
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Jason Herrmann, Chairman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Jason Herrmann*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 15, 2024) – *Jason Herrmann*
4. State Oyster Updates (Resource Status, On- and Off-Bottom Harvest, Restoration) – *All*
 - a. Texas
 - b. Louisiana
 - c. Mississippi
 - d. Alabama
 - e. Florida
5. Regional Shellfish Seed Biosecurity Program – *Stan Allen*

--BREAK--

6. 2024/25 State Oyster Management Success Projects – *All*
7. Restoration Discussion – *All*
8. Health and Safety – *All*
9. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Ship Island A

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

**Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting
8:30 am – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Nicole Beckham, Chairman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Nicole Beckham*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 16, 2024) – *Nicole Beckham*
4. Integrated Multi-trophic Aquaculture (IMTA)
 - a. University of New Hampshire Aquafort Project as Model – *Michael Chambers*
 - b. Dauphin Island Sea Lab Aquafort Project Progress – *Ashley McDonald*
 - c. Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center Critter Production and Expectations – *Reg Blaylock/Angelos Apeitos*
 - d. Benefits of IMTA to the Aquaculture Industry – *Ashley McDonald/Steve Sempier*
 - e. Panel Discussion: Benefits of IMTA - *All*

--BREAK--

5. VESL Federal Reporting, Timelines for Requests, and State Updates – *Andrew Petersen*
6. SuRF Updates
 - a. State Project Outcomes and Updates – *All*
 - b. 2026 Proposed Projects & Budgets – *Steve VanderKooy*

--LUNCH--

7. NOAA Southeast Fisheries Observer Program – *Scott Leach*
8. Update on MS/AL Creel – *Trevor Moncrief/Marie Head*
9. Discussion of Marine Stock Enhancement Data & Reports – *Christopher Mace*
10. Black Drum Profile – *Erin Parker*
11. Next Species Profile – *Steve VanderKooy*

--BREAK--

12. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Artificial Reef – *Craig Newton*
 - b. Crab – *Jason Saucier*
 - c. GulfFIN – *Nicole Beckham*
 - d. Molluscan Shellfish – *Jason Herrmann*
 - e. SEAMAP – *Ted Switzer*
13. State/Federal Highlights - *All*
14. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Grand Ballroom A & B

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

**GSMFC Law Enforcement Committee/
Gulf Council's Law Enforcement Technical Committee Meeting**

Closed Session: 7:30 am – 8:15 am

1. Introductions – *Les Casterline, Chairman*
2. Case Work Discussion – *All*
3. Other Business

General Session: 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

1. Introductions and Adoption of Agenda – *Les Casterline, Chairman*
2. Approval of Minutes (October 15, 2023 – Closed Session and General Session) – *Les Casterline*

Gulf Council LETC Items:

3. Additional Tier of ID Number Size for Federally Permitted Vessels Between 25-65 feet –
Assane Diagne
4. Update on 20-fathom Boundary Line – *Assane Diagne*
5. State Waters Boundary Line – *John Froeschke*
6. Nomination Process for Officer/Team of the Year – *Assane Diagne*

--BREAK--

GSMFC LEC Items:

7. Future Joint OLE/Enforcement JEA Meetings – *All*
8. Future GSMFC/ASMFC Joint LE Committees Meetings – *All*
9. IJF Program Activity – *Steve VanderKooy*
 - a. Gray (Mangrove) Snapper Profile Status
 - b. Black Drum Profile
 - c. Commission Publications
 - 1) Annual Law Summary
 - 2) License and Fees
10. State Report Highlights – *All*
 - a. Florida
 - b. Alabama
 - c. Mississippi
 - d. Louisiana
 - e. Texas
 - f. USCG
 - g. NOAA OLE
 - h. USFWS
11. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Ship Island A

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

**Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Advisory Committee Meeting
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Dominique Seibert, Chairman*
2. Approval of Minutes – *All*
3. Gulf Sea Grant Fisheries Extension State Reports
 - a. Florida – *Angela Collins/Michael Sipos*
 - b. Mississippi/Alabama – *Marcus Drymon/Amanda Jefferson*
 - c. Louisiana – *Dominique Seibert/Jeff Plumlee*
 - d. Texas – *Matt Kammann/Laura Picariello*

--BREAK--

4. Regional Topics Discussion – *All*
 - a. Regional Projects and SG Collaborations
 - b. Other
5. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Ship Island B

Thursday, October 30, 2025

**State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee Meeting
8:30 am – 12:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Luiz Barbieri, Chairman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Luiz Barbieri*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 17, 2024) – *Luiz Barbieri*
4. Discussion and Final Approval of GulfFIN Funding Activities for 2026 – *Gregg Bray*
5. Discussion and Final Approval of SEAMAP Funding Activities for 2026 – *Jeff Rester*
6. Discussion and Final Approval of IJF State Research Funding for 2026 – *Steve VanderKooy*
7. Discussion and Final Approval of Next IJF Species for Profile/FMP Development – *Steve VanderKooy*

--BREAK--

8. Menhaden Advisory Committee Report – *Steve VanderKooy*
9. Discussion of Young Fishermen's Program – *Ashford Rosenberg*
10. Discussion of State Port Agent Support for Fisheries Monitoring – *Gregg Bray*
11. Update on Progress of State Data Warehouse Development – *Gregg Bray*
12. Review of S/FFMC Standard Operating Procedures – *Gregg Bray*
13. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Grand Ballroom A & B

Thursday, October 30, 2025

**Commission Business Meeting
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Opening Comments – *Jason Froeba, Chairman*
- Brief Overview of Commission Voting Procedures – *Dave Donaldson*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Jason Froeba*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 17, 2024) – *Jason Froeba*
4. GSMFC Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Law Enforcement Committee – *Les Casterline*
 - b. Technical Coordinating Committee – *Nicole Beckham*
 1. Artificial Reef Subcommittee
 2. Crab Subcommittee
 3. GulfFIN Committee
 4. Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee
 5. SEAMAP Subcommittee
 - c. State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee – *Jason Froeba*
 1. GulfFIN Funding Priorities
 2. SEAMAP Funding Priorities
 3. IJF Funding Priorities
 4. Menhaden Advisory Committee
5. Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Meeting Report – *Dominique Siebert*
6. NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Comments – *Andy Strelcheck*
7. USFWS Region 4 Office Comments – *James Ballard*
8. NOAA Fisheries Budget Update – *Dave Donaldson*
9. Legislative Update – *Dave Donaldson*

--BREAK--

10. Review and Approval of GSMFC Administrative Manual – *All*
11. Update on Gulf Commercial Fisheries Summit – *Jeff Rester*
12. Update on Commission/USGS Partnership – *Steve VanderKooy*
13. Selection of 2026 Lyles-Simpson Award Recipient – *All*
14. GSMFC Program Reports
 - a. Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program – *Steve VanderKooy*
 - b. Aquaculture Program – *Steve VanderKooy*
 - c. SEAMAP – *Jeff Rester*
 - d. Sportfish Restoration Program – *Charlie Robertson*
 - e. Fisheries Restoration Program – *Charlie Robertson*
 - f. Fisheries Information Network – *Gregg Bray*

Meeting Room: Grand Ballroom A & B

Thursday, October 30, 2025

**Commission Business Meeting (Cont'd)
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

15. Executive Committee Report – *Jason Froeba*
 - a. GSMFC Audit
 - b. Financial Statement (9/2025)
 - c. FY2026 Budget
 - d. Staff Compensation
16. State Directors' Reports
 - a. Florida – *Dan Ellinor*
 - b. Alabama – *John Mareska*
 - c. Mississippi – *Joe Spraggins*
 - d. Louisiana – *Jason Froeba*
 - e. Texas – *Christopher Mace*
17. Future Meetings – *Nancy Marcellus*
 - a. October 12-15, 2026 – Florida
 - b. October 18-21, 2027 – Texas
18. Review of Committee Listings – *All*
19. Publications List and Web Statistics – *Dave Donaldson*
 - a. Publications
 - b. GSMFC Website
20. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Grand Ballroom A & B

SOCIAL EVENTS*

Monday, October 27, 2025

Room

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Welcome Reception

Deer Island Ballroom

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Lyles-Simpson Award Dinner/Reception
2025 Recipient – *Lance Robinson*

Deer Island Ballroom

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Reception

Deer Island Ballroom

***You must be registered for the meeting to attend these functions.**

Name badge required.

NOTES

NOTES

STAFF

David Donaldson

Nancy Marcellus

Cheryl Noble

Steven VanderKooy

Jeffrey Rester

Gregory Bray

Joseph Ferrer, III

Deanna Valentine

Donna Bellais

Ali Wilhelm

Angela Rabideau

Ashley Lott

Charlie Robertson, III

Dalton Powell

Keith Wilson

Michael Brochard

Bethany Bell

COMMISSIONERS AND PROXIES

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Senator David Sessions
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11 S Union Street, Suite 734
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Chris Nelson
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FLORIDA

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TBA – Legislative

TBA – Private Citizen

LOUISIANA

Tyler Bosworth
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COMMISSIONERS AND PROXIES (Cont'd)

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TBA – Legislative

Read Hendon
Ocean Springs, MS

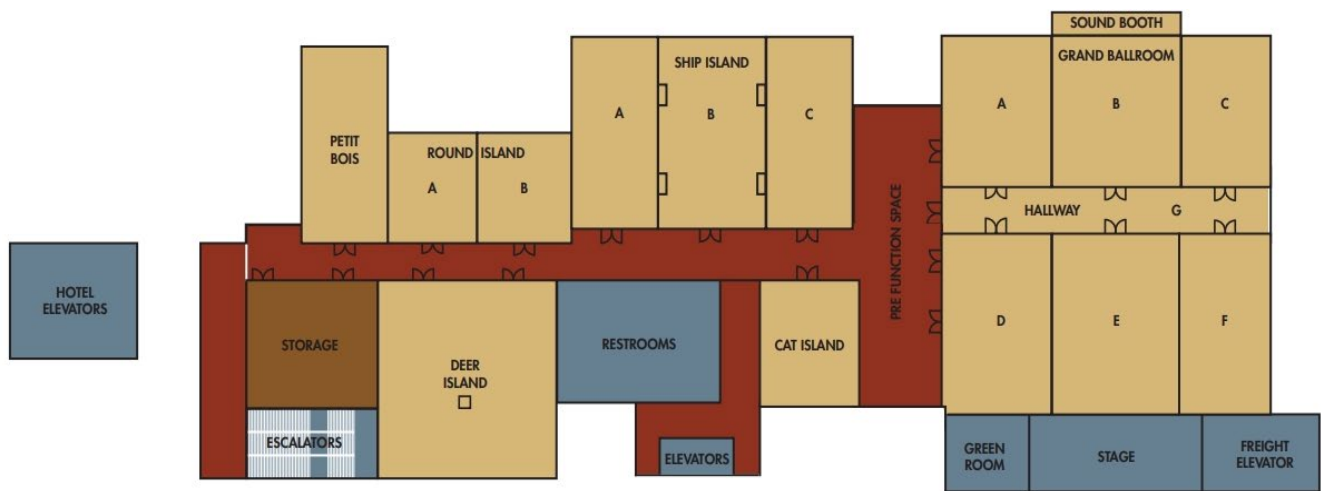
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GOLDEN NUGGET BILOXI

CONFERENCE FLOOR MAP





**Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
2404 Government Street
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564**