GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

74th ANNUAL MEETING



OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2023

HILTON NEW ORLEANS RIVERSIDE NEW ORLEANS, LA

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission 74th Annual Meeting

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, October 1	Room	
10:00am – 5:00pm	Registration	Riverside Registration
1:00pm – 5:00pm	GOMA Derelict Trap Workshop Ali Robertson, Moderator	Chart C
1:30pm – 5:00pm	TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee Travis Williams, Chairman	Chart A
Tuesday, October 1	Room	
8:00am – 5:00pm	Registration	Riverside Registration
8:30am – 12:00pm	TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee (cont'd.) Travis Williams, Chairman	Leeward/Windward
8:30am – 5:00pm	GulfFIN Committee Beverly Sauls, Chairman	Quarterdeck Ballroom
8:30am – 12:00pm	TCC Crab Subcommittee Jason Saucier, Chairman	Chart C
8:30am – 12:00pm	TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee Ted Switzer, Chairman	Steering
9:00am – 4:00pm	Reef Fish Extension Advisory Panel Meeting Marcus Drymon, Chairman	Compass
12:00pm – 1:30pm	Lyles-Simpson Award Luncheon 2022 Recipient - <i>Thomas McIlwain</i>	Chart A-B
1:30pm – 5:00pm	S-FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee Ray Mroch, Chairman	Chart C
1:30pm – 5:00pm	TCC Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee Portia Sapp, Chairman	Leeward/Windward
5:30pm – 6:30pm	Reception	Port/Starboard

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission 74th Annual Meeting

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 Room					
8:00am – 5:00pm	Registration	Riverside Registration			
8:30am – 12:00pm	GSMFC Law Enforcement Committee/ GMFMC Law Enforcement Technical Committee Scott Pearce, Chairman	Kabacoff			
8:30am – 5:00pm	Technical Coordinating Committee	Quarterdeck Ballroom			
	8:30am – 12:00pm General Session: "Aquaculture Regional Pilot Projects in the Gulf of Mexico"				
	1:30pm – 5:00pm Business Meeting Beverly Sauls, Chairman				
12:00pm – 1:30pm	Lyles-Simpson Award Luncheon 2023 Recipient - <i>Joseph Shepard</i>	Chart A-B			
1:30pm – 5:00pm	Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Advisory Committe Laura Picariello, Chairman	cee Chart C			
6:00pm – 9:00pm	Reception/Dinner Padd	llewheeler Creole Queen			
Thursday, October 19, 2023 Room					
7:00am – 8:30am	Executive Committee Breakfast	Chart C			
8:00am – 12:00pm	Registration	Riverside Registration			
8:30am – 12:00pm	State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee Jason Froeba, Chairman	Quarterdeck Ballroom			
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Commissioners Luncheon	Chart A-B			
1:00pm – 5:00pm	Commission Business Meeting Jason Froeba, Ist Vice-Chairman	Quarterdeck Ballroom			

Monday October 16, 2023

GOMA Derelict Trap Workshop 1:00pm - 5:00pm

- 1. Welcome and Introductions *Ali Robertson, Moderator*
- 2. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Project Review
- 3. Removal Project Discussion
- 4. Project Application and Reporting Requirements
 - --BREAK--
- 5. Outreach Project Discussion
- 6. Next Steps Adjourn

Monday October 16, 2023

TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee Meeting 1:30pm – 5:00pm

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions Travis Williams, Chairman
- 2. Adoption of Agenda *Travis Williams*
- 3. Approval of Minutes (November 9-10, 2022) Travis Williams
- 4. Overview of Artificial Reef Activities All
 - a. Texas
 - b. Louisiana
 - c. Mississippi
 - d. Alabama
 - e. Florida
- 5. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Update Herb Leedy
 - --BREAK--
- 6. Discussion: Roles and Benefits of Artificial Reef Programs Partnerships All
- 7. DWH Mesophotic & Deep Benthic Communities Restoration Update Kelly Martin
- 8. Public Comments

Recess

Meeting Room: Chart A

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

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

- 9. Call to Order and Introductions *Travis Williams*
- 10. Anticipated Impacts of Designation of Critical Habitat for T&E Species All
 - a. Green Sea Turtle
 - b. Rice's Whale
- 11. New Permitting Challenges for Artificial Reefs in the Gulf of Mexico All
 - --BREAK--
- 12. Artificial Reef Monitoring All
 - a. Overview of Existing Monitoring, State Plan Monitoring Requirements, and Monitoring Needs/Interests
- 13. GSMFC Water Quality Monitoring Pilot Study Update *Charlie Robertson*
- 14. Discussion of Next Meeting
 - a. Time and Location
- 15. Other Business

Adjourn

Meeting Room: Leeward/Windward

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

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions Beverly Sauls, Chairman
- 2. Adoption of Agenda Beverly Sauls
- 3. Approval of Minutes (March 15, 2022) Beverly Sauls
- 4. Review of MRIP Transition Team Research Plan All
- 5. MRIP Update
 - a. Survey-Related Changes for 2024 Richard Cody
 - b. Program Updates Richard Cody
 - c. Other
- 6. IRA Funding Update *Gregg Bray*
 - --BREAK--
- 7. State Recreational Survey Data Warehousing Discussion *Gregg Bray*
- 8. For-Hire Survey Status and Next Step *All*
- 9. Recommendations for Restoring SEFHIER Program All
 - --LUNCH--
- 10. Alabama BigFIN Electronic Measuring Board Presentation Marie Head
- 11. Final Discussion of Reef Fish Conversion Factor Research *All*
- 12. VESL Development Updates *All*
 - --BREAK--
- 13. Discussion of Commercial Landings Non-Disclosure Agreement Process Donna Bellais
- 14. Discussion and Approval of Resolution to Honor Charlie Gardner All
- 15. Election of Officers *All*
- 16. Other Business

Adjourn

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

- 1. Call to Order Jason Saucier, Chairman
- 2. Adoption of Agenda All
- 3. Approval of Minutes (October 17, 2022) All
- 4. State Crab Monitoring through SuRF Funding All
- 5. Sea Turtles and Questions about Gear Interactions *Brian Stacy*
- 6. Update on Florida TED Research and Fisheries Requirements Claire McIntyre
 - -- BREAK --
- 7. Upcoming Research Zach Darnell
 - a. Quantifying and Reducing Discard Mortality of Undersized and Ovigerous Crabs in the Gulf of Mexico Blue Crab Fishery
 - b. Predicting Impacts of Climate Change on Blue Crab Growth, Size at Maturity, and Reproductive Output
- 8. Summary of Written Reports
 - a. Derelict Trap Clean-Ups
 - b. State Fishery Updates
- 9. Other Business

Adjourn

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

- 1. Call to Order Ted Switzer, Chairman
- 2. Adoption of Agenda *Ted Switzer*
- 3. Approval of Minutes (March 14, 2023) *Ted Switzer*
- 4. Administrative Report *Jeff Rester*
- 5. SEAMAP 2023 Sampling Review
 - a. Florida Ted Switzer
 - b. Alabama John Mareska
 - c. Mississippi Jill Hendon
 - d. Louisiana Zach Zuckerman
 - e. Texas Fernando Martinez
 - f. NMFS Adam Pollack

--BREAK--

- 6. Proposed 2024 Sampling *All*
- 7. Collecting Additional Data Fields During the Trawl Surveys *All*
- 8. Review of OMAO Letter All
- 9. Review of Trawl and Bottom Longline Manuscripts All
- 10. Election of Officers *All*
- 11. Other Business Adjourn

Reef Fish Extension Advisory Panel Meeting 9:00am – 4:00pm

- 1. Welcome and Introductions Marcus Drymon, Chairman
- 2. Results of Second Reef Fish Extension Survey Sarah Gibbs

--BREAK--

- 3. Feedback on Second Reef Fish Extension Survey Advisory Panel
- 4. Return 'Em Right Program Nicholas Haddad
- 5. Question/Answer Period *All*

--LUNCH--

- 6. Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant's Reef Fish Update Marcus Drymon
- 7. Texas Sea Grant's Reef Fish Extension Update Laura Picariello
- 8. Louisiana Sea Grant's Reef Fish Update *Julie Lively*

--BREAK--

- 9. Florida Sea Grant's Reef Fish Update Angela Collins
- 10. South Atlantic Sea Grant's Reef Fish Update David Hugo
- 11. Wrap Up *All* Adjourn

State-Federal Fisheries Management Commission Menhaden Advisory Committee Meeting 1:30pm – 5:00pm

- 1. Call to Order *Ray Mroch, Chairman*
- 2. Adoption of Agenda Ray Mroch
- 3. Approval of Minutes (March 31, 2022 Virtual) Ray Mroch
- 4. Review of 2023 Gulf Menhaden Season Sydney Alhale
- 5. Update on the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery *Sydney Alhale*
- 6. Report on Texas Cap for 2023 Carey Gelpi/Sydney Alhale
- 7. Review of Port Sample Acquisition and Processing in 2023/2024 Ray Mroch/Steve VanderKooy
 - -- BREAK --
- 8. Menhaden Reference Points and Stock Assessment Update Steve VanderKooy
- 9. DWH Restoration Project: Developing Methods to Observe Sea Turtle Interactions in the Gulf of Mexico Menhaden Purse Seine Fishery *Rebeccah Hazelkorn*
- 10. Louisiana Purse Seine Bycatch Study Scott Raborn
- 11. Marine Stewardship Certification of Gulf Menhaden Updates
 - a. Gulf Certification Peter Himchak
 - b. Harvest Control Rule and Annual Index Robert Leaf/Catherine Wilhelm
- 12. Other Business Adjourn

TCC Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee Meeting 1:30pm - 5:00pm

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions Portia Sapp, Chairman
- 2. Adoption of Agenda Portia Sapp
- 3. Approval of Minutes (October 17, 2022) *Portia Sapp*
- 4. State Oyster Updates (Resource Status, On- and Off-Bottom Harvest, Restoration) All
 - a. Texas
 - b. Louisiana
 - c. Mississippi
 - d. Alabama
 - e. Florida
 - --BREAK--
- 5. Follow-up from State of the Gulf Oyster Workshop Historic Oyster Landings *All*
- 6. Standardizing Gulf Oyster Landings and Restoration Assessment Metrics Jason Rider
- 7. Other Business Adjourn

GSMFC Law Enforcement Committee/ GMFMC Law Enforcement Technical Committee Meeting

Closed Session: 7:30am – 8:15am

- 1. Introductions *Scott Pearce*, *Chairman*
- 2. Case Work Discussion All
- 3. Other Business

General Session: 8:30am – 12:00pm

- 1. Introductions and Adoption of Agenda Scott Pearce, Chairman
- 2. Approval of Minutes (March 2023 Virtual; Closed Session and General Sessions) Scott Pearce
- 3. Election of Joint Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman All

Gulf Council LETC Items:

- 4. Discussion of Red Snapper IFQ Advanced Landing Notifications From 2022 Including a Review of the Proportion of Inspected to Non-Inspected Red Snapper IFQ Landings *Assane Diagne/ Jessica Stephens*
- 5. Discussion of the Sale of Recreationally-Caught Fish Assane Diagne
 - --BREAK--
- 6. Nomination Process for 2023 Officer/Team of the Year Award All

GSMFC LEC Items:

- 7. IJF Program Activity *Steve VanderKooy*
 - a. Gray (Mangrove) Snapper Profile Status
 - b. Commission Publications
- 8. State Report Highlights *All*
 - a. Florida
- e. Texas
- b. Alabama
- f. USCG
- c. Mississippi
- g. NOAA OLE
- d. Louisiana
- h. USFWS
- 9. Other Business

Adjourn

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

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions Beverly Sauls, Chairman
- 2. Adoption of Agenda Beverly Sauls
- 3. Approval of Minutes (October 18, 2022) *Beverly Sauls*
- 4. General Session: Aquaculture Regional Pilot Projects in the Gulf of Mexico
 - a. Welcome Remarks Dave Donaldson
 - b. Advancement of Atlantic Croaker (*Micropogonias undulatus*) Aquaculture *Nicole Kirchhoff*
 - c. Overcoming Challenges in Commercial U.S. Marine Aquaculture: Development of Post-Harvest Processing and Value-Add Methods for Tropical Seaweed Species in the Gulf and U.S. Caribbean *John Stieglitz*
 - d. Intensive Practical Training of Women in Integrative Multi-Trophic Aquaculture: Towards a Sustained Mariculture Workforce in Puerto Rico *Ralph Turingan*
 - e. Continued Development of Innovative Hatchery Technology for Black Grouper (*Mycteroperca bonaci*) Including Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) with Oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) and Seaweed (*Asparagopsis taxiformis*) *Patrick Rice*

--BREAK--

- f. Develop Education and Outreach Tools, Strategies or Initiatives Aimed at Improving Stakeholder Understanding and Perceptions of Marine Aquaculture *Portia Sapp*
- g. Reevaluating Co-Culture of Eastern Oysters with Sea Urchins Using Hatchery-Produced Juveniles on Florida's Gulf of Mexico Coast *Leslie Sturmer*
- h. Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission North Central Gulf of Mexico, Integrated Multitrophic Aquaculture (IMTA) Demonstration, Research, Training, and Outreach Phase I *John Valentine*

--LUNCH--

- 5. Update on the Status of Gulf of Mexico Wind Energy Mike Celata
- 6. A Statewide Survey of Pharmaceutical Exposure: Red Drum Across Florida Estuaries *Andy Distrubell*
- 7. Discussion of Creating a Universal State-Managed Recreational Fishing Permit *Trevor Moncrief*
- 8. Inflation Reduction Act Update *Gregg Bray*

Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting (Cont'd.) 8:30am – 5:00pm

- 9. Next Species for FMP Development *Steve VanderKooy*
- 10. SuRF Updates Steve VanderKooy
 - --BREAK--
- 11. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Artificial Reef Travis Williams
 - b. GulfFIN Beverly Sauls
 - c. Crab Jason Saucier
 - d. Molluscan Shellfish Jason Herrmann
 - e. SEAMAP Ted Switzer
- 12. State/Federal Highlights All
- 13. Other Business Adjourn

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

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions Laura Picariello, Chairman
- 2. Approval of Minutes -All
- 3. Committee Business Review Role, Membership, and Voting for Chairman/Vice-Chairman
- 4. Gulf Sea Grant Fisheries Extension State Reports and Regional Projects
 - a. Florida Angela Collins/Andy Ropicki
 - b. Mississippi/Alabama Marcus Drymon/Amanda Jefferson
 - c. Louisiana Julie Lively/Dominique Seibert
 - d. Texas Laura Picariello/Tony Reisinger
 - --BREAK--
- 5. Guest Reports
 - a. Gulf Fisheries Sustainability Initiatives John Fallon
- 6. Other Business
- 7. Return 'Em Right Project Team Meeting Adjourn

Thursday, October 19, 2023

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

- 1. Call to Order Jason Froeba, Chairman
- 2. Adoption of Agenda Jason Froeba
- 3. Approval of Minutes (October 19, 2022) Jason Froeba
- 4. Discussion and Final Approval of GulfFIN Funding Activities for 2024 Gregg Bray
- 5. Discussion and Final Approval of SEAMAP Funding Activities for 2024 *Jeff Rester*
- 6. IJF Activities *Steve VanderKooy*
 - a. Discussion and Final Approval of IJ State Research Funding for 2024
 - b. Approval of Next Species for FMP/Profile Development

--BREAK--

- 7. Menhaden Advisory Committee Report *Steve VanderKooy*
- 8. Inflation Reduction Act Funding Discussion *All*
- 9. Update on Gulf Commercial Fisherman Program *TBD*
- 10. Aquatic Species Conservation Gap Analysis Jarrad Kosa
- 11. Election of Officers All
- 12. Other Business Adjourn

Thursday, October 19, 2023

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

- 1. Call to Order, Introductions, Opening Comments *Jason Froeba, 1st Vice-Chairman* Brief Overview of Commission Voting Procedures *Dave Donaldson*
- 2. Adoption of Agenda *Jason Froeba*
- 3. Approval of Minutes (October 19, 2022) Jason Froeba
- 4. GSMFC Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Law Enforcement Committee Scott Pearse
 - b. Technical Coordinating Committee Beverly Sauls
 - 1. General Session Summary
 - 2. Artificial Reef Subcommittee
 - 3. Crab Subcommittee
 - 4. GulfFIN Committee
 - 5. Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee
 - 6. SEAMAP Subcommittee
 - c. State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee Jason Froeba
 - 1. GulfFIN Priorities
 - 2. SEAMAP Priorities
 - 3. IJF Priorities
 - 4. Menhaden Advisory Committee
- 5. Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Meeting Report *Laura Picariello*
- 6. NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Comments Jack McGovern/Peter Hood
- 7. USFWS Region 4 Office Comments Glenn Constant
- 8. NOAA Fisheries Budget Update Dave Donaldson
- 9. Legislative Update *Dave Donaldson*
 - a. H.R. 3980 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act of 2023
 - b. H.R. 5103 Fishery Improvement to Streamline Untimely Regulatory Hurdles Post Emergency Situation Act (FISHES Act)
 - --BREAK--
- 10. Discussion of the Future of Seafood Industry in the Gulf of Mexico All
- 11. Selection of 2024 Lyles-Simpson Award Recipient All
- 12. GSMFC Program Reports
 - a. Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program Steve VanderKooy
 - b. Aquaculture Program Steve VanderKooy
 - c. SEAMAP Jeff Rester
 - d. Sportfish Restoration Charlie Robertson
 - e. Aquatic Nuisance Species Programs Charlie Robertson
 - f. Fisheries Restoration Charlie Robertson
 - g. Fisheries Information Network *Gregg Bray*

Thursday, October 19, 2023

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

- 13. Executive Committee Report Jason Froeba
 - a. GSMFC Audit
 - b. Financial Statement (9/2023)
 - c. FY2024 Budget
 - d. Staff Compensation
- 14. State Directors' Reports
 - a. Florida Dan Ellinor
 - b. Alabama John Mareska
 - c. Mississippi *Joe Spraggins*
 - d. Louisiana Jason Froeba
 - e. Texas Chris Mace
- 15. Future Meetings Nancy Marcellus
 - a. October 14-17, 2024 Mississippi
 - b. October 13-16, 2025 Alabama
- 16. Publications List and Web Statistics Dave Donaldson
 - a. Publications
 - b. GSMFC Website
- 17. Other Business

Adjourn

SOCIAL EVENTS*

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Room

12:00pm – 1:30pm Lyles-Simpson Award Luncheon

Chart A-B

2022 Recipient – Thomas McIlwain

5:30pm – 6:30pm Reception

Port/Starboard

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

12:00pm – 1:30pm Lyles-Simpson Award Luncheon

Chart A-B

2023 Recipient - Joseph Shepard

6:00pm - 9:00pm

Reception/Dinner

Paddlewheeler Creole Queen

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

Name badge required.

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

Sarah Wakefield

Keith Wilson

COMMISSIONERS AND PROXIES

ALABAMA

Chris Blankenship

Alabama Department of Conservation

and Natural Resources 64 North Union Street

Montgomery, AL 36130-1901

Representative Chris Pringle

4 Princess Anne Road Mobile, AL 36608

Chris Nelson

Bon Secour Fisheries, Inc.

P.O. Box 60

Bon Secour, AL 36511

proxy: Scott Bannon/John Mareska

ADCNR, Marine Resources Division

P.O. Box 189

Dauphin Island, AL 36528

FLORIDA

Eric Sutton

FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

620 South Meridian Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Representative Jay Trumbull

317 House Office Building

402 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

James Brown

Apalachicola, FL 32320

LOUISIANA

53 17th Street

Rob Shadoin, Secretary

LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

P.O. Box 98000

Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

proxy: Dan Ellinor FWC

620 South Meridian

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

proxy: Patrick Banks/Jason Froeba

LDWF

P.O. Box 98000

Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

COMMISSIONERS AND PROXIES

Senator Jay Luneau 711 Washington Street Alexandria, LA 71301

John Roussel 1221 Plains Port Hudson Road Zachary, LA 70791

MISSISSIPPI

Joe Spraggins, Executive Director Mississippi Department of Marine Resources 1141 Bayview Avenue Biloxi, MS 39530

TBA

Read Hendon 3209 Frederic Street Pascagoula, MS 39567

TEXAS

Carter Smith, Executive Director Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744

TBA

Doug Boyd 739 Kreutzberg Road Boerne, TX 78006 proxy: Rick Burris MDMR

1141 Bayview Avenue Biloxi, MS 39530

proxy: Chris Mace
TPWD
4300 Waldron Road
Corpus Christi, TX 78418

NOTES

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MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMPASS PORT RIVER STEERING STARBOARD CHART BRIDGE QUARTERDECK В REGISTRATION-COUNTER PELICAN В C BUILDING 2 TO GUESTROOMS C \boxtimes MARKETPLACE $\boxtimes\boxtimes$ **BUILDING 3** WINWARD TO GUESTROOMS & MARK TWAIN COURTYARD TO RIVERWALK **OUTLET MALL** ** LEEWARD KABACOFF TO MAIN LOBBY



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