



# GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

## 75<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING



Photo courtesy of Return 'Em Right

**OCTOBER 14 - 17, 2024**  
**The Lodge at Gulf State Park**  
**Gulf Shores, AL**

**Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission  
75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Monday, October 14, 2024**

**Room**

10:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Sea Oats
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	TCC Artificial Reef Meeting <i>Craig Newton, Chairman</i>	Live Oak I
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Welcome Reception	The Dunes Terrace

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

**Room**

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Sea Oats
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	FIN Committee <i>Beverly Sauls, Chairwoman</i>	Gulfview Ballroom IV
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	TCC Artificial Reef Meeting <i>Craig Newton, Chairman</i>	Live Oak I
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	TCC Crab Subcommittee <i>Jason Saucier, Chairman</i>	Live Oak II
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee <i>Ted Switzer, Chairman</i>	Live Oak III
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Reef Fish Extension Advisory Panel Meeting <i>Marcus Drymon, Chairman</i>	Cypress
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	S-FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee <i>Ray Mroch, Chairman</i>	Live Oak II
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	TCC Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee <i>Portia Sapp, Chairwoman</i>	Live Oak I
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Lyles-Simpson Award Dinner/Reception 2024 Recipient – <i>Gary Graham</i>	Gulfview Ballroom III

**Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission  
75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

<b><u>Wednesday, October 16, 2024</u></b>		<b><u>Room</u></b>
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Sea Oats
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	Technical Coordinating Committee	Gulfview Ballroom IV
	8:30 am – 12:00 pm General Session: “Return ‘Em Right”	
	1:30 pm – 5:00 pm Business Meeting <i>Beverly Sauls, Chairwoman</i>	
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Advisory Committee <i>Dominique Seibert, Chairwoman</i>	Dogwood
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Reception	Live Oak I & II
<b><u>Thursday, October 17, 2024</u></b>		<b><u>Room</u></b>
7:00 am – 8:30 am	Executive Committee Breakfast	Executive Boardroom
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Registration	Sea Oats
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee <i>Jason Froeba, Chairman</i>	Gulfview Ballroom IV
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Commissioners Luncheon	Gulfview Ballroom III
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Commission Business Meeting <i>Scott Bannon, Chairman</i>	Gulfview Ballroom IV

**Monday, October 14, 2024**

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

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Craig Newton, Chairman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Craig Newton*
3. Approval of Minutes (March 19, 2024) – *Craig Newton*
4. Review of Artificial Reef Subcommittee Listings – *All*
5. Discussion: History of Artificial Reef Projects Supported by GSMFC and Potential Future Work – *All*

--BREAK--

6. Reefmaker Background, Innovations, and New Products and Opportunities in Reef Building – *David Walter*
7. Reefmaker Tour

--RECESS--

*Meeting Room: Live Oak I*

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

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

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

--BREAK--

10. Fishing Pier vs. Snorkel Reef: Which Gets the Most Diverse Floral and Faunal Communities? – *Catheline Froehlich*
11. Artificial Reefs in the AARPZ: Effects of Size, Spacing, and Material on Early Colonization Patterns – *Mark Albins*
12. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Update – *Herb Leedy*
13. Discussion of Next Meeting – *All*
  - Date and Location
14. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

*Meeting Room: Live Oak I*

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

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

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Beverly Sauls, Chairwoman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Beverly Sauls*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 17, 2023) – *Beverly Sauls*
4. IRA Funding Update
  - a. IRA Funding Presentation – *Stephen Poland*
  - b. Workshop Progress and Findings – *Gregg Bray*
  - c. Data Management System Improvement Plan – *Gregg Bray*
5. MRIP Update
  - a. Survey Related Changes for 2025 – *Richard Cody*
  - b. Programmatic Updates – *Richard Cody*
    - Formal Process for Reviewing Recreational Estimates
    - Re-visioning of State/Federal Partnership Update
    - State Transition Research Plan Update
  - c. MRIP Gulf Regional Implementation Plan Update – *Gregg Bray*
6. Angler Reporting and Study Fleet Pilot Studies on the Atlantic Coast of Florida – *Beverly Sauls*

--BREAK--

7. Epigenetic Ageing Research – *David Portnoy*
8. Update on SEFHIER Development Discussions – *Lisa Hollensead/Jessica Stephen*

--LUNCH--

9. VESL Development Updates – *Andrew Peterson*
10. LA Wallet Trip Ticket Project – *Nicole Smith*
11. Discussion of Standardized Approach to Aquaculture Reporting – *Gregg Bray*
12. Discussion of Conversion Factor Research – *Donna Bellais*

--BREAK--

13. Hoshin Strategic Plan Progress – *Gregg Bray*
14. Election of Officers – *All*
15. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

*Meeting Room: Gulfview Ballroom IV*

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

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

1. Call to Order – *Jason Saucier, Chairman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *All*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 17, 2023) – *All*
4. Terrapin/Bycatch Issues – *All*
5. State Recreational License Fee Structure and Regulations – *All*

--BREAK--

6. Review and Approval of SOP Updates – *All*
7. Summary of Written Reports
  - a. Derelict Trap Clean-ups
  - b. State Fishery Updates
8. Election of Officers
9. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

**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 20, 2024) – *Ted Switzer*
4. Administrative Report – *Jeff Rester*
5. State Involvement in the Reef Fish Survey – *All*

--BREAK--

6. Florida Update on Bottom Longline Sampling – *Ted Switzer*
7. CTD Discussion – *All*
8. Status of Photographing and Classifying Gonads for Reproductive Macro Staging – *All*
9. Introduction of New SEAMAP Data Manager and Data Priorities – *Jeff Rester*
10. Election of Officers – *All*
11. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

*Meeting Room: Live Oak III*

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

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

1. Welcome and Introductions – *Marcus Drymon, Chairman*
2. Return 'Em Right Program Update – *Nicholas Haddad*
3. Catch Cards Introduction – *Marcus Drymon*

--BREAK--

4. Catch Cards Round Table Discussion – *Advisory Panel*

--LUNCH--

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

--BREAK--

8. Florida Sea Grant's Reef Fish Update – *Angela Collins*
9. South Atlantic Sea Grant's Reef Fish Update – *Greyson Webb*
10. Wrap Up – *All*

--ADJOURN--



**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

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

1. Call to Order – *Ray Mroch, Chairman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Ray Mroch*
3. Approval of Minutes (March 21, 2024) – *Ray Mroch*
4. Review of 2024 Gulf Menhaden Season – *Sydney Alhale*
5. Update on the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery – *Sydney Alhale*
6. Stock Assessment Report Final Approval – *Amy Schueller/Steve VanderKooy*
7. Report on Texas Cap for 2024 – *Carey Gelpi/Sydney Alhale*
8. DWH Restoration: Developing Methods to Observe Sea Turtle Interactions in the Gulf of Mexico Menhaden Fishery – *Rebecca Hazelkorn*

--BREAK--

9. Louisiana Purse Seine Bycatch Study – *Scott Raborn*
10. Results from Trophic Modeling of the Northern GOM and Implications for the Gulf Menhaden Stock – *Calvin Chee*
11. Forecasting Fisheries: Working to Improve the Gulf Menhaden Annual Forecast – *Ray Mroch*
12. Review of Port Sample Acquisition and Processing in 2024 – *Ray Mroch/Steve VanderKooy*
13. Electronic CDFR Reporting Update – *Steve VanderKooy*
14. Marine Stewardship Certification of Gulf Menhaden Updates – *Peter Himchak*
15. Discussion of Menhaden Advisory Committee SOPs – *All*
16. Election of Officers
17. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

*Meeting Room: Live Oak II*

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

**TCC Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee Meeting  
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Portia Sapp, Chairwoman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Portia Sapp*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 17, 2023) – *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. Oyster Aquaculture
  - a. Import and Export of Aquaculture Oyster Larvae and Seed – *All*
  - b. Resubmersion Times for Aquacultured Oysters – *All*
  - c. Deposition of Oysters Grown from Oyster Garden Sites – *All*
6. Election of Officers
7. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

**Wednesday, October 16, 2024**

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

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Beverly Sauls, Chairwoman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Beverly Sauls*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 18, 2023) – *Beverly Sauls*
4. General Session: Return ‘Em Right
  - a. Welcome Remarks – *Dave Donaldson/Charlie Robertson*
  - b. Determination of Predation Mortality, Barotrauma Survival, and Emigration Patterns for Catch-and-released Red Snapper – *Stephen Szedlmayer*
  - c. Do Descender Devices Increase Opportunities for Depredation? A Gulf-wide Examination of Descender Device Depredation Rates and Depredating Species – *Amanda Jargowsky*
  - d. Depredation Rates and Release Mortality of Red Snapper, Gray Triggerfish, and Greater Amberjack Released Using Fish Descending Devices – *Erik Lang*

--BREAK--

- e. Mitigation of Gag Release Mortality in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico – *Will Patterson*
- f. Alabama At-sea Observer Data Collection Methods, Results, and Analysis – *Marie Head*
- g. Return ‘Em Right Outreach and Education – *Nick Haddad*

--LUNCH--

5. Deepwater Horizon Open Ocean Restoration Plan 4 Update – *Jamie Reinhardt*
6. Migratory Movements of Cobia in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico – *Meg Lamont*
7. Update on the Status of Gulf of Mexico Wind Energy – *Lissa Lyncker*
8. SubUAS Drone Capabilities – *Javier Diez*
9. Inflation Reduction Act Update/MS-AL Recreational Fishing Pilot – *Gregg Bray*
10. Standardizing Genetic Markers for Stock Enhancement – *Randy Pausina*
11. Gray Snapper Profile/SuRF Updates Development – *Steve VanderKooy*

--BREAK--

*Meeting Room: Gulfview Ballroom IV*

**Wednesday, October 16, 2024**

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

12. Subcommittee Reports
  - a. Artificial Reef – *Craig Newton*
  - b. GulfFIN – *Beverly Sauls*
  - c. Crab – *Jason Saucier*
  - d. Molluscan Shellfish – *Portia Sapp*
  - e. SEAMAP – *Ted Switzer*
13. State/Federal Highlights - *All*
14. Election of Officers
15. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

**Wednesday, October 16, 2024**

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

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Dominique Seibert, Chairwoman*
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 – *Alexis Sabine/Tony Reisinger*

--BREAK--

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

--ADJOURN--

*Meeting Room: Dogwood*

**Thursday, October 17, 2024**

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

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Jason Froeba, Chairman*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Jason Froeba*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 19, 2023) – *Jason Froeba*
4. Discussion and Final Approval of GulfFIN Funding Activities for 2025 – *Gregg Bray*
5. Discussion and Final Approval of SEAMAP Funding Activities for 2025 – *Jeff Rester*
6. Discussion and Final Approval of IJ State Research Funding for 2025 – *Steve VanderKooy*
7. Menhaden Advisory Committee Report – *Steve VanderKooy*

--BREAK--

8. Presentation on Atlantic HMS Proposed Rule on Electronic Reporting – *Cliff Hutt*
9. IRA Red Snapper Funding Discussion – *Gregg Bray*
10. Election of Officers - *All*
11. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

**Thursday, October 17, 2024**

**Commission Business Meeting**

**1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Opening Comments – *Scott Bannon, Chairman*  
- Brief Overview of Commission Voting Procedures – *Dave Donaldson*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Scott Bannon*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 19, 2023) – *Scott Bannon*
4. GSMFC Standing Committee Reports
  - a. Law Enforcement Committee – *Scott Pearce*
  - 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 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 – *Frank Helies*
7. USFWS Region 4 Office Comments – *Glenn Constant*
8. NOAA Fisheries Budget Update – *Dave Donaldson*
9. Legislative Update – *Dave Donaldson*
  - a. H.R.5103 – Fishery Improvement to Streamline Untimely Regulatory Hurdles Post Emergency Situation Act (FISHES Act)
  - b. H.R.8707 – Fisheries Data Modernization and Accuracy Act
  - c. Protect American Fisheries Act of 2024
  - d. State Boating Act

--BREAK--

10. Update on Future of Seafood Industry in the Gulf of Mexico
  - a. Southeast Shrimp Strategy and Planning Meeting – *Jeff Rester*
  - b. Shrimp Futures Project – *Jeff Rester*
  - c. Future of Florida Fisheries Commercial Fishing Industry Summit – *Dan Ellinor*
  - d. Discussion of Region-wide Fishing Industry Summit – *Bob Zales*
11. Update on Commission/USGS Partnership – *Steve VanderKooy/Dave Donaldson*
12. Selection of 2025 Lyles-Simpson Award Recipient – *All*

*Meeting Room: Gulfview Ballroom IV*

**Thursday, October 17, 2024**

**Commission Business Meeting (Cont'd)**

**1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

13. 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/Inflation Reduction Act – *Gregg Bray*
14. Executive Committee Report – *Scott Bannon*
  - a. GSMFC Audit
  - b. Financial Statement (9/2024)
  - c. FY2025 Budget
  - d. Staff Compensation
15. State Directors' Reports
  - a. Florida – *Dan Ellinor*
  - b. Alabama – *Scott Bannon*
  - c. Mississippi – *Joe Spraggins*
  - d. Louisiana – *Ryan Montegut*
  - e. Texas – *Chris Mace*
16. Future Meetings – *Nancy Marcellus*
  - a. October 13-16, 2025 – Mississippi
  - b. October 14-17, 2026 – Florida
17. Review of Committee Listings – *All*
18. Publications List and Web Statistics – *Dave Donaldson*
  - a. Publications
  - b. GSMFC Website
19. Election of Officers
  - a. Chairman – Louisiana Rotation
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman – Mississippi Rotation
  - c. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman – Florida Rotation
20. Other Business

--ADJOURN--



## **SOCIAL EVENTS\***

### **Monday, October 14, 2024**

### **Room**

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Welcome Reception

The Dunes Terrace

### **Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Lyles-Simpson Award Dinner/Reception  
2024 Recipient – *Gary Graham*

Gulfview Ballroom III

### **Wednesday, October 16, 2024**

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Reception

Live Oak I & II

**\*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**

**Dalton Powell**

**Keith Wilson**

**Michael Brochard**

## COMMISSIONERS AND PROXIES

### ALABAMA

Chris Blankenship  
Alabama Department of Conservation  
and Natural Resources  
64 North Union Street  
Montgomery, AL 36130-1901

*proxy:* Scott Bannon  
ADCNR, Marine Resources Division  
P.O. Box 189  
Dauphin Island, AL 36528

Representative Chris Pringle  
4 Princess Anne Road  
Mobile, AL 36608

Chris Nelson  
Bon Secour Fisheries, Inc.  
P.O. Box 60  
Bon Secour, AL 36511

### FLORIDA

Roger Young  
FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
620 South Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

*proxy:* Dan Ellinor  
FL FWCC  
620 South Meridian, Box 4B2  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Representative Jay Trumbull  
317 House Office Building  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

James Brown  
3820 9<sup>th</sup> Place  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

### LOUISIANA

Madison Sheahan  
Secretary  
LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
P.O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

*proxy:* Ryan Montegut/Jason Froeba  
Assistant Secretary for Fisheries  
LDWF  
P.O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

## COMMISSIONERS AND PROXIES (Cont'd)

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

*proxy:* Rick Burris  
MDMR  
1141 Bayview Avenue  
Biloxi, MS 39530

TBA – Legislative

Read Hendon  
3209 Frederic Street  
Pascagoula, MS 39567

### **TEXAS**

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

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

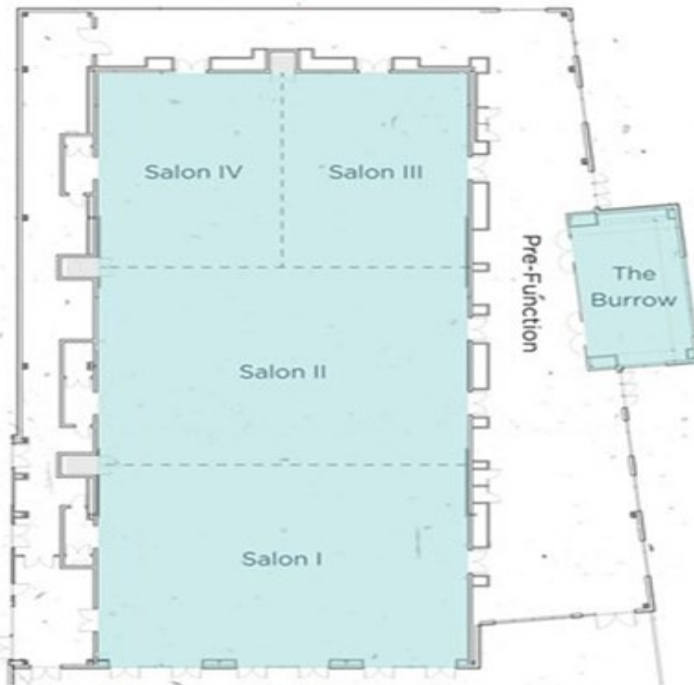
TBA – Legislative

Doug Boyd  
739 Kreutzberg Road  
Boerne, TX 78006

## **NOTES**

## **NOTES**

# Floorplans

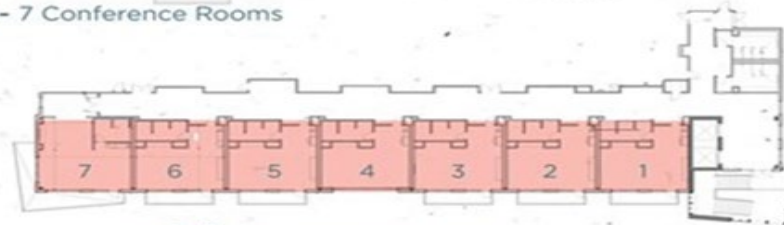


**Gulfview Ballroom - 12,000+ sq ft.**

**Dunes Terrace - 5,500 sq ft.**



**1st Floor - 7 Conference Rooms**



**2nd Floor - 7 Meeting Suites**

Live Oak
Live Oak I (8)
Live Oak II (9)
Live Oak III (10)
Sea Oats (11)
Dogwood (12)
Cypress (13)
Board Room (14)

**<- Registration**



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