



MEETING NOTICE

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

75th Annual Meeting

October 14 - 17, 2024

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's 75th Annual Meeting will be held October 14-17, 2024 at The Lodge at Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores, Alabama. This notice contains meeting details, including the preliminary meeting schedule. All of the business meetings scheduled during this week are open to the public. Please note the preliminary schedule is subject to change. Mr. Scott Bannon, State of Alabama DCNR/MRD, is the presiding Chairman of the Commission.

ACCOMODATIONS: Alabama is our host state and arrangements have been made to convene at The Lodge at Gulf State Park (21196 East Beach Boulevard, Gulf Shores, AL 36542). Experience a unique piece of paradise on the Alabama Gulf Coast where nature is at your doorstep. The Lodge at Gulf State Park, a Hilton Hotel is located on the white sands of Gulf Shores, AL inside the naturally beautiful 6,150-acre Gulf State Park. Your Lodge experience is defined by unique architecture designed to allow you to enjoy this distinctive environment and community.

A block of rooms is being held at the negotiated room rate of **\$137.00** plus applicable taxes (currently 16%). For reservations online use this booking link: <https://group.hilton.com/nl7sh7>. Call in reservations are processed exclusively through the **Central Reservations Department at 800-618-4350**. Guests wishing to book by phone should mention group code **91N** when calling. **Hotel reservations must be made before Friday, September 20, 2024. Room availability will not be guaranteed beyond this date.** Please be aware that you must guarantee your room reservation by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. You must notify the hotel of any cancellation **5 days prior to arrival** or you will be billed one night's room plus tax. **If you have any problems regarding accommodations, please contact Nancy Marcellus at 228.875.5912 or nmarcellus@gsmfc.org.**

NO SMOKING POLICY: *A Breath of Fresh Air* – The Lodge is a 100% smoke-free environment including both indoor and outdoor areas.

TRANSPORTATION: The Mobile Regional Airport (MOB) is approximately 48 miles from The Lodge and the Pensacola International Airport (PNS) is approximately 37 miles. Directions to the hotel from both airports are located on The Lodge website.

LYLES – SIMPSON AWARD - 2024

It is with great pleasure that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents the 2024 Lyles-Simpson Award to Dr. Gary Graham from Texas. This prestigious award is presented annually to an individual, agency, or organization which has contributed to the betterment of the fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico through significant biological, industrial, legislative, enforcement, or administrative activities.

Graham's love of the ocean began when he started shrimping in college. Gary began work with Sea Grant in 1970, serving in various positions until retiring in 2018 as a marine fisheries specialist. Gary's first major assignment was compiling locations for bottom hangs and obstructions on the Texas/Louisiana coast that impacted the shrimp fishery. This work produced a 1975 publication that listed obstruction locations in Loran A coordinates and was widely used by the shrimp fishery to avoid damaging their shrimp trawls. This seminal publication was updated in 1980 with additional locations and coordinates converted to Loran C. In 1996, the database was updated again and locations were published in GPS coordinates. In the early 1980s, Dr. Graham worked extensively with the implementation of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) during the implementation of this extremely contentious technology. He used his extensive expertise to work with the shrimp industry to develop and test various TED designs that were acceptable to both government officials and shrimpers. The 1990s saw Graham collaborating with shrimpers and researchers to design and test bycatch reduction devices that reduced finfish bycatch in shrimp trawls while retaining shrimp. These are just a few of the major projects that Gary has worked on during the past 50 years.

A dinner/reception to present this award and honor Gary is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15 beginning at 5:30 pm.

REGISTRATION: Pre-registration assists us in planning a successful meeting. The meeting registration fee is \$200/per participant and \$75/per spouse or guest. If you receive a GSMFC Travel Authorization you will **NOT** be required to pay the registration fee, as your attendance to participate in meetings is included in the grant work plan – but please continue to register so your name tag, etc. will be available at the registration desk. You may register online by visiting our website at www.gsmfc.org and selecting GSMFC Upcoming Meetings. If you prefer, you can still pre-register by regular mail or FAX by returning the registration form to our office. Please do not register co-workers or associates as guests. We accept cash, checks, credit card, or PAYPAL.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, October 14, 2024

10:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Sea Oats
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Artificial Reef Meeting	Live Oak I
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Welcome Reception	The Dunes Terrace

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Sea Oats
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	FIN Committee	Gulfview Ballroom IV
8:30 am – 12 noon	Artificial Reef Meeting	Live Oak I
8:30 pm – 12 noon	TCC Crab Subcommittee	Live Oak II
8:30 am – 12 noon	TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee	Live Oak III
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Reef Fish Extension Meeting	Cypress
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	S/FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee	Live Oak II
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	TCC Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee	Live Oak I
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Awards Dinner/Reception "2024 Lyles-Simpson Award" – Gary Graham	Gulfview Ballroom III

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Sea Oats
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	LEC/LETC Meetings	Cypress
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	Technical Coordinating Committee	Gulfview Ballroom IV
8:30 am – 12:00 noon	*General Session – "Return'Em Right"	
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Business Meeting	
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Sea Grant Extension Program	Dogwood
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Reception	Live Oak I & II

Thursday, October 17, 2024

8:00 am – 12 noon	Registration	Sea Oats
7:00 am – 8:30 am	Executive Committee Breakfast	Executive Boardroom
8:30 am – 12 noon	State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee	Gulfview Ballroom IV
12 noon – 1:00 pm	Commissioners Luncheon	Gulfview Ballroom III
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Commission Business Meeting	Gulfview Ballroom IV

***GENERAL SESSION: RETURN'EM RIGHT** – On Wednesday, October 16 a General Session will feature the Return 'Em Right program, a restoration initiative aimed at increasing the survival of reef fish caught and released in the Gulf of Mexico. By providing recreational anglers with training and gear, and funding studies on depredation, release mortality, and descending device effectiveness, the program, supported by partners like Florida Sea Grant, University of Florida, and NOAA, is committed to maintaining healthy fish stocks and improving fishing experiences. Project partners will provide in-depth updates on studies, monitoring, and outreach and education efforts.

The final agenda and meeting materials will be available October 1, 2024 on the Commission website at www.gsmfc.org – Upcoming Meetings: GSMFC Annual Meeting. In the interim, if there are any questions concerning the 75th Annual Meeting of the Commission, please contact Nancy Marcellus at 228.875.5912 or nmarcellus@gsmfc.org. We look forward to seeing you all in Gulf Shores in October!

**GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
75th ANNUAL MEETING
October 14-17, 2024**



Please complete and return **with** or **without** your registration fee to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, 2404 Government Street, Ocean Springs, MS 39564. Your registration packet will be ready for you in the registration area upon your arrival at The Lodge in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Telephone/E-Mail _____

- Travel Authorization _____.
- 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:

- Luncheon (Tuesday, October 17)
- Reception (Tuesday, October 17)
- Luncheon (Wednesday, October 18)
- Reception (Wednesday, October 18)

SPOUSE/GUEST REGISTRATION: (Do Not Register Co-workers or Associates as Guests)

Spouse/Guest _____

- \$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:

- Luncheon (Tuesday, October 17)
- Reception (Tuesday, October 17)
- Luncheon (Wednesday, October 18)
- Reception (Wednesday, October 18)