



GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

75th 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
75th 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
75th Annual Meeting**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<u>Wednesday, October 16, 2024</u>		<u>Room</u>
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
<u>Thursday, October 17, 2024</u>		<u>Room</u>
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. 1st Vice Chairman – Mississippi Rotation
 - c. 2nd Vice Chairman – Florida Rotation
20. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Gulfview Ballroom IV

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
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James Brown
3820 9th Place
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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
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Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

COMMISSIONERS AND PROXIES (Cont'd)

Senator Jay Luneau
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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
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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

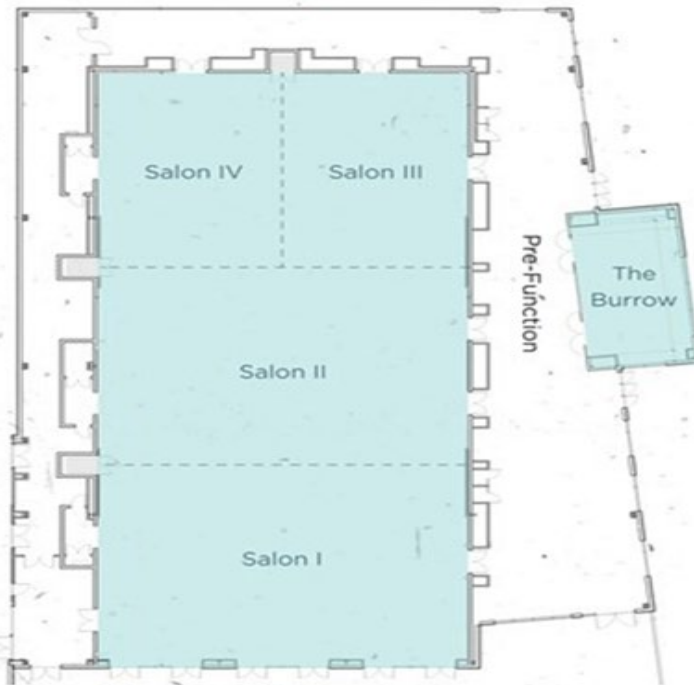
TBA – Legislative

Doug Boyd
739 Kreutzberg Road
Boerne, TX 78006

NOTES

NOTES

Floorplans

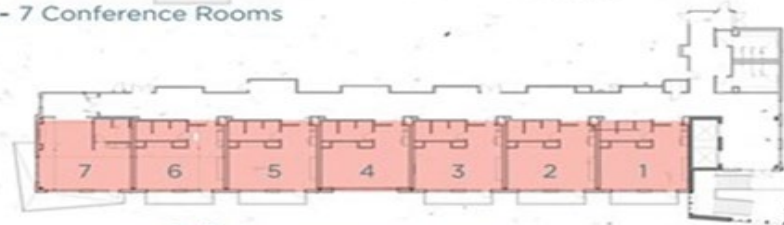


Gulfview Ballroom - 12,000+ sq ft.

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