

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

David M. Donaldson, Executive Director



**Mississippi Department
of Marine Resources**
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530

Joe Spraggins, GSMFC Chairman

MEETING NOTICE

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION 69th Annual Spring Meeting

March 18-21, 2019 – New Orleans, Louisiana

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's 69th Annual Spring Meeting will be held March 18-21, 2019 at the JW Marriott in New Orleans, Louisiana. This notice contains meeting details, including the preliminary meeting schedule. All of the business meetings scheduled during this week are open to the public, free of charge. Please note the preliminary schedule is subject to change. Mr. Joe Spraggins, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, is the presiding Chairman of the Commission.

ACCOMODATIONS: Louisiana is our host state and arrangements have been made to convene at the JW Marriott (614 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130) which is nestled in the heart of the illustrious French Quarter, steps from celebrated restaurants, legendary live music venues and thrilling Bourbon Street nightlife. Just moments away, stroll through beautiful Jackson Square, shop at the sprawling French Market and brush up on your history at The National WWII Museum.

A block of rooms is being held at the negotiated room rate of **\$161.00** plus applicable taxes (currently 13.45% plus \$2.00 per room, per night, city occupancy fee), as well as a New Orleans Convention & Visitors' Bureau assessment of 1.75% of each room rate, per room per night. **Reservations can be made online using this booking link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/GSMFCNola2019>. Hotel reservations must be made before **March 3, 2019**. **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 **72 hours 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.****

TRANSPORTATION: The Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) is approximately 16 miles from the JW Marriott New Orleans. The hotel does not provide shuttle service, but Airport Shuttle is available at the New Orleans International Airport for a fee of \$24 (one way) – reservation required. Directions to the hotel as well as a link to the MSY airport is located on the JW Marriott website.

Taxi service is also available and the estimated fare is \$36 (one way).

Valet parking is available at the JW Marriott for \$47/Overnight or \$20/Daily (in and out same day).

REGISTRATION: Pre-registration assists us in planning a successful meeting and saves you money on your registration fee. The meeting registration fee is \$95/per participant and \$25/per spouse or guest **if you register by March 1, 2019**. After **March 1st** and in New Orleans the fees will be \$110 per participant. You may register online by visiting our website at <http://www.gsmfc.org/mtg>. If you prefer, you can still pre-register by returning the attached form to our office. Please do not register co-workers or associates as guests. We accept cash, checks, or PAYPAL. **Please note if the Commission pays for your travel, you will only be reimbursed for the regular registration fee; late fees will not be reimbursed.**

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, March 18, 2019

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Early Registration

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration

8:30 am – 5:00 pm FIN Meeting

8:30 am – 12 noon TCC Crab Subcommittee

8:30 am – 12 noon TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm SFFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Reception

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration

8:30 am – 12 noon *General Session –
“Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico”

8:30 pm – 5:00 pm LEC/LETC Meetings

12 noon – 1:00 pm Luncheon

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Sea Grant Extension Program
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	*General Session – <i>“Update on State Managed Oyster Resources in the Gulf of Mexico”</i>
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Reception

Thursday, March 21, 2019

8:00 am – 12 noon	Registration
8:00 am – 10:00 am	Technical Coordinating Committee
10:30 am – 12 noon	Commission Business Meeting
12 noon – 1:00 pm	<i>Commissioner’s Luncheon</i>
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Commission Business Meeting

***GENERAL SESSION: OFF-BOTTOM OYSTER AQUACULTURE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO** – Join the seven 2018 Aquaculture Small Grants Program award recipients as they present the results of their current projects funded through the Commission’s cooperative effort with NOAA’s Office of Aquaculture. The small grants program was developed to address the technical and regulatory opportunities and challenges of oyster farming in the Gulf region such as spatial planning and siting, regulatory constraints, and production challenges.

***GENERAL SESSION: UPDATE ON STATE MANAGED OYSTER RESOURCES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO** - Oysters in the Gulf of Mexico continue to comprise an important fishery but in many states stocks have dwindled over the past decade threatening both the livelihoods of fishermen and the health and stability of estuarine systems. This session will engage all participants in a discussion on how to meaningfully restore and recover oyster stocks as both a fishery and an essential coastal habitat through collaborative, integrated planning and action.

The final agenda and meeting materials will be available March 1, 2019 on the Commission website at www.gsmfc.org – Upcoming Meetings: GSMFC Annual Meeting. In the interim, if there are any questions concerning the 69th Annual Spring Meeting of the Commission, please contact Nancy Marcellus at 228.875.5912 or nmarcellus@gsmfc.org. We look forward to seeing you all in New Orleans in March!

**GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
69th ANNUAL SPRING MEETING
March 18 – 21, 2019**



Please complete and return **with** or **without** your registration fee payable 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 on your arrival at the JW Marriott in New Orleans, Louisiana. **Reminder: A \$15.00 late fee will be added after March 1.**

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Telephone/E-Mail _____

Date of Arrival _____ Date of Departure _____

- Registration fee of \$95.00 is enclosed.
- Please pre-register me. I will pay upon arrival at the Registration Desk.

Please check events that you plan to attend:

- Reception (Tuesday, March 19)
- Luncheon (Wednesday, March 20)
- Reception (Wednesday, March 20)

SPOUSE/GUEST REGISTRATION: (Do not register co-workers or associates as guests)

Spouse/Guest _____

- \$25.00 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:

- Reception (Tuesday, March 19)
- Luncheon (Wednesday, March 20)
- Reception (Wednesday, March 20)