



A map of the Gulf of Mexico region, showing the coastline of the United States and Mexico. The water is blue, and the land is green and yellow. The year 2024 is centered at the top.

2024

- Southeast Shrimp Strategy and Planning meeting held April 30 – May 1, 2024
- Florida Commercial Fishing Industry Summit held May 21-22, 2024
- After the Florida Commercial Fishing Industry Summit several Florida fishing organizations started holding monthly discussions to stay informed on issues affecting the commercial fishing industry.

2025

- Formed a Steering Committee that met several times throughout the year.
- Decided to hold a Gulf only commercial fisheries summit inviting participants from all aspects of the seafood industry.



Summit Goal

To unite representatives from across the Gulf's commercial seafood industry to identify and discuss key challenges preventing the industry from thriving. The Summit sought to build unity among industry entities to:

- 1) Advocate for regulatory relief and fair policies
- 2) Enhance consumer confidence in Gulf seafood products.
- 3) Address barriers that constrain the industry's growth and success.

Gulf Commercial Fisheries Summit

Sixty-four stakeholders from across all five Gulf states attended the Summit representing commercial fishermen, seafood wholesalers and processors, dealers, retailers, restaurants, supply chain participants, non-governmental organizations, and state and federal management agencies.



Priority Issues

- Inclusion of commercial fisheries in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Bill to ensure fishermen are treated as food producers with access to insurance, loans, and federal programs.
- Country-of-origin labeling to advance truthful and consistent seafood labeling at both state and federal levels.
- Improved recreational fisheries data and accountability to ensure accurate, mandatory reporting to balance management and allocation decisions.

Next Steps

- The majority of attendees stated that a formal coalition would be helpful
- Summit report is available on the Commission web site
- Coalition steering committee will meet on November 6



Dickie Brennan & Co.

CATERING ✦ EVENTS



