

Sixty-Ninth  
**Annual Report** of the  
Gulf States Marine  
Fisheries Commission

For the Year 2018





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*(Order of listing – administrator, legislator, Governor’s appointee)*

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Bon Secour, Alabama

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Conservation Commission  
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### Commission Staff

David M. Donaldson, Executive Director

James R. Ballard, Program Coordinator  
Donna B. Bellais, COM/FIN Programmer  
Gregory S. Bray, Program Coordinator  
Joseph P. Ferrer, III, Systems Administrator  
Lloyd W. Kirk, SEAMAP Database Programmer  
Ashley P. Lott, Staff Assistant  
Nancy K. Marcellus, Administrative Officer  
Debora K. McIntyre, Staff Assistant

Cheryl R. Noble, Administrative Assistant  
Angela R. Rabideau, Senior Accountant  
Jeffrey K. Rester, Program Coordinator  
Douglas J. Snyder, FIN Data Programmer/  
Survey Coordinator  
Deanna L. Valentine, Data Entry Clerk  
Steven J. VanderKooy, Program Coordinator  
Alice R. Wilhelm, Staff Assistant

# GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

## SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT (2018)

*to the  
Congress of the United States  
and to the  
Governors and Legislators  
of  
Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas*

Presented in compliance with the terms of the Compact and State Enabling Acts creating such  
Commission and Public Law 66-81st Congress assenting thereto.



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Preserving the Past ▪ Planning the Future ▪ A Cooperative Effort

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In submitting this Sixty-Ninth Annual Report, we the Commissioners, wish to express our most sincere appreciation for the splendid cooperation of the members of Congress and the Governors and Legislators of our Compact states. We fully appreciate that success in the management of the public's fishery resources would not be possible without your valued assistance. This acknowledgement is also extended to the directors of the federal, state, and interstate agencies and their respective staff, and to representatives of all organizations and individuals who have contributed to the realization of the objectives of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Executive Committee,

Joe Spraggins, *Chairman*  
Dan Ellinor, *1st Vice-Chairman*  
Lance Robinson, *2nd Vice-Chairman*  
Bret Allain, II, *Immediate Past Chairman*  
Scott Bannon, *Chairman's Appointee*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	1
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT .....	3
FISHERIES INFORMATION NETWORK (FIN).....	4
INTERJURISDICTIONAL FISHERIES PROGRAM (IJF) .....	7
AQUACULTURE .....	9
SOUTHEAST AREA MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (SEAMAP) .....	11
SPORT FISH RESTORATION ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM (SFRP) .....	13
AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES (ANS) .....	15
2018 ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARIES .....	17
STATE AGENCY PARTNERS.....	21
LYLES-SIMPSON AWARD .....	22
COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS .....	23
2018 PUBLICATIONS .....	24
2018 FINANCIAL REPORT .....	25
CREDITS .....	29

# ACTIVE COMMITTEES

## Executive Committee

Joe Spraggins, Chairman

Dan Ellinor, 1st Vice-Chairman

Lance Robinson, 2nd Vice-Chairman

Bret Allain, II, Immediate Past Chairman

Scott Bannon, Chairman's Appointee

## Law Enforcement Committee

Patrick Carron, Chairman

## State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee

Scott Bannon, Chairman

## Menhaden Advisory Committee

Jason Adriance, Chairman

## Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

Darin Topping, Chairman

## TCC Artificial Reef Committee

Keith Mille, Chairman

## TCC Crab Subcommittee

Rick Burris, Chairman

## TCC Data Management Subcommittee

Justin Esslinger, Chairman

## Fisheries Information Network (FIN) Committee

Justin Esslinger, Chairman

## TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee

Jill Hendon, Chairman



# INTRODUCTION

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) is an organization of the five states whose coastal waters are the Gulf of Mexico. This Compact, authorized under Public Law 8166, was signed by the representatives of the Governors of the five Gulf States on July 16, 1949, at Mobile, Alabama.

## THE PURPOSE

The Commission was formed specifically to provide interstate and state/federal coordination of interjurisdictional programs. The general purpose of the Commission is "...to promote the better utilization of the fisheries, marine, shell, and anadromous, of the seaboard of the Gulf of Mexico, by the development of a joint program for the promotion and protection of such fisheries and the prevention of the physical waste of the fisheries from any cause." While this statement of purpose is broad, it is clear that cooperative programs involving its member states to assist in managing coastal and marine resources constitute appropriate and legislatively authorized activities. Coordination and management of data collection programs for coastal and marine fisheries constitute appropriate programmatic activities to be conducted under the auspices of the Commission.

## COMMISSIONERS

Fifteen Commissioners, three from each of the five Gulf States, work to set policy, approve the Commission's budget, and provide direction for Commission activities. Of these voting members, one-third are appointed by the state legislatures, one-third are private citizens with a knowledge of and interest in marine fisheries who are appointed by the states' governors, and the remaining third are state fishery resource agency directors. The offices of chairman, first vice-chairman, and second vice-chairman of the Commission are rotated annually among the states.

One of the most important functions of the Commission is to serve as a forum for the discussion of various problems and programs of marine management, industry, research, etc., and to develop a coordinated policy to address those issues for the betterment of the resource and all who are concerned. The annual meeting of the Commission is held each year during the third week in the month of October. The spring meeting is held each year during the third week in the month of March. Upon written request of a majority of the Commissioners of each state from three or more states, the Chairman shall call a special meeting of the Commission. The regular meetings are rotated among the states in order that the Commission may better familiarize themselves with the fisheries and coastal areas of the entire Gulf of Mexico.

## STAFF

Located in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, the Commission staff administers Commission programs, participation in public forums and other councils, commissions, and committees, and inter-organizational efforts. When the Commission is joined by the Atlantic States and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commissions on national fisheries issues, a 24-state voice is raised in unison to foster the needs of coastal fisheries.





# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Executive Director – David M. Donaldson*

This year marks my fifth year as Executive Director and as I reflect back, I have several observations. It is hard to believe that five years have already passed but as they say, “Time flies when you are having fun”. When I started, I was committed to strengthening the Commission’s existing relationships and developing new ones in the fisheries world and that is still a guiding principle for me. While the Commission continues to provide excellent coordination and administration of our long-term programs such as the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program, Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP), the Sport Fish Restoration Program, and the Fisheries Information Network (GulfFIN), we have started several grants programs in cooperation with our federal partners to address emerging issues in the Gulf of Mexico.

Our aquaculture grants program, in conjunction with NOAA Fisheries, focuses on providing funding to address opportunities and challenges regarding aquaculture for shellfish and finfish in the Gulf of Mexico. Our invasive species grants program, in cooperation with Fish and Wildlife Service, concentrates on expanding research for non-native species and attempts to mitigate their impacts in the southeastern United States. Both of these programs have been successful and I look forward to them becoming long-term programs under the Commission.

The reason that both our existing and new programs have been successful is cooperation. It is critical that our state and federal partners, as well as other interested parties, all participate in the deliberations and arrive at solutions in a cooperative manner. The Commission provides that forum to facilitate these discussions that will hopefully lead to more effective management of the marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico. I look forward to the next five years and am hopeful they will be as productive as the first five years have been.

# FISHERIES INFORMATION NETWORK (FIN)

*Program Manager – Gregg Bray*

In the 1980s and 1990s, state and federal fishery managers in the southeast region (the region) agreed that there was an urgent and compelling need for coordinated collection of comprehensive data on the region's marine commercial and recreational fisheries resources, and recommendations were made through a series of workshops and meetings. These recommendations of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) led to the development of the Fisheries Information Network (FIN). The purpose of this state-federal cooperative program is to collect, manage, and disseminate statistical data and information on the commercial and recreational fisheries of the region. The programs are the result of combined efforts of program partners which include states and territories of the region, the national marine fisheries service (NMFS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service (USFW), the National Park Service, the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean fishery management councils, and the commission. The FIN Program Manager, Gregg Bray, is assisted by Ashley Lott.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2018, FIN continued the coordination of the MRIP survey in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida for shore, for-hire, and private modes. FIN provides for coordination of the survey, a field-intercept survey of shore, for-hire, and private boat anglers to estimate angler catch using the existing MRIP methodology, and entry of the data. In 2018, over 27,000 angler interviews were collected across all three states. In addition, the states conducted supplemental sampling of the intercept portion for the MRIP for charter boats in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida (east and west coasts). The states also conducted weekly telephone calls to a 10% random sample of the Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida (east and west coasts) charter boat captains to obtain estimates of charter boat fishing effort. In 2000, NMFS adopted this method as the official methodology for estimation of charter boat effort. FIN also provided partial funding to help support implementation of the LA Creel Survey in Louisiana.

FIN obtained some additional NOAA Southeast Fishery Science Center funding mid-year in 2018 to support our biological sampling program. For that reason, GulfFIN funded sampling only occurred in September through December of 2018. These data are essential to accurately assess the status of commercial and recreational species. FIN provided funding for collection, processing, and analysis of these data. The primary target species include Black Drum, Gag, Gray Snapper, Gray Triggerfish, Greater Amberjack, King Mackerel, Red Drum, Red Grouper, Red Snapper, Sheepshead, Flounders (Gulf & Southern), Spotted Seatrout, Striped Mullet, and Vermilion Snapper. The secondary target species include Spanish Mackerel, Scamp, Yellowtail Snapper, Cobia, Black Grouper, Black Sea Bass, Red Porgy, Snowy Grouper, Speckled Hind, and

Warsaw Grouper. In 2018, the states were able to collect over 4,900 age structures from the primary species list.

FIN continued the coordination of commercial trip ticket programs in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. This task provided for collection of components for a commercial trip ticket system to census the commercial fisheries landings using the data elements and standards. In addition, FIN provided funding to contract for continued operation of electronic reporting for the trip ticket systems as well as reporting of data for the quota monitoring and IFQ programs. For 2018, there were approximately 1,100 commercial dealers and processors in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas who were utilizing the electronic reporting option.

FIN continued to support the development and implementation of the FIN Data Management System. This provided funding for continued work on developing more data modules for FIN. Responsibilities included further development of data module structures, routine loading of all five states' commercial catch and effort data, Gulf biological data, Gulf recreational data, and maintenance of the Data Management System. GulfFIN received two NOAA Fisheries FIS proposals to improve aspects of the Data Management System. Commission staff are working with the contractor and development is almost complete on new data entry and access products on the biological sampling database. We are also working to implement record tracking systems on our trip ticket and biological sampling databases and providing higher levels of quality control at the point of data entry or data loading.



MRIP survey conducted by FWC

FIN provided coordination for the sampling of catches, collection of catch reports from head boat personnel, and gathering effort data on head boats which operate primarily in the Exclusive Economic Zone from ports along the coasts of Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. FIN also provided support for sampling of Gulf Menhaden catches from menhaden purse-seine vessels that operate in Louisiana and Mississippi. The samples were processed for size and age composition for use in coast-wide stock assessments which were incorporated into the Fisheries Management Plan for the species, and are also utilized by the Gulf Coast states, the Commission, the menhaden industry, and the NMFS. In 2018, three menhaden factories were active in the northern Gulf of Mexico at Moss Point, MS; Empire, LA; and Abbeville, LA.



In 2018, FIN assisted in the administration of funds to support two additional research programs.

- GulfFIN assisted with a project to better validate commercial landings data from the Caribbean. Utilizing an independent contractor and extensive field work, a sampling design is being developed to better estimate total landings of several managed species in that region.



FWC biological sampling dockside

- GulfFIN assisted with a project testing electronic swipe cards for initiating commercial landings transactions for the state of Florida. If successful, this research will help Florida move away from paper transactions and transition to all electronic data submission, increasing the speed for which they can provide high quality data for stock assessment purposes.





# INTERJURISDICTIONAL FISHERIES PROGRAM (IJF)

*Program Coordinator – Steven J. VanderKooy*

Since the 1970s, the Commission has had the responsibility of administrative support and coordination of the Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Program. This program was designed to develop management plans for trans-boundary stocks that migrate freely through state and federal jurisdictions. In 1986, that program was replaced with the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program. This program promotes interjurisdictional fisheries management among the Gulf states through the cooperative development of fishery management plans (FMPs). The states are requested to implement FMP recommendations through consistent regulations wherever possible and to address research and data needs with cooperative collection efforts. The Commission has completed FMPs for Gulf Menhaden, Flounder, Spotted Seatrout, Spanish Mackerel, Striped Bass, Blue Crab, Eastern Oyster, Black Drum, and Striped Mullet. The IJF Program Coordinator, Steven VanderKooy, is assisted by Debora McIntyre.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

As was reported last year, with limited funding for the IJF Program, staff was directed to focus on a single species profile rather than drafting two concurrently. Those funds would be used to support the Crab Subcommittee and the Menhaden Advisory Committee on a more regular basis. However, additional funding was provided through Congress to raise the Commission's portion of IJF funding for 2018 significantly, so staff returned to running two documents concurrently as well as covering committee support for the Crab Subcommittee, the Menhaden Advisory Committee, the Commission's Law Enforcement Committee (LEC), and the Commercial/Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel on a regular basis. The S-FFMC will provide recommendations on the next two species to begin profile/FMP development at their meeting in March 2019.

The *Management Profile for Gulf of Mexico Cobia* was completed by the Cobia TTF over the summer. The plan had been to deliver the final draft to the TCC at the October 2018 meeting to begin their review but the IJF Coordinator spent most of the late summer working on the new benchmark menhaden stock assessment (SEDAR 63); therefore, the TCC was provided a complete final draft in December for their review in anticipation of final approval at their meeting in March, 2019. Even with the delay, the document will be completed well in advance of the Gulf Cobia stock assessment scheduled for 2019.

The IJF staff assisted the MDMR with their recreational crab trap survey which was initiated in 2017. Fishery participants are required to fill out a survey form at the time of their license purchase or renewal in an effort to begin to get baseline data on effort, activities, and general socio-demographics. The forms are scanned by Commission staff and provided to the MDMR for their use and analysis.

The LEC and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Law Enforcement Technical Committee (LETC) completed several of the annual reports and documents the Commission provides. In addition, the IJF staff distributed copies of the LEC/LETC's two year Operations Plan for review and held three different webinars to complete the update over the summer. The 2019-2020 Operations Plan was approved by the Commission and the Gulf Council in October.

As noted above, the Menhaden Advisory Committee (MAC) and IJF staff spent much of the spring preparing for the next Gulf Menhaden benchmark stock assessment (SEDAR 63). The MAC, the NOAA Fisheries Beaufort Lab, and the SEDAR and IJF staff began working on the assessment and set hard deadlines for delivery of data to be considered in the process. Both the Data and the Assessment Workshops took place in New Orleans and were paid for by the IJF program. The final draft of the assessment was developed during the remainder of the summer and was provided to the MAC for their final review in October. The SEDAR 63 Review Workshop took place the first week of November and assessment was approved by the CIE reviewers in December. The Gulf Menhaden population was determined to be neither overfished or experiencing overfishing.

The IJF Coordinator, along with biologists from USM/GCRL, and the USA/Dauphin Island Sea Lab, continued to investigate the genetics of Tripletail populations from around the world which was identified as a research need in the Tripletail Profile. As of 2018, the Commission had distributed tissue sampling kits to 24 anglers from Australia, Brazil, Panama, and Costa Rica, as well as Georgia, and both coasts of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Additional samplers are still being located in other regions of the world including Malaysia and Peru. Through this effort, we have collected just over 300 samples from all around the world. It is hoped that these efforts will further describe the population structure through the Gulf and South Atlantic and the relationship throughout the rest of its distribution from the western Gulf of Mexico to the eastern Pacific. The genetic database generated should provide substantial support for any Tripletail unit stock definitions when considering the species for future aquaculture development.

The Otolith Work Group, the IJF staff, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) staff continue to revise the age and growth manual, A Practical Handbook for Determining the Ages of Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Coast Fishes. NOAA directed some funds to this state/federal effort in 2016 in an effort to move the process along. A number of additional species were added for the Atlantic as well as some ageing techniques that are definitely outside our standard Gulf techniques. It is anticipated that the manual will continue to be revised in the future as additional ageing needs are identified and additional species fall under NOAA's assessment program. Due to the workload both by the Gulf Commission and the Atlantic Commission staff, work will continue well into 2019 with final editing and publishing of the manual.

# AQUACULTURE

*Program Coordinator – Steven J. VanderKooy*

In 2016, the Commission began a cooperative effort with NOAA's Office of Aquaculture to develop and manage a small grants program to address the technical and regulatory opportunities and challenges of oyster farming in the Gulf region. In 2017, the program expanded to include additional regional funding opportunities. The NOAA Office of Aquaculture provided additional funds for a second small grant program to support commercial start-ups beyond our near-shore waters with production in mind, not necessarily research and development. The new 'pilot' program was coordinated with the sister Commissions on the Atlantic and Pacific. The Aquaculture Program is coordinated by Steven VanderKooy.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

### Oyster Off-Bottom Small Grants Program

In 2016, the Commission began a cooperative effort with NOAA's Office of Aquaculture to develop and manage a small grants program to address the technical and regulatory opportunities and challenges of oyster farming in the Gulf region. As the six 2017 oyster projects were wrapping up, another RFP was developed for funding a second round of seven oyster projects totaling \$398,000. The 2017 opportunity was virtually identical in priorities and focus to the first year, and was intended to further explore spatial planning and siting, regulatory constraints, production challenges and continued through the spring of 2019. Projects include production of triploid oyster seed, conflicts and solutions for oyster culture in Texas, growing methods, spat retention, regulatory solutions for expanding oyster culture, mobile production systems, and summer mortality investigations. This was the first time that all three Commissions (Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific) ran the oyster opportunity concurrently.

In the summer of 2018, discussions began between the three Commissions and NOAA's Office of Aquaculture to move to a single, large project rather than multiple small projects. An RFP was drafted to release the \$900,000+ funds in a 'consortium' approach, requesting multiple partners submit larger, longer-term proposals for the funds. These projects could run up to five years and would cover a wider array of research needs than could be studied over a single year. The RFP was expected to be released before the end of 2018 but met with some delays. The RFP will be made available in early 2019.

### Offshore Aquaculture Pilot Project Grants Program

In late 2017, the NOAA Office of Aquaculture provided another regional aquaculture small grant opportunity through the Commission, intended to not necessarily fund research and development for aquaculture, but rather to support commercial start-ups with production in mind. The Gulf Commission, in conjunction with Atlantic and Pacific Commissions, released similar RFPs



for Offshore Pilots with approximately \$450,000 in each region. A total of 20 proposals were submitted and three projects were selected for funding for 2018. The start dates were set at June 1 and would run through May 2019. One project for finfish cage culture off West Florida was completed in nine months and the final report was provided to the Commission in November. The remaining two projects are continuing and include finfish cage culture off the Florida Panhandle and a hard clam triploid breeding program in the Cedar Key region.

Additional funding for the regional aquaculture grants programs is expected to continue into the future.



Off-Bottom Oysters



Storm Safe Submersible Cage  
*photo courtesy Manna Fish Farms*



Hard Clam Selective Breeding  
*photos courtesy H. Yang*



# SOUTHEAST AREA MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

*Program Coordinator – Jeffrey K. Rester*

The Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) is a state/federal/university program for the collection, management, and dissemination of fishery-independent data and information in the southeastern United States. The overall program consists of three operational components: SEAMAP-Gulf of Mexico (began in 1981); SEAMAP-South Atlantic (implemented in 1983); and SEAMAP-Caribbean (formed in 1988). The SEAMAP-Gulf component is coordinated through the Commission. SEAMAP resource surveys include the Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey, Spring Plankton Survey, Reef Fish Survey, Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey, Fall Plankton Survey, and plankton and environmental surveys. Publications of the SEAMAP program include environmental and biological atlases of the Gulf of Mexico for each year from 1983 through present. The SEAMAP Program Coordinator, Jeff Rester, is assisted by Ashley Lott.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2018, SEAMAP operations continued for the 37th consecutive year. SEAMAP resource surveys in 2018 included the Spring Plankton Survey, Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey, Reef Fish Survey, Bottom Longline Survey, Vertical Line Survey, Fall Plankton Survey, Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey, and Plankton and Environmental Data Surveys.

During 2018, SEAMAP examined ways to minimize trawling impacts to coral, hardbottom, and sponge habitat on the West Florida shelf. Previously, stations were selected and then stations were excluded to minimize trawling impacts. In early 2018, SEAMAP approved a new station selection protocol that buffers certain areas so they can be excluded before stations are selected. The SEAMAP Subcommittee has to balance minimizing impacts to habitat while also minimizing any potential impacts to abundance estimates of reef associated species. The 2018 Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey was the first time that the new station selection process was used and it proved beneficial in reducing encounters with sponges and sensitive habitats. Florida and NMFS only damaged one trawl net each during the summer survey when they had typically ripped or damaged 10 nets apiece during each shrimp/groundfish survey. During the 2018 Fall Shrimp/ Groundfish Survey, several trawl nets were damaged, so the station selection process and site selection universe will again be modified to try and reduce impacts to gear and habitat. Even though the new station selection process did not reduce damage as much during the Fall Survey as it did during the Summer Survey, the new selection process seemed to do a much better job of protecting habitat and minimizing damage to survey gear than it did in previous years. Refinements to the site selection universe will be made yearly to incorporate new information.

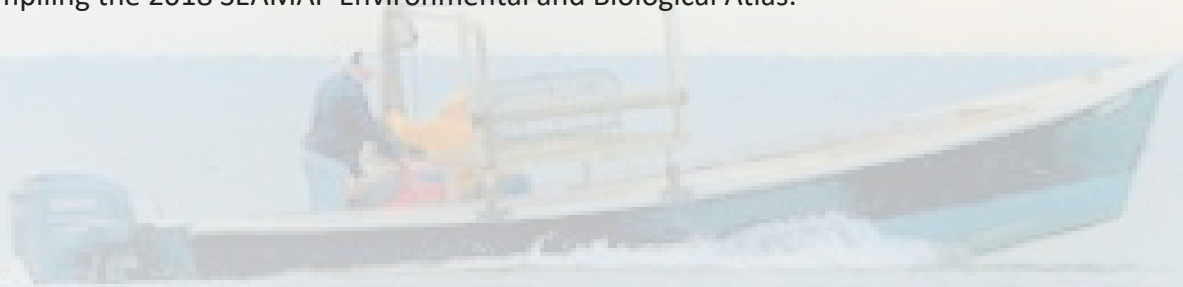
While the standard SEAMAP trawl works very well at sampling benthic organisms in the western Gulf of Mexico, Florida and NMFS started to examine trawling efficiency on the sand bottoms

of the eastern Gulf. Florida started deploying trawl sensors on their trawls to see when sponge catch affects the trawl efficiency. NMFS deployed GoPro cameras on trawls to examine trawl efficiency on sand bottoms and found that the trawl net does fish differently on sand bottoms than it does on mud bottoms.

The SEAMAP Subcommittee met in July with the South Atlantic and Caribbean SEAMAP components. All components discussed their ongoing activities as well as the FY2019 SEAMAP budget. We also had several presentations from all components on reef fish trap and video sampling within their respective region. In addition, SEAMAP discussed reef fish habitat mapping and characterization efforts within the regions. All SEAMAP components agreed that better habitat maps were needed to help in planning not only reef fish, but all SEAMAP surveys.

The Commission handles the data management responsibilities for SEAMAP in the Gulf of Mexico. All data collected during 2018 were uploaded to the appropriate SEAMAP database and made available to the public via the Commission's website. SEAMAP data were used for a variety of purposes during 2018. These include:

- Evaluating the abundance and size distribution of penaeid shrimp in federal and state waters to assist in determining opening and closing dates for commercial fisheries;
- Evaluating and plotting the size of the hypoxic (Dead Zone) area off of Louisiana;
- Assessing shrimp and groundfish abundance and distribution and their relationship to such environmental parameters as temperature, salinity, and dissolved oxygen;
- Identifying environmental parameters associated with concentrations of larval finfish;
- Assessing the potential impact the of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on marine fish stocks; and
- Compiling the 2018 SEAMAP Environmental and Biological Atlas.



# SPORT FISH RESTORATION ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAM (SFRP)

*Program Coordinator – James R. Ballard*

The Sport Fish Restoration Administrative Program (SFRP) was established by the Commission in 1987, under the authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program through the administrative portion of that program's enabling legislation. The primary goal of the program is to provide coordination of the recreational fisheries programs in the five Gulf states. Historically, there were three major components of this program, including anadromous fish restoration, artificial reefs, and fisheries data, all of which supported interstate fisheries management. As these individual components developed and expanded, the fisheries data portion became a new and separate program within the Commission called the Fisheries Information Network (FIN). The original efforts conducted through the SFRP with respect to anadromous fish focused on recovery work for Gulf Sturgeon and Gulf race Striped Bass restoration. The Striped Bass work resulted in the development of an FMP, a regulatory amendment, establishment of sampling guidelines for all life stages of Striped Bass, and a strategic plan for restoration which encompasses regulatory, database development, habitat, research, and enhancement issues. The Anadromous Fish component was later incorporated into the Commission's Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program (IJF). Today, the primary focus of the SFRP pertains to artificial reefs and has established regional policies and planning documents. These documents are available from the Commission's office and can be accessed from the Commission's website ([www.gsmfc.org](http://www.gsmfc.org)) under Publications. The SFRP Coordinator is James R. Ballard, assisted by Alice R. Wilhelm.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

The Program Coordinator is currently working on reformatting and conducting final edits on the updated edition of the GSMFC's and ASMFC's 2004 publication "Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials: Second Edition". During the process, it has become clear that there are a few chapters that are still in need of updating by our state members. The Coordinator will be working directly with specific states to acquire this needed information. The new third edition will include updates to the reef materials covered in the second edition, as well as cover new materials that have been implemented in recent years. The plan is to have the final draft of the third edition completed by the next ASMFC and GSMFC Joint Artificial Reef Subcommittee Meeting that will be held in the beginning of 2019.

The Program Coordinator continues to work in conjunction with the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF) to determine appropriate actions and roles for the Commission and its member states in addressing invasive species issues. In addition, the Commission provides administration for, and participates in, the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species (GSARP). During this reporting period, the SFRP helped support meetings of the GSARP, its associated work groups, and its steering committee.

The Program Coordinator worked on establishing a Gulf-wide Lionfish Removal Program by trying to establish season-long Lionfish removal events in the other Gulf states modeled after Florida's Lionfish challenge, and by working with representatives from Florida to expand the representation at their Lionfish Removal and Awareness Day event so it has a Gulf-wide focus. This new program would have three main goals.

- Establish continual Gulf-wide Lionfish removal efforts to minimize the impacts of Lionfish on red snapper and other important reef associated species.
- Coordinate data collection efforts on Lionfish populations (relative abundance, length, weight) across the region to better assess the potential impact(s) this invasive species is having on native recreationally and commercially important species.
- Increase outreach to the general public about the impacts Lionfish are having on native species and how they can help to mitigate those impacts.

In 2018, the Commission established a tournament in Mississippi and we received a lot of support from sponsors like Engel Coolers, Neritic Diving, Costa Del Mar, ZooKeeper, and Fishing Chaos. Alabama also established a tournament working with their CCA and we were able to get state representatives from Alabama and Mississippi to participate in the 2018 Lionfish Removal and Awareness Day event. In 2019, the Program Coordinator is planning on working with MSDMR to help support another Mississippi tournament, as well as, working with Louisiana and Texas to try to get tournaments established in the rest of the Gulf states.



Prize package for finalists in the Lionfish Challenge



# AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES (ANS)

*Program Coordinator – James R. Ballard*

In September 2002, the Commission began administration of the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel (GSARP) on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), under the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF/Task Force), authorized by the Non-Indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Protection and Control Act of 1990. GSARP helps to coordinate AIS activities in the region through information sharing which permits states and agencies to learn about what has already been tried in the region and what species are posing the greatest risk to native species and environments. This information allows them to focus their limited resources on the most threatening species and on control measures with the highest probability of success. The GSARP is made up of approximately 35 members from federal and state agencies, NGOs, universities, industry, and one international member representing Mexico. The Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program Coordinator is James R. Ballard who is assisted by Alice R. Wilhelm.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

The GSARP met twice in 2018 and the minutes for those meetings are available on the Panel website ([www.gsarp.org](http://www.gsarp.org)).

The Program Coordinator helps administer the Region 4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) AIS Small Grants Program and provides administrative oversight of all non-federal projects funded through the program. Over the last four years, this program has been able to fund 26 projects totaling \$556K ranging from developing control measures, assessing impacts on native species and habitats, and distribution for a variety of invasive species (Salvinia, Hydrilla, Phragmites, Didymo, Asian Carp, Rusty Crayfish, Speckled Crayfish, Red-rimmed Melania, Lionfish, Apple Snail, Asian Clam, and an invasive parasite of American Eels). In 2018, the program funded seven projects totaling \$154,235 addressing Salvinia, Hydrilla, Asian Carp, Northern Snakehead, Invasive Black Bass, and *Myxobolus cerebralis* (the causative agent of whirling disease).

**Invasive Species Traveling Trunk:** An update to the trunks was completed at the end of 2017. This included updating all of the information for the 11 species currently covered in the trunks, and adding three new species: Asian Carp, feral hogs, and apple snails. The GSARP's Education and Outreach workgroup will also explore the possibility of incorporating a game for elementary-aged children, and developing a poster that teachers can display that will keep the message about invasive species in the classroom after the lesson is complete. In 2018, the three trunks were utilized for 238 days.

The Panel and Commission are continuing efforts to develop a new Panel website. This new site will have many new features, including a clearinghouse of developed ANS outreach materials, and the points of contact who can provide more information on their availability. The hope is

that this will help to reduce duplication of effort by just modifying materials that have already been developed to meet a particular state's needs, and help to increase a unified message about invasive species in the region. The Panel will also be incorporating a clearinghouse of completed risk assessments into its new website, and currently has about 370 plant risk assessments that were conducted by Texas.



Contents of Traveling Trunk

# ANNUAL MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Commission is held each year during the third week in the month of October. The spring meeting is held each year during the third week in the month of March. Upon written request of a majority of the Commissioners of each state from three or more states, the chairman shall call a special meeting of the Commission. The regular meetings are rotated among the states in order that the Commissioners may better familiarize themselves with the fisheries and coastal areas of the entire Gulf of Mexico.

## MARCH 2018

The 68th Spring Meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) was held in Panama City Beach, Florida. Below is a summary of some of the topics and actions taken by the various subcommittees. The complete minutes of all Commission meetings are available on the Commission's website at [www.gsmfc.org](http://www.gsmfc.org).

The FIN Committee received a presentation on the NOAA Fisheries transition plan for the new Fishing Effort Survey (FES). The new mail survey is used to generate recreational fishing effort estimates for shore and private boat modes and provides more accurate estimates due to higher response rates and the survey reaching more anglers than the old Coastal Household Telephone Survey. NOAA Fisheries plan was to re-run historical estimates after finalizing a calibration method and make all new estimates available by July 1, 2018. NOAA Fisheries also provided a presentation on the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) program. This program is designed to be a mandatory electronic logbook program for the federally permitted for-hire fleet. The program was being developed by NOAA Fisheries and the plans were to work toward a 2019 implementation schedule. Commission staff also implemented the public side of a new end-user query system. This allows for public access to non-confidential fishery dependent data stored in the GulfFIN Data Management System. The private access side is still in development and should be implemented in early 2019.

The SEAMAP Subcommittee discussed the use of Vertical Line Survey data in the upcoming Red Snapper SEDAR. Vertical Line Survey data were planned to be used in the upcoming stock assessment in a sensitivity run, but comments from the SEDAR were discussed as to how the survey could collect additional data that would provide more and better information on reef fish in the Gulf of Mexico. The subcommittee along with NOAA Fisheries personnel, were trying to determine how video can be incorporated into the survey design that would provide additional information on fish species that were not as aggressive at biting hooks as Red Snapper. Video capture would provide additional data on habitat and abundance levels of reef fish that were not currently being captured. At the meeting, the subcommittee finalized the trawl station selection process. The new process will try to eliminate the capture of sponges and avoid coral without impacting the capture of reef associated fish. The SEAMAP Subcommittee planned

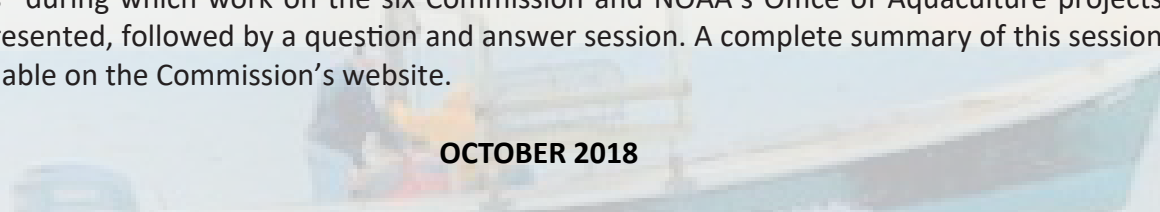


how to maximize the use of their time at the joint SEAMAP meeting with the South Atlantic and Caribbean SEAMAP components. All three components were working at developing an agenda that would incorporate more topical scientific and fishery independent agenda items that would allow the components to learn from each other to strengthen our fishery independent sampling. The subcommittee discussed the prioritization process for SEAMAP fishery-independent data collection. With the continuation of level funding, SEAMAP will have to make decisions on how best to utilize limited SEAMAP funding to collect fishery-independent data. SEAMAP could soon see sampling declines if the program does not receive additional funds soon.

The Menhaden Advisory Committee (MAC) reviewed and approved the terms of reference (TORs) for the three assessment workshops scheduled over the summer for SEDAR 63. The MAC also received an update on the ecosystem modeling work being conducted by Matt Nuttall at the University of Miami. The group would continue to provide Nuttall with comments and any data related to potential predators of menhaden.

The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) had a presentation from Laurie Rounds and Jamie Reinhardt that provided an overview of the process used for the Deepwater Horizon and Open Ocean – Fish Restoration funding opportunities. These funding opportunities are part of the BP civil settlement that totaled \$20.8 billion, and more specifically the \$8.8 billion designated for restoration of the natural resource damages (NRD) (\$8.1 billion for NRD and up to \$700 million for unknown injuries and adaptive management). Following the presentation, the TCC had a long discussion about how some of the established long-term fishery dependent and independent monitoring programs could be expanded or modified to serve as a mechanism for assessing the success of the restoration efforts. Laurie and Jamie pointed out that the best way to get these monitoring programs, as well as other priority projects the Commission and/or the Gulf states may have incorporated in future restoration plans, is to stay engaged through the process and they feel that being engaged in the Commission’s meetings is a good way for them to stay informed about those priorities.

A General Session was held entitled “Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico - 2017 Grants” during which work on the six Commission and NOAA’s Office of Aquaculture projects was presented, followed by a question and answer session. A complete summary of this session is available on the Commission’s website.



## **OCTOBER 2018**

The Commission’s 69th Annual Fall Meeting was held in South Padre Island, Texas. Below is a summary of some of the topics and actions taken by the various subcommittees as well as the full Commission. Complete minutes of all Commission meetings are available on the Commission’s website at [www.gsmfc.org](http://www.gsmfc.org).

The Data Management Subcommittee received a presentation from NOAA Fisheries on the new Fishing Effort Survey (FES) and the impacts of the new estimates on many key stocks in the Gulf of Mexico. This new mail survey produces higher effort estimates but estimates are more accurate than the old RDD estimates. The mail survey does a better job of reaching actual



anglers in fishing households and has a higher response rate than the RDD. Generally the FES produces estimates that are two times larger for private boat mode and almost four times higher for shore mode. The subcommittee also discussed how the GulfFIN Data Management System has typically been a repository for marine recreational catch, harvest, and effort estimates. The subcommittee discussed whether the states would be willing to share their state survey data details and estimates through the GulfFIN website. The committee agreed that to be successful the Commission would need to compile information from each state as to what is collected and how the results should be used properly. The subcommittee tasked the FIN Recreational Technical workgroup to explore this.

The SEAMAP Subcommittee discussed trying to implement a habitat mapping component during and in addition to current SEAMAP surveys. The habitat information would be beneficial to correlate with the catch data. Florida has developed a standardized protocol for habitat mapping during its SEAMAP surveys, but the funding was from other sources besides SEAMAP. The subcommittee decided to review the protocol to determine its utility across the Gulf. The subcommittee also discussed purchasing a side scan sonar with bathymetric package that could be shared by all partners. NOAA Fisheries reported that they were deploying a GoPro camera on all CTD deployments during their surveys in order to photograph the bottom type at all station locations. The subcommittee discussed the idea of building a habitat database from the photographs that were recorded during all SEAMAP surveys. The subcommittee decided to conduct a small pilot study to evaluate the effectiveness of a new vertical line gear. The gear used during the Vertical Line Survey was developed to target red snapper. The pilot study was developed by the subcommittee and would be implemented by the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. The protocols included minimizing the weight of the backbone and gangion monofilament, as well as shifting the mainline to spectra line. It would also implement fewer gangions per backbone, from 10 to 4, and use a smaller hook size replacing the 15/0 from the SEAMAP protocol with a 2/0. Video and a depletion fishing methodology would also be used to see how effective the new gear was at sampling all species present. These changes will hopefully result in more collections of triggerfish and grouper which would increase the value of the Vertical Line Survey.

The Crab Subcommittee covered a number of topics which all directly related to current and future regional stock assessments. Several presentations were made related to fecundity and seasonality of spawning, Blue Crab larval dispersal, genetics, and migration. Additional work was presented on recreational crabbing effort in Mississippi and a new, potential model for future assessment was reviewed. The subcommittee will discuss moving forward with potential stock assessment at the March 2019 meeting.

The main focus of discussion by the Menhaden Advisory Committee (MAC) was related to the upcoming SEDAR 63 Review Workshop scheduled for November. Schueller presented the results to date. The MAC agreed to begin working on development of management reference points and potential harvest control rules. Staff would coordinate a workshop sometime after the first of the year. Chairmanship returned to the Federal partner and Ray Mroch was named MAC chair for the coming year.

The TCC had a long discussion in which each state provided an overview of the first year of the Red Snapper exempted fishing permits, the amount of Red Snapper that was collected, and any anticipated changes that they were looking to implement in the following year.

Steve VanderKooy provide a presentation to the TCC on the draft Cobia Profile. The profile outlines the biology of Cobia including their distribution, the commercial and recreational fishery, the population status, their aquaculture potential, as well as the future research needs for the Cobia population in the Gulf of Mexico. Steve stated that he will distribute the draft profile to the committee as soon as it is ready for a 30-45 day review. Following the meeting, the profile was distributed to the TCC for final review and was subsequently approved. The TCC reelected Darin Topping as its Chair and Beverly Sauls was reelected Vice Chair.

A General Session was held entitled “Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtle Symposium.” Presentations were given on the status of Kemp’s ridley population and conservation in the Gulf of Mexico, A complete summary of this session is available on the Commission’s website.



# STATE AGENCY PARTNERS

*Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida*

The five Gulf state agencies continued to work through the Commission on projects such as the FIN Data Program, IJF, and SEAMAP. Below are some of the highlights of those various Commission related activities in 2018.

**FIN:** In 2018, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida actively participated in coordination of the MRIP survey for recreational harvest and effort estimation. All states in the Gulf of Mexico assisted with the collection of ageing structures for the biological sampling program for months where funding was available. The commercial trip ticket program is also developed and ongoing for all states in the Gulf of Mexico. With funding obtained each of the states also participated in the collection of biological age structures and lengths to address stock assessment needs.

**SEAMAP:** SEAMAP operations continued for the 37th consecutive year. All five state partners participated in the various SEAMAP resource surveys in 2018 including the Spring Plankton Survey, Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey, Reefish Survey, Bottom Longline Survey, Vertical Line Survey, Fall Plankton Survey, Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey and plankton and environmental data surveys.

**IJF:** The five state agencies provided representation on the Cobia Technical Task Force and supplied data to the Menhaden Advisory Committee to complete SEDAR 63 (Gulf Menhaden benchmark assessment). The states continued to support the revision to the Otolith Manual in conjunction with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the states along the East Coast.

**SPORTFISH:** The Commission continued to work in conjunction with the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to determine appropriate actions and roles for the Commission and its member states in addressing aquatic invasive species issues. In addition, the Commission provided administration for, and participation in, the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species on which all of the Gulf states have representation.

**ARTIFICIAL REEFS:** The Commission's TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee, which is made up of the state Artificial Reef Coordinators from the five Gulf states, worked collaboratively with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Artificial Reef Subcommittee through a joint meeting. This coordination provided the opportunity to address issues of national scope and importance. Currently, the two subcommittees are working on revising their 2004 publication, *Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials: Second Edition*.



# LYLES-SIMPSON AWARD

The original Charles H. Lyles Award was awarded annually by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) to an individual, agency, or organization recognized for contributing to the betterment of the fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico through significant biological, industrial, legislative, enforcement, or administrative activities. In 2014, this award was renamed to include the late Larry B. Simpson, longtime Commission Executive Director. The recipient is selected by the full Commission from open nominations made at the spring March meeting. The selection is by secret ballot with the person receiving the highest number of votes being named the recipient. The recipient is awarded this honor at the Commission's annual meeting in October of each year.

The 2018 award was presented to Chris Blankenship. Chris has been involved in the Marine Fisheries world for over 24 years. He has held several positions in the Alabama Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources and currently serves as Commissioner. In addition, Chris has served on the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Board as Commissioner, Chairman, and Chair of the Law Enforcement Executive Committee as well as Chair of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council Law Enforcement Advisory Panel. Chris was integrally involved in the immediate response to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and serves as Lead Trustee for the State of Alabama overseeing administrative and technical aspects of the DWH Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) pursuant to the Oil Pollution Act.

## LYLES-SIMPSON AWARD RECIPIENTS

Charles H. Lyles	1984	Jerald K. Waller	2002
Theodore B. Ford	1985	Andrew J. Kemmerer	2003
J.Y. Christmas	1986	Hal Osburn	2004
John Breaux	1987	Leroy Kiffe	2005
John Ray Nelson	1988	Robert P. Jones	2006
I.B. "Buck" Byrd	1989	Wayne E. Swingle	2007
Hugh A. Swingle	1990	Ralph Rayburn	2008
John A. Mehos	1991	W. "Corky" Perret	2009
J. Burton Angelle	1992	Albert L. King, Sr.	2010
Louis A Villanova	1993	Virginia "Ginny" Vail	2011
Theodore H. Shepard	1994	R. Vernon Minton	2012
Edwin A. Joyce, Jr.	1995	Larry B. Simpson	2013
Tommy D. Candies	1996	Michael C. Voisin	2014
Walter M. Tatum	1997	Ellie F. Roche	2015
Thomas L. Heffernan	1998	Michael S. Ray	2016
Trent Lott	1999	Joseph I. Gill, Jr.	2017
James Barkuloo	2000	Chris Blankenship	2018
Walter Fondren, III	2001		

# COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ADCNR/MRD	Alabama Department of Conservation Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division
ANS	Aquatic Nuisance Species
ASMFC	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
ComFIN	Commercial Fisheries Information Network
CRFAP	Commercial/Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel
DMS	Data Management Subcommittee
EDRP	Emergency Disaster Recovery Program
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FDD	Fishery-Dependent Data
FID	Fishery-Independent Data
FIN	Fisheries Information Network
FMP	Fishery Management Plan
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FWRI	Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
GCRL	Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
GMFMC	Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Committee
GSMFC	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
IFA	Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act
IJF	Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program
JEA	Joint Enforcement Agreement
LDWF	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
LEC	Law Enforcement Committee
MAC	Menhaden Advisory Committee
MDMR	Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Mag-Stevens	Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Management
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRFSS	Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey
MRIP	Marine Recreational Information Program
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
ODRP	Oil Disaster Recovery Program
PSMFC	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
RecFIN	Recreational Fisheries Information Network
SAT	Stock Assessment Team
SEAMAP	Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program
SERO	Southeast Regional Office (NOAA Fisheries)
SFFMC	State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee
SFRP	Sport Fish Restoration Administrative Program
TCC	Technical Coordinating Committee
TED	Turtle Exclusion Device
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TTF	Technical Task Force
TTS	Texas Territorial Sea
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

# PUBLICATIONS

The Commission staff accumulates data, research papers, and other materials critical to the further development of publications of the Commission including those from the Profiles and FMPs in progress. An electronic repository for papers referenced in these documents is continually expanded as additional literature from outside sources as well as the Commission is added. The database is searchable from the Commission website and provides keywords and complete abstracts when available. All Commission publications are housed electronically and limited paper copies are available upon request. Below is a list of the publications completed by the Commission in 2018.

- No. 281 December 2018. Law Summary 2018. A Summary of Marine Fishing Laws & Regulations for the Gulf States. Debbie McIntyre (editor). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (online only).
- No. 280 October 2018. Gulf of Mexico Cooperative Law Enforcement Operations Plan 2019-2020. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Law Enforcement Committee and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Law Enforcement Advisory Panel. Steve VanderKooy, editor. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 279 October 2018. SEAMAP Subcommittee Annual Report to the Technical Coordinating Committee of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. Jeffrey K. Rester, Editor. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 278 August 2018. Licenses and Fees for Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas in Their Marine Waters for the Year 2017. Debbie McIntyre (Editor). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 277 March 2018. Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network in the Southeast Region (FIN). January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 276 July 2018. Rules and Regulations: Officers' Pocket Guide 2018-2019. Debbie McIntyre (Editor). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

The Commission has a Single Audit conducted annually in compliance with the Single Audit Act and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133. The audit is performed by an independent certified public accounting firm and encompasses both financial and compliance components. A segment of the audited financial statements is published below. The full audit report is available by request from the Commission.

## YEAR IN REVIEW

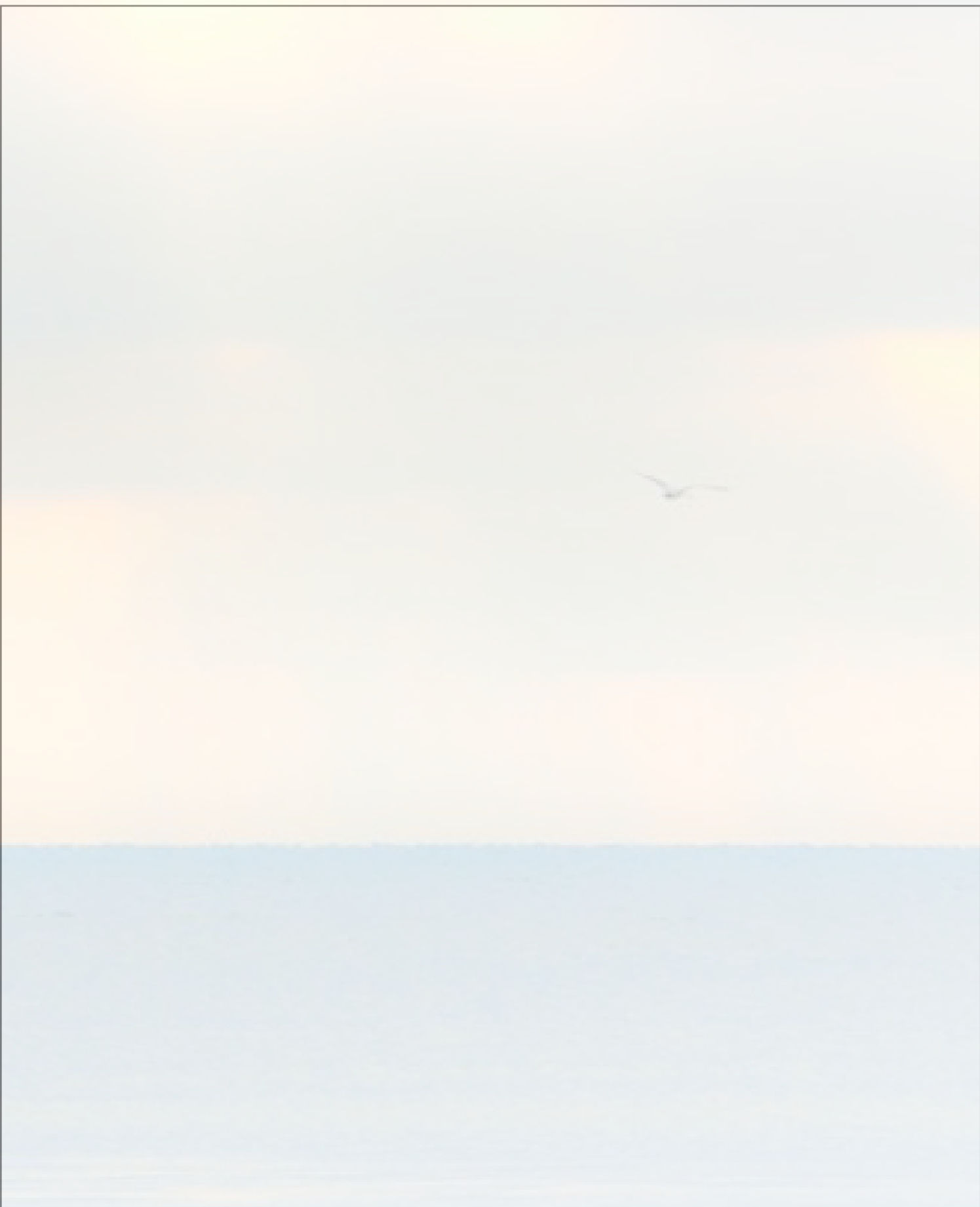
The following presents a summary of the Commission's net position for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017. Detailed financial statements are available from the Commission office by request from Ms. Angela Rabideau.

### GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND 2017

	DECEMBER 31,	
	2018	2017
Current Assets	\$783,159	\$378,617
Noncurrent Assets		
Post-Employment Health Plan investment account	218,210	227,388
Property and Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	203,595	244,178
Total Noncurrent Assets	421,805	471,566
Total Assets	<u>1,204,964</u>	<u>850,183</u>
Current Liabilities	17,982	14,898
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Notes payable	<u>52,922</u>	<u>66,576</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>70,904</u>	<u>81,474</u>
Net Position		
Investment in Capital Assets	137,019	164,547
Unrestricted	<u>997,041</u>	<u>604,162</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$1,134,060</u>	<u>\$768,709</u>

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION  
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018 AND 2017

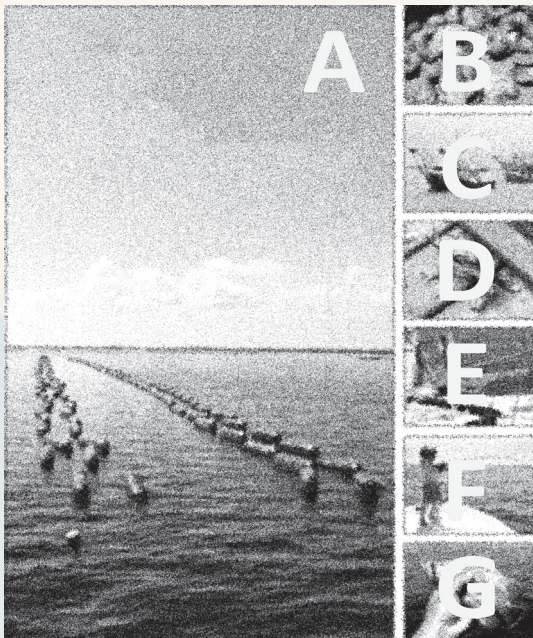
	DECEMBER 31,	
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Revenues:		
General Revenues		
Member State Appropriation	\$112,500	\$112,500
Council Activities	45,000	45,000
Other Income	420	95
Interest Income	830	704
Dividend Income	16,537	11,957
Post-Employment Health Plan Revenue	6,516	6,192
Registration Fees	16,640	15,593
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	(29,044)	21,055
Program Revenues		
Collection & Dissemination of Recreational and		
Commercial Fisheries Information Network	7,280,529	6,517,262
Biological sampling and head boat sampling	108,032	-
Unallied science programs	786,771	280,273
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management	337,655	155,513
Coordination of Recreational Fisheries Programs	222,335	199,791
Collection & Dissemination of Fishery-Independent Data		
And Information	248,466	187,958
Study of Aquatic Nuisances	50,494	177,722
Total Revenues	<u>\$9,203,681</u>	<u>\$7,731,615</u>
Expenses:		
Programs	\$8,659,712	\$7,861,086
General and Administrative	<u>178,619</u>	<u>185,950</u>
Total Expenses	\$8,838,331	\$8,047,036
Change in Net Position	365,350	(315,421)
Net Position, Beginning	<u>768,709</u>	<u>1,084,130</u>
Net Position, Ending	<u>\$1,134,059</u>	<u>\$768,709</u>







# CREDITS



## Cover Photo Credits

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## Inside Photo Spread

Alex North



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