Seventieth

# Annual Report of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission

For the Year 2019

# COMMISSION ROSTER

## Commissioners

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

**ALABAMA**

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Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Montgomery, Alabama

Representative Chris Pringle
Mobile, Alabama

Chris Nelson
Bon Secour Fisheries, Inc.
Bon Secour, Alabama

**FLORIDA**

Eric Sutton, Executive Director
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
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Representative Jay Trumbull
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Biloxi, Mississippi

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USM/Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
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**TEXAS**

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Boerne, Texas

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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

## SEVENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT (2019)

*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 Seventieth 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,

Dan Eilinor, Chairman
Lance Robinson, 1st Vice-Chairman
Scott Bannon, 2nd Vice-Chairman
Joe Spraggins, Immediate Past Chairman
Jason Froeba, Chairman's Appointee

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| | Scott Bannon, 2nd Vice-Chairman |
| | Joe Spraggins, Immediate Past Chairman |
| | Jason Froeba, Chairman's Appointee |
| Law Enforcement Committee | Patrick Carron, Chairman |
| State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee | Scott Bannon, Chairman |
| Menhaden Advisory Committee | Peter Himchack, Chairman |
| Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) | Darin Topping, Chairman |
| TCC Artificial Reef Committee | Dale Shively, Chairman |
| TCC Crab Subcommittee | Ryan Gandy, Chairman |
| TCC Data Management Subcommittee | Justin Esslinger, Chairman |
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# 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*

According to the Chinese zodiac, 2019 was the Year of the Pig. However, in the marine fisheries world, I believe it was the Year of the Disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Due to an exceptionally wet winter and spring, there was an unprecedented amount of freshwater that flowed down the Mississippi River into the Gulf of Mexico. All of the fresh water triggered two openings of the Bonnet Carre' Spillway - once in February and again in May. This was the first time in the history of the spillway that it had been opened more than one time during a year. The resulting influx of water created blooms of toxic algae and a large reduction in the salinity along the Louisiana and Mississippi coastlines. These events wreaked havoc on the marine resources of these areas and prompted the U.S. Department of Commerce to declare a federal fisheries disaster.

In addition to all the freshwater influx, there were several hurricanes (Barry which affected Louisiana and Imelda which resulted in devastating flooding in east Texas) as well as several tropical storms (Nestor which affected Florida and Olga which caused heavy flooding over the central Gulf Coast). While the 2019 hurricane season was not particularly active, it did set a record in that it was the fourth consecutive season to have at least one Category 5 hurricane (fortunately not in the Gulf of Mexico though).

The Commission continues to stand ready to assist our member states as well as our federal partners in addressing the impacts of both natural and man-made disasters and arriving at solutions in a cooperative manner. The Commission provides that forum to facilitate these discussions that hopefully lead to more effective restoration and management of the marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

# 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 (USFWS), 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 2019, 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 2019, over 26,000 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. GulfFIN was able to support sampling for all of 2019 with this additional money. These data are essential to accurately assessing 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, Gulf and Southern Flounders, Spotted Seatrout, Striped Mullet, and Vermilion Snapper. The secondary target species include Spanish Scamp, Yellowtail Snapper, Cobia, Black Grouper, Black Sea Bass, Red Porgy, Snowy Grouper, Speckled Hind, and Warsaw Grouper. In 2019, the states were able to collect over 19,400 age structures from important managed species in the Gulf of Mexico and East Florida.

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. FIN also continued to support the development of a new electronic reporting tool from Bluefin Data called VESL. This is being developed to support web-based technology and allow for access through mobile applications like tablets and smartphones. This new reporting system is almost complete for Florida and Texas and work is ongoing to customize the application for the other states. For 2019, there were approximately 1,200 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. Staff is 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.

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.

In 2019 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.

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.

GulfFIN assisted with a cooperative project with Gulf state partners to possibly improve the quality and accuracy of commercial data by collecting and analyzing shrimp samples to validate, verify, and update conversion factors used to determine whole (live) weight of commercial landings from reported units (ex. gutted to whole, bushels to pounds, units to pounds). This allows for commercial landings to be reported accurately in common currency for use in stock assessment and management.

# 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) and Profiles. The Commission has completed FMPs and Profiles for Gulf Menhaden, Flounder, Spotted Seatrout, Spanish Mackerel, Striped Bass, Blue Crab, Eastern Oyster, Black Drum, Striped Mullet, Tripletail, and Cobia. The IJF Program Coordinator, Steven VanderKooy, is assisted by Debora McIntyre.**

## YEAR IN REVIEW

The *Management Profile for Gulf of Mexico Cobia* was completed in early 2019 and approved by the TCC at their meeting in March, 2019. As a result, the IJF staff began working with the Red Drum Task Force in June 2019 to begin drafting the Management Profile for Gulf of Mexico Red Drum. The Task Force selected various components of the document to begin drafting and a second meeting was held in late November. A sociologist, economist, and industry rep were added to the Task Force membership which rounds out the group. As the draft becomes more developed, the IJF staff will begin requesting representation from the states for a Mangrove Snapper Task Force to begin a Profile as well.

The base funding for the IJF Program at the Commission was increased in 2017 so staff proposed a small grants program in the fall of 2019 which would allow the states to initiate otherwise unfunded research and data projects tied to IJ species in their respective waters. The various task forces and subcommittees of the Commission would be solicited to identify needs for the species under their purview and provide them to the TCC for review and prioritization at their meeting next year. The funding would be annual, depending on the IJF allocation to the Commission, and would likely be around $180,000 for each state.

The Crab Subcommittee met in March 2019 and agreed that a data and modeling workshop would be useful to explore the potential models with existing data in advance of any revision to a benchmark assessment in the future. The purpose would be to explore any potential models and the application of the Traffic Light Model. The terms of reference for the workshop would include specifics on better defined parameters such as fecundity and natural mortality. The full Subcommittee convened the Modeling Workshop in Biloxi in August 2019. The members provided their dependent and independent data in advance and a number of models were explored as

potential candidates moving forward. It was agreed that rather than attempting another Gulf-wide assessment, an updating tool for each of the states to use would be more helpful at this point and time. The group agreed to pursue application of the Traffic Light Model as developed by the North Carolina Department of Marine Fisheries. The results of that exercise were reviewed at a second workshop which was in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and Crab Subcommittee meeting in October in Biloxi. The Subcommittee agreed that the Traffic Light Model approach was very useful moving forward though each state may use it a little differently. The model would not replace future assessments but could keep the states from having to conduct as frequent of assessments since it provided a monitoring tool for short-term trends.

Following the completion of the SEDAR63 Gulf Menhaden benchmark assessment in 2018, the Menhaden Advisory Committee (MAC) agreed to begin exploring potential reference points for management. Part of the industries' sustainability certification requires certain management actions to monitor fishing and population levels. Omega Protein and Daybrook Fisheries requested assistance in looking at scenarios that could be considered for their Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) sustainability evaluation. The MAC and a number of invited stakeholders participated in two workshops in New Orleans. The initial Reference Points Workshop in February developed potential objectives that could be acceptable to all stakeholder groups and began exploring candidate reference points for future consideration to meet those objectives. Stakeholders included representatives from the industry, the state agencies, and a number of ENGOs and conservation groups. In March at the regular MAC meeting in New Orleans, the stakeholder participants were also included in the meeting to discuss some of the key points from the February workshop.

The second Stakeholder Workshop in July reviewed the results of those candidate reference points applied to the current and historic fishery. The candidate reference points were tested by an analytic team consisting of Drs. Doug Butterworth and Rebecca Rademeyer, Dr. Robert Leaf, Dr. Amy Schueller, Dr. David Chagaris, and Dr. Genny Nesslage. As a result of the second workshop, a few additional items were requested by the ENGOs and the team provided those results at the October MAC meeting. The MAC would consider the results as they move forward with any potential management considerations.

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. The IJF program has received nearly 600 individual Tripletail tissue samples to date worldwide. Additional samplers have been identified in Malaysia, the Canary Islands, and Sénégal. These global samples will further expand our general knowledge of the world genome. It is believed that this information will be critical as Tripletail become more popular with recreational anglers and also help inform hatchery managers looking for broodstock in support of aquaculture moving into the future.

In addition to Tripletail genetics, the IJF staff, in collaboration with USM/GCRL, purchased 50 acoustic tags and began deploying them in Tripletail in the northern Gulf in October. A total of 30 fish were tagged in Mississippi Sound and another 20 were tagged and released in Florida Bay in December. The tags are audible pingers which are heard by receivers all along the Gulf Coast. A number of 'listening stations' have been deployed across the region and are managed

by both state agencies and academic institutions who share the data through the iTAG and FACT partnerships. This project should help determine the timing of migration, conditions contributing to the onset of migration, and identify the extent of the overwintering grounds for fish from the northern Gulf.

# 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.** In 2018, NOAA recommended combining the oyster funding into a single large opportunity to begin a coordinated exploration of oyster genetics and breeding. **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 Consortia

The 2019 Gulf Oyster Consortium project included three primary objectives: 1) to develop improved lines of Eastern Oyster with superior genetic values for traits critical to the industry based on regional genotypes, 2) to generate a repository of genetic resources from regional populations and selected lines adapted to environmental conditions to support ongoing and future restoration efforts and the industry, and 3) to transfer platforms in each state to disseminate genetically improved seeds to the industry. The Oyster Consortium is a multi-university team which includes the University of Southern Mississippi - Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center, the Auburn University Shellfish Lab - Dauphin Island Sea Lab, the University of Florida - Molluscan Shellfish Aquaculture Laboratory, and the Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi - Agrilife Research Mariculture Center.

The Business Advisory Council met for the first time in September at the Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center of USM to introduce the project to industry members and discuss the objectives of the program. A list of candidate traits that could benefit the industry was generated in discussion between consortium scientists and council members. The traits were included in a survey that was disseminated to industry across the Gulf of Mexico to get input on the objectives of the program and candidate traits. The Consortia members began to source oyster founder broodstocks from regional populations and produce for each state genetically superior lines for culture under low, medium and high salinity conditions with improved production traits and improved disease resistance (e.g. dermo disease). The group will begin to validate genetic value of selected lines for diploid and triploid production through testing on multiple sites used by industry. They will then multiply and maintain strains in regional facilities for transfer to producers in subsequent years.

Aquaculture Pilot Project

In late 2018, the NOAA Office of Aquaculture provided additional funding to support commercial start-ups with production in mind and demonstration projects intent on moving forward with offshore aquaculture. In 2019, a second round of pilot projects was funded which included Kampachi Farms and Mote Marine Lab who are working on hatchery techniques for Almaco Jack intended to support the Velella Epsilon project off Florida; Auburn University who is combing Sea Urchin culture into off-bottom oyster techniques as a natural anti-fouling agent and potential second crop; and the University of Southern Mississippi which is continuing to move toward a finfish farm in the northern Gulf in collaboration with Manna Fish Farms. Previously unobligated funds were provided to the University of Florida to continue the Hard Clam study initiated in 2018.

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

# 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 (begun 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 2019, SEAMAP operations continued for the 38th consecutive year. SEAMAP resource surveys included the Spring Plankton Survey, Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey, Reeffish Survey, Bottom Longline Survey, Vertical Line Survey, Fall Plankton Survey, and Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey.

During 2019, SEAMAP continued to examine ways to minimize trawling impacts to coral, hardbottom, and sponge habitat on the west Florida shelf. The trawling site selection universe was modified again in 2019 to reduce impacts. NOAA Fisheries is using side scan sonar in some areas to map out trawl tracks before deploying the trawl to make sure the area to be sampled is free of hardbottom. Florida is using side scan sonar to map sponge areas and has had some success in identifying sponge areas from the side scan data. Refinements to the site selection universe will be made yearly to incorporate new information as it becomes available.

The newly formed Habitat Mapping Work Group met in November to develop an operations manual for conducting side scan sonar sampling, developing a standardized sampling methodology, and learning how to deploy the side scan sonar and process the resulting data. While the ability to map is promising for collecting data that can be used to plan several SEAMAP surveys, SEAMAP does not have funding dedicated to mapping. Therefore, paying for data collection and processing is problematic. Once the Habitat Mapping Work Group becomes more established, the Work Group would like to pursue outside funding sources to pay for ship time and the processing of data.

The SEAMAP Subcommittee met in July with the South Atlantic and Caribbean SEAMAP components. All components discussed their ongoing activities as well as the FY2020 SEAMAP budget. The group also discussed hooked gear sampling within their respective region. While all three components are using bottom longlines, vertical longlines, and other multi-hook gear, each

component is sampling a little differently in order to effectively use the gear within their region. Another discussion item was updating of the *SEAMAP 2021-2025 Management Plan.* Besides updating the current information in the Management Plan, the SEAMAP Subcommittee would like to add information describing how the SEAMAP Subcommittee has been evaluating the current SEAMAP surveys, the gears used for collecting data, as well as the data that are being collected during SEAMAP surveys. The SEAMAP Subcommittee wants to stress how they are constantly looking to standardize, streamline, and collect the best data possible.

The Commission handles the data management responsibilities for SEAMAP in the Gulf of Mexico. All data collected during 2019 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 2019. These included:

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 Deepwater Horizon oil spill on marine fish stocks; and

Compiling the 2019 SEAMAP Environmental and Biological Atlas.

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# 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). Today, the primary focus of the SFRP pertains to artificial reefs and has established regional policies and planning documents which are available on the Commission website. The SFRP Coordinator is James R. Ballard, assisted by Alice R. Wilhelm.**

## YEAR IN REVIEW

The Program Coordinator finished compiling all of the edits received from both the ASMFC and GSMFC Artificial Reef Subcommittees and conducting the final review of the content for the updated edition of the Gulf and Atlantic Commissions' 2004 publication *Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials: Second Edition*. The final draft of the document was provided to both subcommittees for review prior to their joint meeting in February 2019. The new third edition includes updates to the reef materials covered in the second edition, and incorporates information on new materials that have been implemented in recent years. At their meeting, the group discussed the final draft and decided to have an April 1st, 2019 deadline for any edits to the document. The steel hull vessels and designed structures chapters still needed some updating. All of the edits received from this final review were incorporated into the final draft by the Program Coordinator. The document was sent out to the Commission's TCC for their review prior to their October 2019 meeting. At their meeting, the TCC decided that they wanted more time to review the document and agreed to provide all edits by January 1, 2020. Once approved by the TCC, the document will be made available electronically through the Commission's website. Moving forward, this will be a living document so the subcommittees can update specific chapters as new information becomes available without having to do a full revision of the document. The intent of this publication is to provide any group interested in developing artificial reefs in the marine environment, with the necessary information about all the available material types to make an informed decision which will produce the best outcome for their project and the most benefit to the environment.

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.

Through a partnership with the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Lab, the Program Coordinator has been able to test the field component of the Gulf Artificial Reef Monitoring and Assessment Program. This field sampling is testing a draft standardized monitoring protocol that was modeled after existing long-term monitoring programs, utilizing comparable gear types and methodologies where possible. It is also testing the gear that was built for the program, as well as a data entry program that was developed by the Commission. The long-term goal of this effort is to develop a program that will provide standardized baseline data for artificial reefs across the Gulf of Mexico. This will allow states to assess impacts from natural and man-made disasters in the future, and to understand how their reefs are functioning over time, compared to natural reefs.

# 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 2019 and the minutes for those meetings are available on the Panel website (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 five years, 33 projects have been funded, totaling $710K. In 2019, after all proposals were reviewed and ranked by the GSARP's Review Committee, six projects were selected for funding totaling $140,189 through the 2019 funding opportunity. These projects will be addressing invasive species eDNA data standards, model bait regulations, risk analysis of injurious fish species, Lionfish, human health risks, and apple snails.

The Invasive Species Traveling Trunk Outreach Program: The GSARP's Education and Outreach workgroup will continue to 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. They will also look at developing lesson plans that cover the materials included in the trunks to make it easier for teachers to incorporate them into their science curriculums. The trunks have been utilized for 1,469 day since they were made available to the public in the summer of 2012.

The Commission's Computer System Administrator finished development of the new GSARP website. The new site includes several new features, a custom view into the USGS's NAS database that focuses just on GSARP states, reginal specific ANS alerts from the USGS alert system, and a list of the top ten invasive species that are threatening the region with links to fact sheets that can provide more information on their invasion history.

The Program Coordinator has been working to establish season-long Lionfish removal events in the other Gulf states modeled after Florida's Lionfish challenge. The goal of this new program is to minimize the impacts of Lionfish on Red Snapper and other important reef associated species while collecting more information on the invasive Lionfish population in the Gulf of Mexico.

In 2019 the Program Coordinator supported the second year of the Jimmy Sanders Memorial Lionfish Challenge in Mississippi. We implemented some changes to the tournament in 2019 based on feedback from the divers that participated in the first year, including running the tournament for the entire year and reducing the number of Lionfish necessary to be entered into the monthly prize drawings. The Program Coordinator is also continuing to work on getting Lionfish tournaments established in Louisiana and Texas. These efforts are made possible by the support from sponsors like Engel Coolers, Neritic Diving, Costa Del Mar, ZooKeeper, and Fishing Chaos.

# 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 2019**

The Commission's 69th Spring Meeting was held in New Orleans, Louisiana. 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.

The FIN Committee received an update from the MRIP, specifically a discussion of proposed form changes for the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS). The committee received a presentation on the status of the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) program. Program implementation has been delayed but they are working toward a phased implantation in early 2020. The committee received a summary from the recent red snapper calibration workshop and discussed the implications of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act. The committee also was provided updates on the progress of VESL development in Texas and Florida including the Florida swipe card project and with a progress report from each state on the shrimp conversion factor research. Freshwater inflow in the Northern Gulf from the Bonnet Carre' spillway opening is having a negative impact on states ability to obtain shrimp samples. The committee received a presentation on the status of Puerto Rico commercial fisheries as fisheries try to rebuild after Hurricane Maria in 2017. Recovery has been slow but with assistance from NOAA Fisheries many of the commercial fishing areas are getting back to normal operations.

The SEAMAP Subcommittee discussed how the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has funded fishery independent sampling for Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi over the past four years. The NFWF sampling has complimented and helped collect data during SEAMAP surveys. Unfortunately, NFWF funding will expire at the end of 2019 for Florida and Alabama with Mississippi funding ending at the end of 2020. NFWF recognizes the utility and importance of the fishery independent sampling. The SEAMAP Subcommittee and Commission are also seeking other funding sources to continue the current level of fishery independent sampling in the Gulf since SEAMAP is unable to support all sampling.

NOAA Fisheries has been deploying trawl sensors and cameras during the SEAMAP trawl surveys. The Subcommittee discussed the valuable information from the data they are gathering that will help improve the analysis of SEAMAP trawl data.

The SEAMAP Subcommittee discussed the purchase of a side scan sonar unit that all SEAMAP partners will be able to use to map bottom habitat. At the March meeting, the SEAMAP Subcommittee formed a Habitat Mapping Work Group to learn how to use the side scan unit as well as how to interpret the data the unit collects.

During the March 2019 TCC meeting, Steve VanderKooy reported on the new Cobia Profile. The profile was sent to the TCC members before the end of 2018 for a sixty-day review. A number of minor editorial comments were received and have all be addressed. After a brief discussion, the TCC made a motion to approve the Cobia Profile with the option for staff to make last minute non-substantive edits.

The TCC had a lengthy discussion about the best way to proceed with their meetings in the future, given the recent trend of abbreviated meetings with little to no action. Several options were suggested including, only holding one meeting a year, incorporating the general sessions into TCC meetings, and having the TCC play a larger role in the direction of its Subcommittee's by suggesting specific actions for them to address. Following the discussion, the TCC asked the Commission staff to compile and provide to the TCC membership an overview of how each subcommittee was formed as well as any associated standard operating procedures, charges, etc. The TCC also made motions to ask staff to develop multiple options for the future of TCC meetings and present them at the October meeting and to recommend to the Commission the establishment of an Oyster Subcommittee under the TCC.

**OCTOBER 2019**

The Commission's 70th Annual Fall Meeting was held in Biloxi, Mississippi. 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.

The Data Management Subcommittee received a presentation from FWC staff on new biological sampling methods implemented in Florida. These methods are focused on representatively sampling the fishery and not targeting specific species for sampling efforts. Florida has observed higher numbers of fish and age structures collected in the panhandle region. They have observed that interviews no longer heavily favor charter mode samples. Florida also is observing some popular inshore species being sampled under their new methods. Overall, Florida has seen better geographic distribution of sampling and less bias of interviews toward a single fishing mode. They are also obtaining more detailed data on gear, depth and discards. The Subcommittee also had a significant discussion on obtaining data to uniquely identify commercial vessels in the Gulf of Mexico. Many obstacles exist to accomplishing this as many states do not have access to these datasets. NOAA Fisheries has asked each state to explore the possibility and report back on the likelihood of accomplishing this request. The Subcommittee also continued to discuss progress on the shrimp conversion factor project. The Subcommittee agreed that requesting a no-cost extension would be useful to allow states the opportunity to collect some additional sampling in 2020.

The SEAMAP Subcommittee received a presentation on the gear and technologies used for sampling in the Great Red Snapper Count project. Several new pieces of towable gear were used to count Red Snapper. Gears such as the camera-based towed assessment survey system (C-BASS) can be towed at speeds of 3-5 knots almost continuously to collect data on reef fish abundance and characterize benthic habitat. SEAMAP is interested in new gears that may be better for estimating actual reef fish abundances than the current gears employed in SEAMAP surveys.

The SEAMAP Subcommittee discussed holding an invertebrate identification workshop in 2020 in partnership with the GCRL, FWRI, and the Southeastern Regional Taxonomic Center to aid SEAMAP in identifying invertebrates encountered during SEAMAP surveys. Many species that previously have been identified as one species may in fact be several species. The SEAMAP Subcommittee discussed how the training workshop will help in identification of problematic species as well as identify species that we should probably only identify to the genus level due to the level of effort required to identify the species correctly to the species level.

The SEAMAP Subcommittee revised the *2021-2025 Management Plan* while at the meeting. They again discussed trawling on the West Florida Shelf, ways to minimize impacts to habitat, and plans for trawling in 2020. NOAA Fisheries published a report showing that trawling impacts on coral and sponge are minimal.

The TCC had a discussion on their draft SOPs for a new oyster subcommittee. During the discussion they decided to expand the scope of the subcommittee to all molluscan shellfish and changed the name of the proposed subcommittee to the Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee (MSSC). They also agreed to expand the purpose of the subcommittee to include assessment of research and monitoring efforts in the five Gulf states. Finally, they decided to limit the membership to just state representatives so it more closely aligned with the structure of other TCC subcommittees. Following the discussion, the TCC made a motion to establish the Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee under the TCC utilizing the SOPs as amended.

James Ballard provided a brief update on the Guidelines for *Marine Artificial Reef Materials: Third Edition* that was sent to the TCC for final review. The group had a short discussion about how much time they would need to complete their review, the group agreed to provide all final comments to Ballard by January 1, 2020.

The TCC re-elected Darin Topping as its Chair and Beverly Sauls was re-elected Vice Chair.

# 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 2019.**

FIN: In 2019, 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 to address stock assessment needs. The commercial trip ticket program is also developed and ongoing for all states in the Gulf of Mexico.

SEAMAP: SEAMAP operations continued for the 38th consecutive year. All five state partners participated in the various SEAMAP resource surveys in 2019 including the Spring Plankton Survey, Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey, Reeffish 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 Red Drum Technical Task Force. The states continued to support the revision to the Otolith Manual in conjunction with the ASMFC 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, G*uidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials: Second Edition*.

# LYLES-SIMPSON AWARD

**The original Charles H. Lyles Award was awarded annually by the 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 2019 award was presented to Borden Wallace. Borden represents the third generation of involvement in the menhaden harvesting/processing industry. He has served on numerous boards, committees, and task forces and served as a member of the Louisiana Governor's Commission on Coastal Restoration and Preservation. He has been President of Wallace Menhaden Products and Exectuive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Daybrook Fisheries. Borden has been a great advocate,representing the menhaden industry with integrity and modesty, always willing to work with all sides to figure out solutions to the issues.

**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 | W. Borden Wallace | 2019 |

# 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 Commisison 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 electonic 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 are available on the Commission website. Below is a list of the publications completed by the Commission in 2019.**

No. 295 March 2019. 2020 Operations Plan for the Fisheries Information Network (FIN). FIN Committee. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

No. 293 October 2019. SEAMAP Subcommittee Annual Report to the Technical Coordinating Committee of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. Jeffrey K. Rester, Editor. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

No. 292 July 2019 Stakeholder Workshop on Management Reference Points for Gulf Menhaden Fisheries. July 17-19. New Orleans, LA.

No. 291 August 2019. Licenses and Fees for Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas in Their Marine Waters for the Year 2018. Debbie McIntyre (Editor). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

No. 289 March 2019. Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network in the Southeast Region (FIN). January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

No. 287 March 2019 Management Profile for Gulf of Mexico Cobia. Steven J. VanderKooy and Jeffrey K. Rester, Editors. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

No. 285 March 2019 Workshop to Assess Options for Management Reference Points For Gulf Menhaden Fisheries. February 12-13. New Orleans, LA.

No. 284 February 2019. SEAMAP Environmental and Biological Atlas of the Gulf of Mexico, 2017. Jeffrey K. Rester, Editor. Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

No. 283 February 2019. Annual Report of the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018.

No. 282 February 2019. Annual Report of the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP) October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017.

# 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

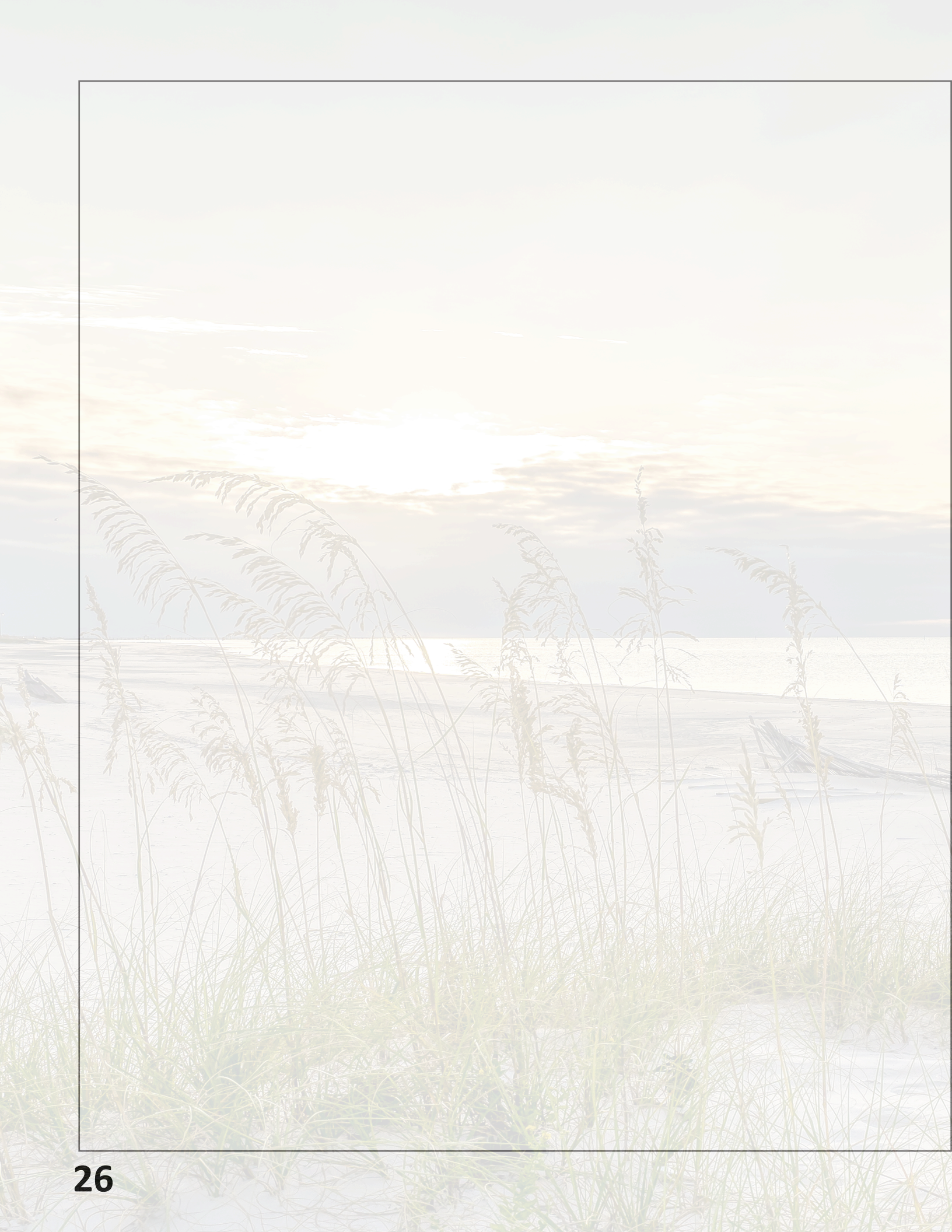
The following presents a summary of the Commission's net position for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018. Detailed financial statements are available from the Commission office by request from Ms. Angela Rabideau.

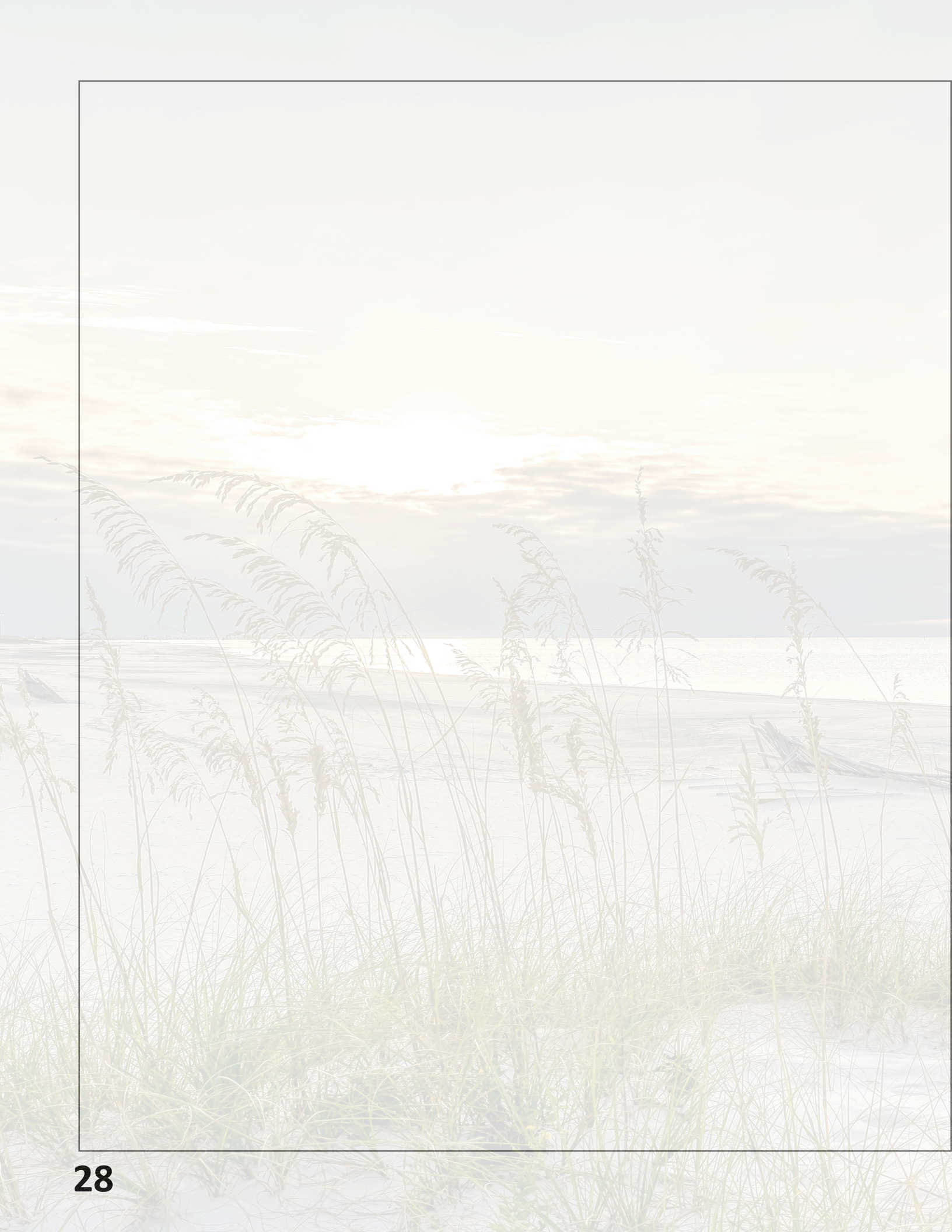
GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

| | DECEMBER 31, 2019 | 2018 |
|---|---|---|
| Current Assets | $847,847 | $783,159 |
| Noncurrent Assets | | |
| Post-Employment Health Plan investment account | 268,722 | 218,210 |
| Property and Equipment, net of accumulated depreciation | 214,743 | 203,595 |
| Total Noncurrent Assets | 483,465 | 421,805 |
| Total Assets | 1,331,312 | 1,204,964 |
| | | |
| Current Liabilities | 18,556 | 17,982 |
| Noncurrent Liabilities | | |
| Notes payable | 38,640 | 52,922 |
| Total Liabilities | 57,196 | 70,904 |
| Net Position | | |
| Investment in Capital Assets | 161,821 | 137,019 |
| Unrestricted | 1,112,295 | 997,041 |
| Total Net Position | 1,274,116 | $1,134,060 |

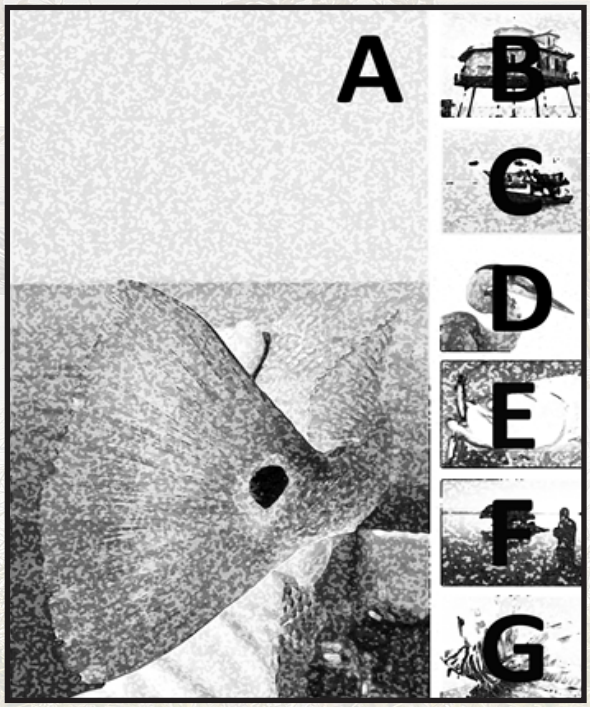
GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018

| | DECEMBER 31, 2019 | 2018 |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues: | | |
| General Revenues | | |
| Member State Appropriation | $112,500 | $112,500 |
| Council Activities | 65,000 | 45,000 |
| Other Income | 91 | 420 |
| Interest Income | 6,480 | 830 |
| Dividend Income | 13,859 | 16,537 |
| Post-Employment Health Plan Revenue | 6,801 | 6,516 |
| Registration Fees | 16,208 | 16,640 |
| Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments | 32,923 | (29,044) |
| Program Revenues | | |
| Collection & Dissemination of Recreational and Commercial Fisheries Information Network | 6,445,098 | 7,280,529 |
| Biological sampling and head boat sampling | 1,558,843 | 108,032 |
| Unallied science programs | 781,506 | 786,771 |
| Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management | 669,440 | 337,655 |
| Coordination of Recreational Fisheries Programs | 213,969 | 222,335 |
| Collection & Dissemination of Fishery-Independent Data And Information | 349,705 | 248,466 |
| Fishery Independent Surveys | 16,900 | - |
| Study of Aquatic Nuisances | 124,142 | 50,494 |
| Total Revenues | $10,413,465 | $9,203,681 |
| | | |
| Expenses: | | |
| Programs | $10,089,377 | $8,659,712 |
| General and Administrative | 184,032 | 178,619 |
| Total Expenses | $10,273,409 | $8,838,331 |
| | | |
| Change in Net Position | 140,056 | 365,351 |
| | | |
| Net Position, Beginning | 1,134,060 | 768,709 |
| Net Position, Ending | $1,274,116 | $1,134,060 |





# CREDITS

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**Inside Photo Spread**

**Brian Wright**


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