

Seventy-Sixth
Annual Report of the
Gulf States Marine
Fisheries Commission
for the Year 2025





GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

Seventy-Sixth Annual Report for the Year 2025

*to the
Congressional Delegation,
Governors, and Legislators
for the Citizens of
Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, 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

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

On behalf of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, we, the Commissioners, present this **Seventy-Sixth Annual Report for the Year 2025**.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for another year of outstanding cooperation from the members of Congress, and the Governors and Legislators of our Compact states. We fully recognize that the successful management of the public's fishery resources is made possible through your vital assistance.

Our acknowledgment of gratitude is also extended to the many directors and staff members of federal, state, and interstate agencies; representatives of partner organizations; and all individuals who have contributed to our mission. Your invaluable support continues to help us realize the objectives of this Commission.

Thank You!

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Jason Froeba, Chairman
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Dan Ellinor, 2nd Vice Chairman
John Mareska, Past Chairman
Doug Boyd, Chairman's Appointee
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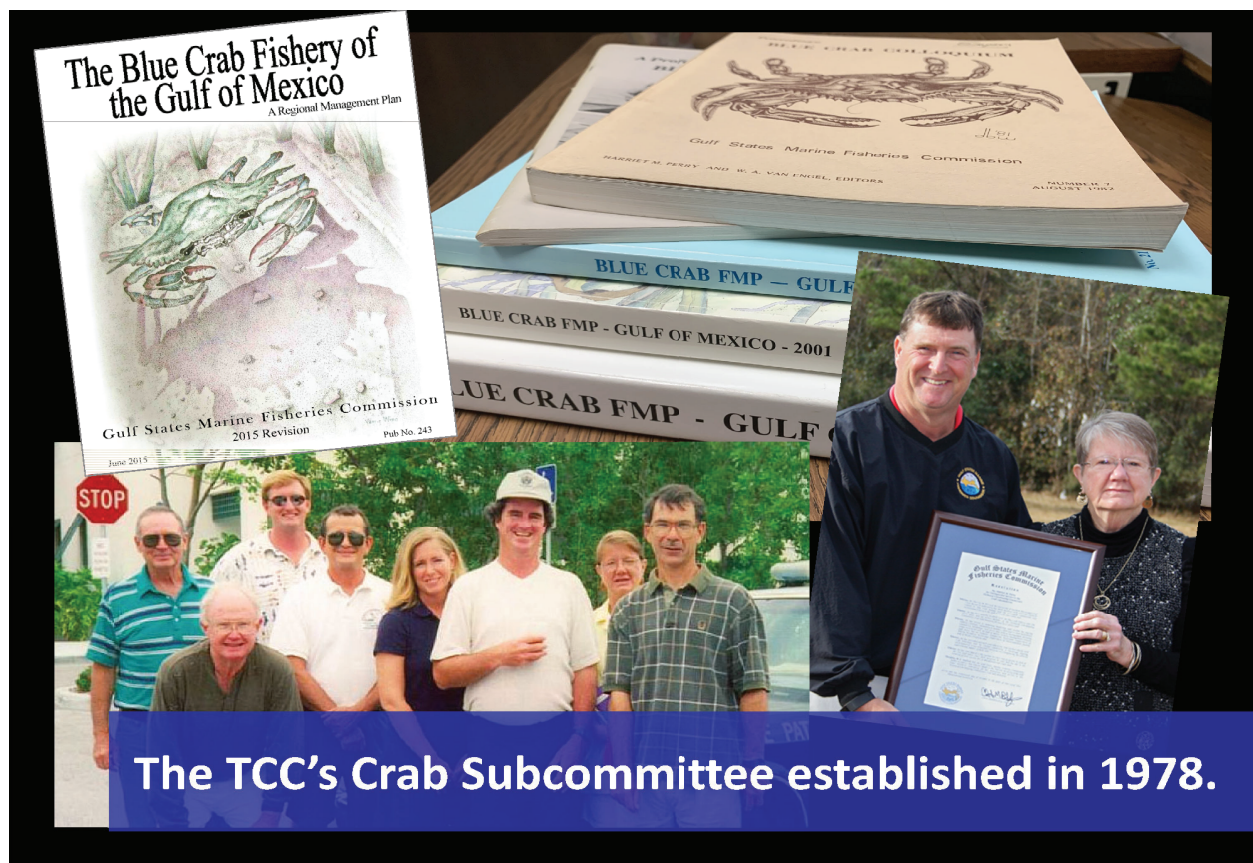
Nicole Beckham, *Chair*

TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee

Ted Switzer, *Chair*

TCC Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee

Jason Herrmann, *Chair*



ACRONYMS

ADCNR/MRD	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division
ANSTF	National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
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 - The University of Southern Mississippi
GEI	Gulf Ecosystem Initiative
GMFMC	Gulf of America Fisheries Management Council (Gulf Council)
GSARP	Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel
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
NCEAS	National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PSMFC	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
RecFIN	Recreational Fisheries Information Network
RER	Return 'Em Right
SAT	Stock Assessment Team
SEAMAP	Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program
SERO	Southeast Regional Office (NOAA Fisheries)
SEFHIER	Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Program
SFFMC	State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee
SFRP	Sport Fish Restoration Administrative Program
TCC	Technical Coordinating Committee
TED	Turtle Excluder Device
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TTF	Technical Task Force
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WARC	USGS Wetland and Aquatic Research Center



In February 2025, Commission Executive Director Dave Donaldson, Assistant Director and FIN Program Manager Gregg Bray as well as State Agency Commissioners visited the U.S. Capitol to discuss key topics on marine fisheries with a Congressional delegation who serve the five Gulf States.

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INTRODUCTION

In July 1949, Public Law 81-66 established the **Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission** (Commission). This act of Congress authorized a compact between the five Gulf Coast states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida). The Commission was formed specifically to provide state, federal, and interstate coordination of interjurisdictional programs. Our primary goal, seventy-five years later, is to promote the conservation, development, and utilization of the Gulf's fisheries while also playing a vital role in facilitating communication, developing fishery profiles, and securing funding for marine fisheries initiatives.

PURPOSE

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 somewhat broad, the purpose is clear that cooperative programs involving the member-states and assisting in managing coastal and marine resources shall constitute appropriate and legislatively authorized activities. Coordination and management of data collection programs for coastal and marine fisheries shall constitute appropriate programmatic activities to be conducted under the auspices of the Commission.

COMMISSIONERS

One of the Commission's main functions is to provide a forum for discussion of current topics on marine management, industry, research, etc., and to develop a coordinated policy addressing those issues for the betterment of the resource and all with concern.

Fifteen Commissioners (three voting members per Gulf state) set policy, approve a budget, and provide direction for Commission activities. One-third are state fishery resource agency directors; one-third are appointed from the states' legislatures; and one-third are private citizens with a knowledge of and interest in marine fisheries as appointed by their respective state governors.

Unless otherwise announced, the Commission traditionally convenes the third week of October for an Annual Meeting in one of the five Gulf states for Commissioners to better their knowledge of all Gulf fisheries and coastal areas. Every two years, leadership elections are held among commissioners to select a chairman, first vice-chairman, and second vice-chairman with positions rotating among the states. Upon written request by a majority of Commissioners of each state from three or more states, the Chairman shall call a special meeting.

MANAGEMENT

Located in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, the Executive Director serves as the primary supervisor for Commission staff, which administers programs. The Assistant Director serves similarly, especially in the absence of the Executive Director. Both participate as needed in public forums and also attend meetings for other councils, commissions, committees, and inter-organizational efforts.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

David M. Donaldson, GSMFC Executive Director

“A constant theme throughout our long-term and new initiatives is the strong cooperation among our state and federal partners, and Commission staff.”

Federal funding is important to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

We rely heavily on the support of Congress to accomplish our goals and objectives. Fortunately, Congress continues to be extremely supportive of our long-term cooperative programs: Interjurisdictional Fisheries; Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP); the Fisheries Information Network (GulfFIN); and the Sport Fish Restoration Program. We’ve also received congressional support of new initiatives including the Red Snapper Recreational Research Program, a Southeast Fishery Observer Program, and most recently, the Gulf Multi-Jurisdictional Finfish Research Program.

The Red Snapper Recreational Research Program provided resources to fund seven projects that are addressing a couple of critical areas for recreational fisheries: estimating effort and improving discard data from the private boat sector. These projects will take new and innovative approaches to examine these two issues. The goal is to provide novel ways to address these subjects, which will lead to better data and more effective management of Gulf recreational fisheries.

While not ‘new’, the Commission recently became involved in the Southeast Fishery Observer Program (SEFOP) to help improve its transparency and effectiveness. The program’s mission is to provide fishery-dependent data used to manage fish stocks and protected resources in the Gulf, South Atlantic, and for Highly Migratory Species. By working with NOAA Fisheries, the Commission is providing personnel support for the program. The Commission has hired 9 employees who are serving various roles in Galveston, Texas and Panama City, Florida. This new approach has been operating smoothly for the Commission. Hopefully, this will lead us to a more active role in SEFOP data collection and benefit both federal and state stock assessments efforts.

In 2025 per congressional directive, NOAA Fisheries partnered with the Commission to conduct fishery-independent research on data-poor multi-jurisdictional fish species in the Gulf (e.g. Cobia, Tripletail, Tarpon, and Gray Triggerfish) which created a new Gulf Multi-Jurisdictional Finfish Research Program. A consortium of the University of South Alabama, Texas A&M Galveston, Louisiana State University, Mississippi State University, University of South Florida, Texas A&M Corpus Christi, The University of Southern Mississippi, Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, and LGL Ecological Research Associates is utilizing an awarded grant designed to fill critical knowledge gaps in interjurisdictional movement, migration, and life history to improve management of Cobia and Tripletail. This grant allows the consortium to provide state fisheries managers with timely information to address local management needs. The program’s first phase will conduct a first of its kind multi-state tagging and telemetry study (satellite and acoustic tags) to understand migration within state and federal waters. In addition, this team will be collecting, cataloguing, and archiving hundreds of samples — an invaluable resource for future Cobia and Tripletail stock assessments.

A constant theme throughout our long-term and new initiatives is the strong cooperation among our state and federal partners, and Commission staff. Thankfully, this collaborative commitment has led to sustained success over the years, which we believe shall ultimately lead to more effective management of marine resources in the Gulf of America for years to come.

FISHERIES INFORMATION NETWORK

Gregg S. Bray, Assistant Director and Program Manager

In the 1980s and 1990s, state and federal fishery managers in the southeast region agreed there was an urgent and compelling need for coordinated collection of comprehensive data on the region's commercial and recreational marine fisheries resources. The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission prepared recommendations, which 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 commercial and recreational fisheries of the region. The programs result from combined efforts between the Commission and program partners, which include states and territories of the region, NOAA Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Park Service, the Gulf Council, and the Caribbean Fishery Management Council. The program's staff assistant is Ashley Lott.

GulfFIN

In 2025, the Fisheries Information Network (FIN) continued to coordinate NOAA Fisheries Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) surveys in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida for shore, for-hire, and private modes. FIN provides the field-intercept survey to estimate angler catch using the existing MRIP methodology and entry of the data. Over 41,000 angler interviews from over 4,400 sampling assignments were collected across the three states, this year. Field staff are still using mobile electronic tablets to collect dockside survey data, which greatly increases the speed and accuracy of data provided to FIN databases. Additionally, states conducted weekly telephone calls to a 10% random sample of charter boat captains in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida (east and west coast) to obtain estimates of charter boat fishing effort.

Partial funding by FIN helped support implementation of the LA Creel Survey in Louisiana and TPWD dockside surveys to increase trips sampling effort from sites where Red Snapper trips typically originate. Louisiana has collected over 27,000 angler interviews in charter and private boat mode, and Texas has completed 279 vessel interviews associated with Red Snapper fishing.

FIN also continued coordinating commercial trip ticket programs in all Gulf states. This task is collecting components for a commercial trip ticket system to census commercial fisheries landings using data elements and standards. In addition, FIN funded the continued operation of electronic reporting on trip ticket systems and data reporting for the quota monitoring and IFQ programs. For 2025, approximately 1,400 commercial dealers and processors in the five Gulf states were utilizing electronic reporting options. As a result, FIN received approximately 364,000 commercial landings reports totaling 982 million pounds of live, commercial product with a dockside value over \$850 million.

In addition, FIN continued supporting development and implementation of the FIN Data Management System. This provided funding for work that is 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 System maintenance. The GulfFIN Data Management System will soon deploy a centralized warehouse for state recreational survey data in the Gulf of America and East Florida. This will allow for more efficient access to state recreational survey data needed for federal science and management efforts.

And in 2025, FIN provided coordination for 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 coastal ports of Florida. Limited funding did prevent the continuation of field sampling efforts in the other Gulf states.

Data Modernization Improvement Project

In January 2024, the Commission entered into a cooperative agreement to receive Congressional funding to support infrastructure improvements on data management systems within the states and the Commission to improve the efficiency and accuracy of state recreational data transmitted to federal partners for science and management needs. Funding was provided by the Department of Commerce to focus on modernization and investment in science and management programs in support of the nation's economy. As part of this initiative, \$20M has been allocated for Red Snapper and other reef fish in the southeastern United States.

The Commission published an RFP during 2025 to seek research projects for investigating novel technological approaches for collecting and estimating recreational fishing effort and released catch data on reef species including Red Snapper. GSMFC had received \$7.5M in Congressional funds to support these pilot research projects. Seven projects were selected to receive funding – all of which began January 1, 2026.

A portion of the Congressional funding is also being utilized to support the transition of Alabama and Mississippi to the LA Creel method of collecting recreational effort and landings data. Funding was used in 2025 to support a side-by-side benchmarking study that compared state creel survey methods with the historical MRIP estimates. Both states were pleased with performance of the LA Creel method. While Mississippi has fully transitioned to MS Creel, Alabama has decided to extend their benchmarking study into 2026 before making a final decision.

An additional \$1M in Congressional funding is supporting the expansion of a for-hire, at-sea observer program spanning Louisiana and Texas. Training of field staff started in April 2025 and work began in May. One obstacle documented by staff is most for-hire vessels in Louisiana are 6-pack vessels, so finding trips with space for an observer has been difficult. While field staff in Louisiana sampled three trips, Texas completed 52 trips in the last half of 2025. And, all data have been uploaded to the At-Sea Warehouse under GulfFIN and made available to federal fisheries scientists.

Shrimp Early Adopter Program

GulfFIN continues to contract with LGL Ecological Associates on the implementation of an early adopter program for the federal shrimp fishery. Previous vessel fishing effort monitoring devices became outdated in 2022 once 3G cellular technology was terminated. Congressional funding has been provided to equip volunteering vessels with newer effort monitoring devices that can transmit shrimp fishing effort data to federal fisheries scientists and the Commission. Over 350 volunteers signed up to receive new devices, however, LGL was only able to equip 120 vessels during 2025. The goal is to equip the entire fleet with new devices and be able to support data transmission fees for as long as possible.

Southeast Fishery Observer Support Program

The Commission entered into a contract with the Department of Commerce during December 2025 to provide funding for hiring nine remote employees to serve as program support staff for the Southeast Fishery Observer Program. These new Commission staff members are focused on observer and safety training, quality control of observer data, and data entry. Two employees are located in the NOAA Panama City Lab, and seven are based at the NOAA Galveston Lab. Observer data is now providing a critical input for the federal stock assessment process on species including shrimp, reef fish and coastal sharks.

INTERJURISDICTIONAL FISHERIES

Steven J. VanderKooy, Program Coordinator

Since the 1970s, the Commission has had the responsibility of administrative support and coordination of the Gulf State-Federal Fisheries Management Program, which in 1986 became the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program (IJF). The IJF Program was designed to develop management plans for trans-boundary stocks that migrate freely throughout state and federal jurisdictions. This program promotes interjurisdictional fisheries management among the Gulf states through cooperative development of fishery management plans (FMPs) and management profiles. IJF also provides coordination and support to fill data gaps and research needs identified through the plan/profile development via the state agencies and/or academia. The program's staff assistant is Keith Wilson.

The **Mangrove Snapper Technical Task Force (TTF)** finished revising the *Management Profile for Gray (Mangrove) Snapper in the Southeastern United States*, which published in March 2025. The Profile provides a comprehensive review of the biology of Mangrove Snapper and includes a description of the fisheries as well as discussion on the distribution, habitat, and any knowledge of genetics specific to the Gulf region. In addition, the profile summarizes all existing state management including laws, regulations, and policies as well a description of the social and economic importance to the region. And, data gaps, which may hinder future determination of stock status and effective management of Mangrove Snapper in the region, are identified.

The **Black Drum TTF** began revising the *1993 Black Drum Fishery Management Plan* as an updated Management Profile in late 2024. While the TTF was able to meet several times in 2025, funding delays resulted in most meetings being conducted virtually. A genetics expert was added to the TTF membership to handle that respective section. The Commission's TCC was notified during the annual meeting (October 2025) of being able to review the profile during early 2026. Although progress was slow, all chapters were drafted. Upon the TCC's approval, the Black Drum profile should be published by mid-2026.

State agencies continued work on individual **Supplemental Research Fund (SuRF)** projects in 2025 with IJF funds split based on need (averaging around \$210,000 each). Most projects were continuations of previous work covering issues related to Gulf Blue Crab, Southern Flounder, scallops, and oysters as well as general commercial and recreational data collection on other IJF species. Each state-proposed SuRF project for 2026 was reviewed during the Commission's annual meeting and are slated to begin during January.

Interstate Fisheries Commissions-USGS Partnership

The four interstate fisheries commissions (Gulf, Atlantic, Pacific, Great Lakes) and the USGS regional offices have officially partnered to work jointly on common issues. The Gulf Commission's IJF Program Coordinator continued serving as representative for the four commissions and worked with a USGS representative to develop specifics for an overall partnership and to encourage the building of actionable science on the part of USGS in support of fisheries management by the state agencies composing each commission. Outreach materials regarding this partnership were finalized in 2025. The Science Team met virtually several times for identifying specific research priorities on future project development. In addition, plans for another symposium/session were outlined to take place during the 156th American Fisheries Society (AFS) Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio during Fall 2026.

As part of the **Interstate Fisheries Commissions-USGS Partnership**, the USGS Wetland and Aquatic Research Center (WARC) submitted a proposal in 2024 to the Gulf Ecosystem Initiative (GEI), which is part of RESTORE funding from the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster and coordinated through the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS). The joint proposal included the Commission as well as a number of state and academic partners working on Cobia in the region. The entitled “Shifts in distributions and movement patterns of Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fish species in the Gulf of Mexico relative to climate change” integrates historic tagging data from the region and provides an analysis of the multiple decades of information on Cobia from conventional dart tags, acoustic tags, and more recent satellite tags. The funding covers travel for all participants, and the NCEAS provides a post-doc modeler to assist in collaboration and analysis.

Participants were scheduled to meet in Spring 2025, but due to changes under the new federal administration, the workshop was postponed. Instead, work began through virtual meetings. The postponed in-person workshop is expected to be held early 2026 at NCEAS offices. This project should provide much needed historical context to movement patterns in Cobia using data collected continuously from the 1980s to present. The expectation is that this project will support additional work using new techniques in the region, which already comes from the Commission’s IJF program funding for Cobia and Tripletail.

IJF Fish Tagging

Acoustic tracking of Mangrove Snapper and Tripletail in the Gulf continued during 2025. The Commission continued to partner with the USGS, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to track Cobia previously tagged with acoustic and satellite tags along the Florida coast. While no additional tags were deployed by the Commission in 2025, a larger project has been funded outside of the IJF program to work on a variety of life history topics related to both Tripletail and Cobia in the Gulf region.

Gulf of America Multi-Jurisdictional Finfish Research

In 2023, Congress directed the NMFS to partner with the Commission to provide grant(s) to conduct fishery-independent research on transboundary, multi-jurisdictional fish species in the Gulf of America for which current data is deficient (e.g. Cobia, Tripletail, Tarpon, Gray Triggerfish), including species that are solely managed by the Gulf States.

In 2025, \$5.0M was provided to the Commission for this program. The Commission published an RFP intended to gather critical data to support management of Cobia and Tripletail in the first year with anticipated, additional years of funding that would expand the program to include Tarpon and Gray Triggerfish. A total of three projects were received. Following an extensive review process, a final decision was made in mid-December to award a multi-state consortium led by Dr. Sean Powers at the University of South Alabama.

The consortium will involve collaboration with eight additional universities, the state agencies, and private researchers who will begin reviewing current information available on Cobia and Tripletail. The consortium will explore population exchange rates (movement and migration), estimate exploitation rates, and provide critical biological data related to reproduction, genetics, and responses to environmental changes for both species. The multiyear project will begin in early 2026.

AQUACULTURE

Steven J. VanderKooy, Program Coordinator

The Aquaculture Program is a cooperative effort with NOAA's Office of Aquaculture to develop and manage research that addresses the development and expansion of a variety of aquaculture opportunities throughout the Gulf region. Beginning in 2016 with a series of small grants to develop pilot projects for industry development, additional funds came specifically for off-bottom oyster aquaculture. A multi-university project was funded during 2019 to coordinate exploration of oyster genetics and breeding with the intention of developing improved lines of Eastern oysters based on genetic values and making them available for industry and restoration. In 2021, another multi-university project received funding to develop Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) in the Gulf. IMTAs promote economic and environmental sustainability by converting byproducts and uneaten feed from fish into harvestable products and reducing eutrophication while also driving a diverse seafood economy.

Since the start of the Commission's Aquaculture program in 2016, thirteen off-bottom oyster projects, nineteen pilot projects, six years of an oyster genetics consortium, three years of an Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture [IMTA] Demonstration project, and three miscellaneous aquaculture-related projects have been funded for a grand total of \$14.4M.

Gulf Oyster Consortium

Now in its sixth year, the Gulf Oyster Consortium, in 2025, team continued growout of the F3 generation of the high- and low-salinity tolerant oysters and initiated evaluations of reproductive traits and disease resistance. The *Perkinsus marinus* challenge, originally delayed due to mortality during broodstock conditioning in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024, was successfully completed during 2025. However, processing of the resulting samples has been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Survival was very low at several low-salinity field sites, reflecting another widespread summer mortality event in the north-central Gulf. In response, the project team modified plans for genotyping and transferring improved oyster lines. To reduce the risk of catastrophic losses from extreme summer temperatures, broodstock are being maintained at multiple locations. However, this strategy has become increasingly difficult in the central Gulf, where mortality events are evidently affecting the region. The team is closely monitoring spring and early summer survival with hopes that sufficient broodstock will remain available to complete the planned F4 crossing design and transfer improved oyster lines to industry partners.

Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA)

The IMTA project has received several extensions on first-year funding due to delays in the permitting process. These delays directly reflect one of the project's primary objectives: demonstrating the regulatory challenges associated with regional aquaculture development.

By July 2025, all required permits had been approved, and Aquafort construction began. In addition to the floating frame, the specialized predator exclusion netting was delivered and assembled. Pre-deployment water quality and benthic sampling were completed during September and October, and the full Aquafort system was deployed at the project site in November 2025. Red Drum fingerlings will be stocked in the Aquafort sometime during early 2026.

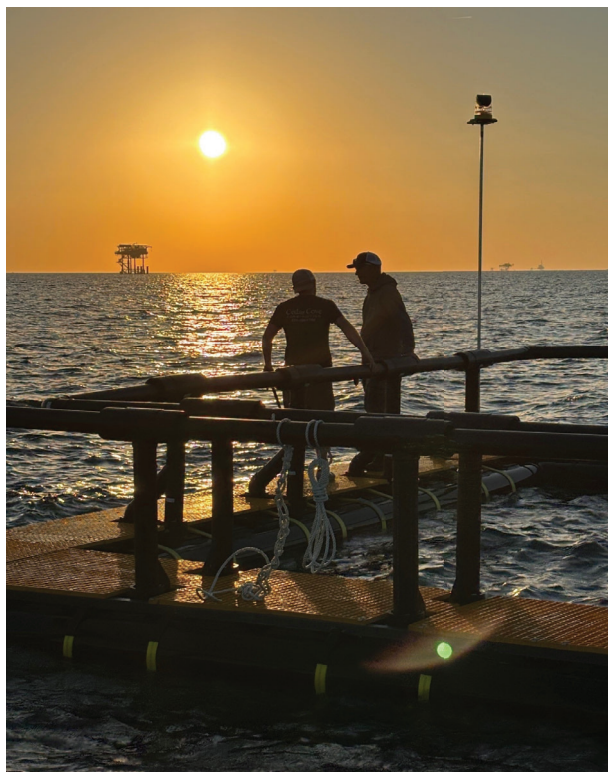


Photos courtesy: Ashley McDonald/DISL

The IMTA Aquafort, as pictured, is located south of Fort Morgan, Alabama.

Although the planned growout season was originally scheduled to run October through June, the permitting delays significantly shortened the first production cycle. While fish are expected to be harvested in Spring 2026, some may not reach the target market size.

The second year of funding for the collaboration, which includes the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL), USM-GCRL, Mississippi/Alabama Sea Grant, and the University of New Hampshire, will continue through April 2027. An additional year of funding has already been secured, extending the project through 2028, which will provide the opportunity for a third production season. In 2026, commercial fishermen will be recruited to work with the IMTA team and evaluate the transfer of Aquafort technology for potential adoption throughout the region.



A winter sunset from the Aquafort.

SOUTHEAST AREA MONITORING & ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Jeffrey K. Rester, Program Coordinator

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 (begun in 1981); SEAMAP-South Atlantic (implemented in 1983); and SEAMAP-Caribbean (formed in 1988). The SEAMAP-Gulf component is coordinated through the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. Publications since 1983 include annual environmental and biological atlases of the Gulf. The program's staff assistant is Ashley Lott.

In 2025, SEAMAP continued fishery independent sampling for the forty-fourth consecutive year. SEAMAP resource surveys included the Spring Plankton Survey, Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey, Reef Fish Survey, Bottom Longline Survey, Fall Plankton Survey, and Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey.

The **SEAMAP Subcommittee** met jointly with the Caribbean and South Atlantic SEAMAP components in March. The SEAMAP Subcommittee also met in October during the Commission's annual meeting. The subcommittee spent a significant amount of time updating the SEAMAP 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, which outlines future goals for fishery-independent sampling and the actions needed to achieve them.

Several work group meetings were held. The Environmental Data Work Group met in January to review acceptable environmental data values for SEAMAP database error-checking, discuss CTD calibration procedures, and evaluate alternative environmental sampling equipment. The Bottom Longline Work Group met in April to review sampling protocols, discuss the newly revised sampling area, and support the Commission's ongoing effort to conduct QA/QC on historical bottom longline data. The Shrimp/Groundfish Work Group also met in April to review sampling protocols, consider proposed revisions to the operations manual, and discuss the Commission's QA/QC review of historical trawl data.

SEAMAP video and trawl data were used in the SEDAR 88 (Red Grouper) stock assessment in 2025. SEAMAP trawl data were also used in the SEDAR 87 stock assessment for Brown, Pink, and White Shrimp. Data were also analyzed for SEDAR 94 (Hogfish), SEDAR 98 (Gulf Red Snapper), and SEDAR 100 (Gray Triggerfish).

The Commission handles data management responsibilities for SEAMAP in the Gulf of America. All data collected during 2025 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 2025. 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 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 of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill on marine fish stocks.



Photo courtesy: Jeff Rester/GSMFC

Participants of the Gulf Commercial Fisheries Summit gather for a group photo inside the DoubleTree by Hilton in New Orleans.

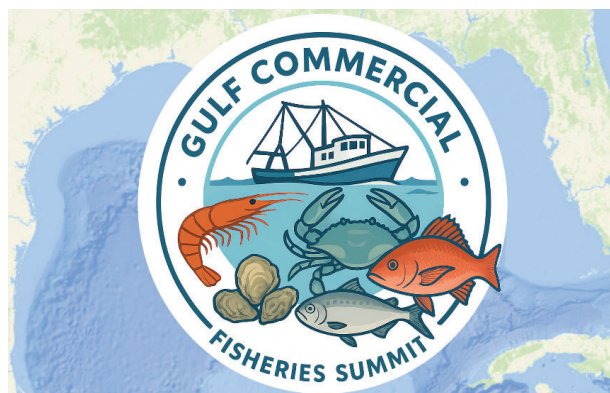
Gulf Commercial Fisheries Summit

During mid-September 2025, the Commission along with Sea Grant programs invited sixty-five Gulf seafood industry leaders and stakeholders to New Orleans for a Gulf Commercial Fisheries Summit. The three-day workshop welcomed a full spectrum of commercial fishermen, wholesalers, processors, dealers, retailers, restaurants, and supply chain partners.

Stakeholders shared their perspectives, highlighted challenges, and explored opportunities to strengthen the commercial seafood industry. Discussions also focused on the obstacles preventing the industry from thriving, with an emphasis on finding solutions that protect the commercial seafood industry's viability, sustainability, longevity, heritage, and culture.

As a result of these discussions, participants agreed to form a diverse coalition that will unite seafood industry voices. This coalition will advocate for regulatory relief and fair policies, promote consumer confidence in Gulf seafood, and work to remove barriers that limit industry growth and success.

This summit was made possible through the generous support of: *Dickie Brennan & Co. Catering, Southeastern Fisheries Association, Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association, Gulf of America Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance, Water Street Seafood, Inc., Greg Abrams Seafood, Inc., and Katie's Seafood Market.*



SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM

Charlie E. Robertson, Program Coordinator

Established in 1987 under the USFWS Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program, the SFRP coordinates recreational fisheries efforts across the five Gulf states. Initially focused on anadromous fish, artificial reefs, and fisheries data, the data component later separated to become the Fisheries Information Network (FIN). SFRP now primarily supports Gulf artificial reef initiatives and regional invasive species efforts, and has developed regional policies and guidance for both. The program's staff assistant is Alice Wilhelm.

Activities & Collaboration

In addition to administrative duties and taking on roles for key stakeholder meetings during 2025, the Program Coordinator continued to expand the capabilities of the Gulf Artificial Reef Monitoring and Assessment Program (GARMAP) and participated in invasive species task force and regional panel activities. While meeting attendance included one each for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF), the Commission's Artificial Reef Subcommittee, and the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species (GSARP), the regularly scheduled fall GSARP and ANSTF meetings were cancelled as a result of the federal government shutdown.

The TCC's **Artificial Reef Subcommittee** met in October for a two-day, in-person session, which provided coordination amongst the Gulf states' artificial reef programs that support effective administration and collaboration in fisheries management and conservation.

Gulf Artificial Reef Monitoring and Assessment (GARMAP)

GARMAP is a long-term water quality monitoring program operating across six artificial reef sites off the coast of Mississippi, and managed in partnership with The University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL). The program includes three nearshore and three offshore stations, with the offshore sites brought online in 2023. All six are collecting continuous records of temperature, conductivity, salinity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and pH at 30-minute intervals.

In 2025, datasondes were deployed 14 times across all six stations for a combined 1,209 deployment days. Since the program's inception, there have been 68 total deployments and 284,245 water quality data points recorded. All collected data are uploaded to the GARMAP database and corresponding public website (garmap.gsmfc.org) where users can view parameters in graphical form over 30-, 60-, or 90-day windows and compare two parameters simultaneously. In parallel, GSMFC staff maintain an administrative site for data loading, validation, and management, which includes a dashboard with pre-loaded reports and an equipment inventory module tracking datasondes, sensors, and cages. Current inventory stands at 12 sondes, 64 sensors, and 11 traps. One trap was lost at a nearshore site following a communication failure with its surface transmitter that prevented deployment of the recovery float; multiple recovery efforts were unable to locate the trap.

Each monitoring station is also equipped with an acoustic receiver that records detections of tagged fish passing within range. Data collection at the acoustic receivers continued throughout 2025, though the full dataset has not yet been analyzed. GARMAP's ultimate goal remains the establishment of a standardized environmental baseline for artificial reefs across the Gulf to support long-term reef management and disaster impact assessments. The Program Coordinator also maintained the GSMFC's artificial reef website and the Reef Compiled Data bibliography database throughout the reporting period.



Photo courtesy: Keith Wilson/GSMFC

Eric Gosselin, owner of Life•maker Make-Up Effects in Quebec, Canada, helped create these life-like replicas of Apple snail eggs and Asian Swamp Eels. Both aquatic invasive species will be used in the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel's Traveling Trunks of Invasive Species.

Invasive Species Efforts

In 2025, SFRP continued supporting coordination and outreach efforts focused on non-native and invasive species. The Program Coordinator is an active member of both the ANSTF and the GSARP, and represents the Gulf states by contributing to regional planning and implementation efforts to manage aquatic invasive species.

The Program Coordinator attended the spring ANSTF meeting virtually in July and continued to serve as the Lionfish Prevention and Management Plan Liaison, a role assumed in 2024 to assess implementation of the *National Invasive Lionfish Prevention and Management Plan (2015)*. Staff has also maintained active involvement in the Invasive Coral Task Force's quarterly meetings to stay current on developments relevant to GSARP-member states. The GSARP spring meeting in April 2025 provided an opportunity for regional coordination and planning. Fall meetings for both the ANSTF and GSARP were cancelled due to the federal government shutdown slowing progress and pausing some regional invasive species activities.

The **Herb Krumpf Traveling Trunk of Invasive Species** continues to be an effective tool for outreach and education. In 2025, GSMFC's three trunks were used over 90 days by five organizations at seven different events, including appearances during local Earth Day activities as well as during a teacher education event that aimed to broaden awareness of the trunk's availability as a classroom resource. GSMFC has been actively working to provide each GSARP state member with customized invasive species trunks. Contents are being tailored to region-specific outreach and education needs, and distribution of these state trunks is nearly complete.

FISHERIES RESTORATION PROGRAM

Charlie E. Robertson, Program Coordinator

The Fisheries Restoration Program (FRP) was established in 2020 through a cooperative agreement with NOAA and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission to help restore recreational fish species impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill (2010). This program is funded under NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation and Restoration Program (DARRP), which was established in 1992 after the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Currently, the Commission has the capacity to assist DARRP where their two missions align. The program's staff assistant is Alice Wilhelm.



**RETURN 'EM
RIGHT**

Return 'Em Right

Angler education, promotion of best release practices, and support for recreational fishery-dependent monitoring across the Gulf of America are advancing reef fish conservation because of the Fisheries Restoration Program's flagship initiative, Return 'Em Right (RER).

In 2025, four RER-funded post-release survival studies were completed. Collectively, results demonstrated that using descending devices, and minimizing handling and time out of water are critical factors for post-release survival. Additionally, when done properly, venting is an effective technique for reducing release mortality in Gag Grouper. Across studies, depredation on descending devices was found to be exceedingly rare, with direct depredation observed in fewer than 2% of descended releases regardless of predator presence, corroborating earlier findings that depredation is not a meaningful concern for fish released with these devices.

The **For-Hire At-Sea Observer Program** achieved a significant milestone by expanding into all five Gulf states for the first time and operating with standardized sampling methodology Gulf-wide. The FRP Coordinator worked closely with state and federal partners to help facilitate this expansion. Electronic measuring boards that reduce fish handling time, improve data accuracy, and streamline data flow are now in use by at-sea observer staff in Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, and Louisiana. The FRP Coordinator is actively working with Florida to incorporate this technology into their program in the near future. State partners observed 734 recreational reef fish trips in 2025, and 10,331 reef fish were tagged and released. Dockside surveying and the Southeast Region Headboat Survey continued successfully, contributing additional fishery-dependent data across the Gulf.

The **Gulf At-Sea Observer Data Warehouse** continued to serve as a centralized hub for observer data storage, validation, and access. Partners and stakeholders were able to request and access data through the warehouse in 2025, and several areas for improvement were identified. Plans are underway to work with the developer in 2026 to implement those improvements.



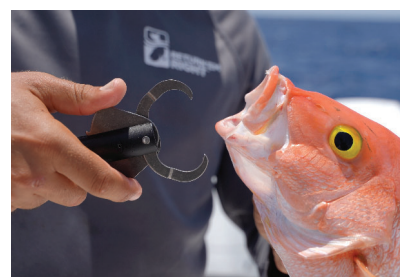
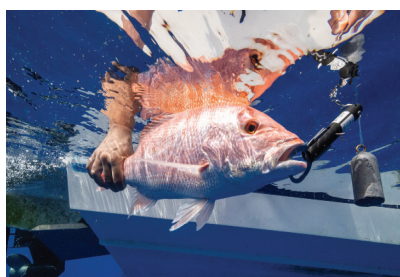


Photos used for this report courtesy: Return 'Em Right

As part of RER outreach efforts led by Florida Sea Grant, thousands of recreational anglers and charter captains Gulf-wide have completed an online training regarding best release practices for reef fish. As a result, RER has distributed over 50,000 descending devices to trained anglers.

Looking Ahead

In another major program milestone, the Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group announced approval of Restoration Plan 4, which includes funding to expand RER for an additional 15 years. The first phase of expansion will continue to focus on reef fish while extending the program's reach into the South Atlantic region. Future plans also include completing planned improvements to the Gulf At-Sea Observer Data Warehouse and continuing to identify opportunities to strengthen fishery-dependent data collection through innovative approaches. The FRP hopes to work with program partners to communicate the latest science and educate anglers on best release practices, which will help anglers make informed decisions that improve the survival of released fish.



76TH ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

The Annual Meeting of the Commission is traditionally held during the third week in October and rotated among the five Gulf states for Commissioners to better familiarize themselves with the fisheries and coastal areas of the entire Gulf. The Executive Committee in October 2023 decided to discontinue annual spring meetings during March. Upon written request by a majority of the Commissioners for each state from three or more states, the Chairman shall call for a special meeting. Minutes may be viewed on the Commission website.

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission held its **Seventy-Sixth Annual Meeting** during late October 2025 at Biloxi. Nearly 150 leaders from the marine fisheries industry participated in the weeklong gathering in Coastal Mississippi.

The following summary explains some of the topics discussed and actions taken by specific committees and subcommittees:

The Commission's Annual Meeting had already been planned prior to a federal government shutdown. As a result, federal committee members could not be present, and several agenda items had to be tabled or were shortened.

The **FIN Committee** gave a presentation about the AL and MS Creel survey transition process, and both states remain pleased with how the LA Creel methodology is performing. Another presentation demonstrated the progress of developing a state recreational survey data warehouse under GulfFIN along with a discussion about available funding for data system improvements within state agencies. The Committee discussed progress of developing a revised version of the Southeast For-Hire Integrated Electronic Reporting (SEFHIER) program. Gulf Council staff also asked committee members about the feasibility of creating a data reporting system for deep-water grouper complex as current recreational estimates are highly imprecise.

The **Artificial Reef Subcommittee** met to address archaeological survey requirements, ship reefing opportunities through the U.S. Maritime Administration, and management of private aids to navigation for inshore reefs. State program updates reflected steady reef development activity across the Gulf, including ongoing permitting challenges, platform acceptances, vessel deployments, and new habitat construction and monitoring efforts. Keith Mille and Rachel Parmer were elected as Chair and Vice-chair, respectively.

During the **Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee** meeting, members received state-level updates on oyster resource status, restoration, aquaculture programs, and regulatory developments. Members also received a presentation on the Regional Shellfish Seed Biosecurity Program and discussed protocols for managing interstate shellfish seed transfers. The committee addressed health and safety topics, including coordination with media to ensure accurate public reporting of foodborne illness events.

The **Menhaden Advisory Committee** reviewed landings and seasonal trends for 2025, received updates on the Menhaden Port Sampling as taken over by Commission staff from NOAA. The committee was also provided a report on the Commission's program for electronic reporting of the Captain's Daily Fishing Reports (CDFRs) by industry. LGL Ecological Research Associates reviewed the Louisiana Purse Seine Bycatch study. The group discussed the sampling protocols and the overall results, which had previously been presented during the MAC's spring webinar.



The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission convened for its 76th Annual Meeting from October 27-30, 2025 inside Golden Nugget Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi. The Technical Coordinating Committee, as pictured, met October 29.

The **Technical Coordinating Committee** (TCC) met to review ongoing initiatives and emerging priorities across the Gulf region. A **General Session** focused on Integrated Multi-trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) with presentations focusing on IMTA development in the Gulf and successful use of this technique in other regions. TCC members also received VESL commercial reporting updates, and a progress report on SuRF projects from all five Gulf states. Members were updated on state recreational creel programs and a new GSMFC–NOAA Fisheries observer data agreement. And, reports summarizing the Artificial Reef, Crab, GulfFIN, Molluscan Shellfish, and SEAMAP subcommittee meetings were delivered.

The TCC approved a motion to develop a standardized stock enhancement reporting template. In addition, the TCC approved Striped Mullet as the next Gulf-wide species to receive a profile developed by a Technical Task Force.

Of note, the Commission during its business meeting in October 2024 had decided to reschedule its Seventy-Sixth Annual Meeting from the third week of October 2025 to the fifth week.

STATE AGENCY PARTNER ACTIVITIES

The five Gulf state agencies continued to work in 2025 on projects and panels through the Commission's programs. Highlights of those Commission-related activities are mentioned on this page.



FIN: In 2025, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida actively participated in coordination of the MRIP survey for recreational harvest and effort estimation. GulfFIN staff interacted with LDWF staff on the collection of LA Creel data and TPWD staff on the collection of Texas Creel survey data. The commercial trip ticket program is also fully implemented and remains ongoing for all Gulf states.

IJF: The five state agencies provided representation on the Mangrove Snapper Technical Task Force and the Black Drum Technical Task Force. The states also continued work on IJF specific projects under the SuRF (State Research Funds) program. These included monitoring and data collection activities intended to fill gaps in knowledge for various IJF species in the region needed for management. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) continued to work with IJF staff and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on various fish tagging efforts (Tripletail, Mangrove Snapper, and Cobia).

SEAMAP: SEAMAP operations continued for the forty-fourth consecutive year. State partners participated in data collection surveys as well as Subcommittee and work group meetings throughout the year.

SFRP: The Commission continued to represent the Gulf states and the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species (GSARP) as an active member of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF), helping guide national strategies to address aquatic invasive species. In 2025, GSARP member states continued administrative responsibilities of the Panel. This successful approach resulted in a significant cost savings.

FRP: Staff from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), MDMR, and FWC met regularly to coordinate data collection methods for at-sea observer programs and state reef fish validation surveys. These meetings are essential to ensure consistency and compatibility across Gulf-wide monitoring efforts. The same staff also provided review and feedback for improvements and enhancement of e-measuring board software and the data warehouse. ADCNR's Marine Resources Division provided key training and resources for new samplers assigned to Louisiana and Texas ports, and FWC staff, including instruction on field protocols and use of electronic measuring boards. All participating states contributed generously to support and streamline the expansion of observer data collection across the region.

LYLES-SIMPSON AWARD

2025 Recipient - Lance Robinson

Since 1984, the Commission has recognized an individual, agency, or organization for contributing to the betterment of Gulf fisheries via significant biological, industrial, legislative, enforcement, or administrative activities. Originally the “Charles H. Lyles Award”, the “Lyles-Simpson Award” is named in honor of former executive directors Charles H. Lyles and Larry B. Simpson. Recipients are awarded during the Annual Meeting each October. Open nominations for the newest recipient are made by the full Commission prior to adjournment of business.

Born in Anniston, Alabama and raised in Huntsville, **Lance Robinson** developed a life-long fascination with marine life and dreamed of being a coral reef ecologist. He earned a Master of Science from Fairleigh Dickinson University (New Jersey) via the West Indies Laboratory in the U.S. Virgin Islands and a Bachelor of Science from Auburn University.

Robinson was research faculty for Auburn’s Marine Research and Extension Center in Mobile before his family relocated in 1991 to Houston, Texas where he began a 29-year career with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). He served as an ecosystem biologist at Seabrook Marine Laboratory under the Coastal Fisheries Division, the Upper Coast Regional Director, and Director of Field Operations/Deputy Division Director respectively before retiring in 2020. He helped relocate the Seabrook lab to Dickinson and also oversaw construction of the Port O’Connor Marine Laboratory. His skills in managing federal disaster relief funds following Hurricane Ike (2008) enabled TPWD to advance oyster habitat mapping via a new Habitat Assessment Team.

In addition to policy and regulation development for recreational and commercial fisheries, Lance helped progress oyster management by creating a cultivated oyster (off-bottom) mariculture program. He has also served on the National Marine Fisheries Service’s Eastern Oyster Biological Review Team, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Gulf Council, and the National Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtle Recovery Team. Today, Robinson remains active on the Gulf Council’s Coastal Migratory Pelagics Advisory Panel as a resident of Pelham, Alabama.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

Charles H. Lyles	1984
Theodore B. Ford	1985
J.Y. Christmas	1986
John Breaux	1987
John Ray Nelson	1988
I.B. “Buck” Byrd	1989
Hugh A. Swingle	1990
John A. Mehos	1991
J. Burton Angelle	1992
Louis A. Villanova	1993
Theodore H. Shepard	1994
Edwin A. Joyce, Jr.	1995
Tommy D. Candies	1996
Walter M. Tatum	1997

Thomas L. Heffernan	1998
Trent Lott	1999
James Barkuloo	2000
Walter Fondren, III	2001
Jerald K. Waller	2002
Andrew J. Kemmerer	2003
Hal Osburn	2004
Leroy Kiffe	2005
Robert P. Jones	2006
Wayne E. Swingle	2007
Ralph Rayburn	2008
W. “Corky” Perret	2009

Albert L. King, Sr.	2010
Virginia “Ginny” Vail	2011
R. Vernon Minton	2012
Larry B. Simpson	2013
Michael C. Voisin	2014
Ellie F. Roche	2015
Michael S. Ray	2016
Joseph I. Gill, Jr.	2017
Christopher M. Blankenship	2018
William Borden Wallace	2019
Harriet MacGill Perry	2020
Thomas McIlwain	2022
Joseph Albert Shepard	2023
Gary Lynn Graham	2024

**Due to COVID restrictions and virtual meetings, no recipient was chosen for 2021.*

FINANCIAL REPORT

Angela R. Rabideau, Senior Accountant

The Commission annually conducts a Single Audit 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 financial and compliance components. A segment of the audited financial statements is published below and continues on the next page. The final audit report is available for review by request to the Commission.

YEAR IN REVIEW

The following presents a summary of net position for 2025 and 2024 ending December 31. Detailed financial statements are available upon request at the Commission's main office.

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	DECEMBER 31,	
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Current Assets	\$ 135,296	\$ 474,623
Non-Current Assets		
Post-Employment Health Plan Investment Account	\$ 431,242	\$ 379,871
Capital Assets	<u>108,472</u>	<u>148,978</u>
Total Non-Current Assets	\$ <u>539,714</u>	\$ <u>528,849</u>
Total Assets	\$ 675,010	\$1,003,472
Current Liabilities	\$ 280,638	\$ (780)
Non-Current Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 280,638	\$ (780)
Net Position		
Investment in Capital Assets	\$ 108,472	\$ 148,978
Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>285,900</u>	<u>855,274</u>
Total Net Position	\$ 394,372	\$1,004,472

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	DECEMBER 31,	
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
General Revenues		
Member State Appropriation	\$135,000	\$135,000
Council Activities	50,000	50,000
Other Income	2,600	-
Interest Income	169	-
Dividend Income	35,656	24,878
Post Employment Health Plan Revenue	-	8,445
Registration Fees	8,680	9,136
Realized/Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	16,442	12,051
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets	2,207	4,324
Program Revenues		
Collection & Dissemination of Recreational & Commercial Fisheries Information Network	4,166,848	8,659,820
Biological Sampling & Head Boat Sampling	-	574,101
Unallied Science Programs	1,539,588	1,174,762
Interjurisdictional Fisheries Management	1,226,679	1,553,030
Coordination of Recreational Fisheries Programs	139,027	229,851
Collection & Dissemination of Fishery-Independent Data & Information	336,986	853,199
SEAMAP Supplemental	-	86,005
Fisheries Restoration Project	1,136,827	1,001,002
CARES Act Recovery	-	3,434,505
Study of Aquatic Nuisances	28,599	33,155
LA Purse Seine	569,890	426,089
Shrimp Data Collection	75,582	266,958
Inflation Reduction Act	912,269	304,239
GOMA Derelict Crab	201,492	112,514
Louisiana/Texas For-Hire Observer	269,847	723
Gulf Fisheries Research	646	-
Red Snapper Research	5,641	
Total Revenues	<u>\$10,860,675</u>	<u>\$18,953,787</u>
Expenses		
Programs	\$11,173,216	\$19,365,598
General and Administrative	297,339	201,537
Total Expenses	<u>\$11,470,555</u>	<u>\$19,567,135</u>
Change in Net Position	(609,880)	(613,348)
Net Position, Beginning	<u>\$1,004,252</u>	<u>\$1,617,600</u>
Net Position, Ending	<u>\$394,372</u>	<u>\$1,004,252</u>
Revenue		
Programs	\$10,609,921	\$18,709,953
General and Administrative	250,754	243,834
Expenses	(\$11,470,555)	(\$19,567,135)
Change in Net Assets	(\$609,880)	(\$613,348)
Net Position, Beginning	<u>\$1,004,252</u>	<u>\$1,617,600</u>
Net Position, Ending	<u>\$394,372</u>	<u>\$1,004,252</u>

COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

A comprehensive index of Commission publications is managed and archived by Keith Wilson. Although publications are available on the Commission's website, printed originals may be available for inspection upon request during regular business hours.

In addition, an electronic repository of data, research papers, and other literature referenced for developing Profiles, FMPs, and other publications, including material from internal and external sources, is continually updated by staff. The Commission's website features a database with SEO keywords and links for downloading complete abstracts where available.

The Commission completed the following publications in 2025:

- No. 339, December 2025.** *Annual Report to the Technical Coordinating Committee October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025.* Ted Switzer, Chairman and Jeffrey K. Rester (Editor). SEAMAP Subcommittee, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 338, October 2025.** *Gulf Commercial Fisheries Summit Report.* Jeffrey K. Rester (Editor). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 337, September 2025.** *Awareness, Attitudes, Perceptions, and Use of Best Release Practices by Recreational Reef Anglers in the Gulf of America (formerly the Gulf of Mexico) 2024 Update.* Southwick Associates (Editor). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 336, August 2025.** *Law Summary 2024: Marine Fishing Laws & Regulations for the Gulf States and the South Atlantic.* Keith Wilson (Editor). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 335, July 2025.** *2024 Licenses and Fees for Marine Waters in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.* Keith Wilson (Editor). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 334, June 2025.** *Gulf FIN Recreational Data Standards and Data Warehouse Workshop, February 4-5, 2025.* Gregg Bray (Editor). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 333, May 2025.** *Annual Report of the Fisheries Information Network in the Southeast Region (FIN) January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024.* Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 332, March 2025.** *Red Snapper Recreational Discard Data Quality Improvement Workshop, July 30-August 1, 2024.* Gregg Bray (Editor). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 331, March 2025.** *Recreational Fishing Effort Estimation Improvement Workshop, June 4-6, 2024.* Gregg Bray (Editor). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 330, March 2025.** *Management Profile for Gray (Mangrove) Snapper in the Southeastern United States.* Steven J. VanderKooy and Jeffrey K. Rester (Editors). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.
- No. 329, January 2025.** *Law Summary 2023: Summary of Marine Fishing Laws and Regulations for the Gulf States and the South Atlantic.* Keith Wilson (Editor). Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

CREDITS

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Publishing Editors of this Seventy-Sixth Annual Report for 2025 would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the following individuals who have provided images for exclusive use by the Commission, specifically on the cover of this publication.



Cover Photos:

- A. Delores Hall
- B. Thomas Anthony Thompson
- C. Richard Schmidt
- D. Return 'Em Right
- E. Jeff Rester/GSMFC
- F. Delores Hall
- G. Jeff Howard



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