

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

77th ANNUAL MEETING



OCTOBER 12 - 15, 2026

**Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa
Miramar Beach, Florida**

**Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
77th Annual Meeting**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, October 12, 2026

Room

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Coral Registration Desk
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee Meeting <i>Rachel Parmer, Vice Chair</i>	Sandpiper B
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Welcome Reception	Sunrise Deck

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Room

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Coral Registration Desk
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee Meeting <i>Rachel Parmer, Vice Chair</i>	Sandpiper B
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	GulfFIN Committee <i>Nicole Beckham, Chair</i>	Coral Ballroom A & B
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee <i>Ted Switzer, Chair</i>	Sandpiper D
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	TCC Crab Subcommittee <i>Claire McIntyre, Chair</i>	Sandpiper C
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Luncheon	Coral Ballroom C & D
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	TCC Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee <i>Jason Herrmann, Chair</i>	Sandpiper B
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	S/FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee <i>Ben Landry, Chair</i>	Sandpiper C
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Lyles-Simpson Award Dinner/Reception 2026 Recipient – <i>Jerry Sansom</i>	Coral Ballroom C & D

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
77th Annual Meeting

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Room

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Coral Registration Desk
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	TCC General Session “Telemetry”	Coral Ballroom A & B
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Technical Coordinating Committee – Business <i>Nicole Beckham, Chair</i>	Coastal Ballroom A
8:30 am – 2:30 pm	GSMFC Law Enforcement Committee/ Gulf Council’s Law Enforcement Technical Committee <i>Les Casterline, Chair</i>	Sandpiper D
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Luncheon	Coral Ballroom C & D
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Advisory Committee <i>Dominique Seibert, Chair</i>	Sandpiper B & C
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Reception	Emerald Ballroom E

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Room

7:00 am – 8:30 am	Executive Committee Breakfast	Sandpiper A
8:30 am – 12:00 pm	State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee <i>Luiz Barbieri, Chair</i>	Coral Ballroom A & B
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Commissioners’ Luncheon	Sandpiper B & C
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Commission Business Meeting <i>Jason Froeba, Chair</i>	Coral Ballroom A & B

Monday, October 12, 2026

**TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee Meeting
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Rachel Parmer, Vice Chair*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Rachel Parmer*
3. Approval of Minutes (March 31, 2026) – *Rachel Parmer*
4. Torch Technologies SINEX Program – *Skyler Courtney*
5. Discussion of State Management of PATON – *Paul Steiner*

--BREAK--

6. Progress and Challenges with Reefing SS *United States* – *Alex Fogg*
7. Quantifying Blue Carbon in the Rio Grande Valley Artificial Reef – *Dr. Richard Kline*

--RECESS--

Meeting Room: Sandpiper B

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

**TCC Artificial Reef Subcommittee Meeting (Cont'd)
8:30 am – 12:00 pm**

8. Call to Order – *Rachel Parmer*
9. Overview of Artificial Reef Activities – *All*
 - a. Texas
 - b. Louisiana
 - c. Mississippi
 - d. Alabama
 - e. Florida

--BREAK--

10. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Update – *Jasmine Baloch*
11. Election of Officers
 - a. Chairman – Florida Rotation
 - b. Vice Chairman – Texas Rotation
12. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Sandpiper B

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

**GulfFIN Committee Meeting
8:30 am – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Nicole Beckham, Chair*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Nicole Beckham*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 28, 2025) – *Nicole Beckham*
4. East Coast Logbook Project Presentation – *Dave Gloeckner*
5. Pathways for Collecting Federal Commercial Landings Data – *Dave Gloeckner/Alan Lowther*

--BREAK--

6. Louisiana Trip Ticket Discussion – *Mike Harden*
7. Aquaculture Data: Discussion on Improving the Completeness in GulfFIN and Updating Shellfish Conversion Factors – *Clete Otoshi*
8. NOAA Fisheries Update – *Richard Cody*
 - a. FES Transition Update
 - b. National Data Standards Discussion
9. Update on SEFHIER Development Discussions/Discussion of State Surveys as a Validation Method – *Lisa Hollensead/Jessica Stephen*

--LUNCH--

10. Update on Epigenetic Ageing Research – *Dr. David Portnoy*
11. Discussion Regarding RAPID Gulf Workshop – *Gregg Bray*
12. Red Snapper Recreational Research Projects Update – *Gregg Bray*
13. Data Warehouse Improvement Funding Discussion – *Gregg Bray*
14. State Recreational Data Warehouse Development – *Dalton Powell*

--BREAK--

15. GulfFIN Funding Priorities for 2027 – *Gregg Bray*
16. Election of Officers – *All*
17. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Coral Ballroom A & B

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

**TCC Crab Subcommittee Meeting
8:30 am – 12:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Claire McIntyre, Chair*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *All*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 28, 2025) – *All*
4. Assessing Population Declines in Blue Crabs to Inform Better Fisheries Management Action in Texas – *Dr. Hui Liu*
5. Terrapin/Bycatch – *All*
 - a. Potential USGS - Commission Synthesis Project – *Dr. Meg Lamont*
- NCEAS, USGS Powell Center, and Independent Gulf-based Workshops
 - b. Ongoing Fishery - Independent Projects – *All*

--BREAK--

6. Population Monitoring Using Traffic Light Analysis App – *Dr. Robert Leaf*
7. State Derelict Trap Clean-up Updates – *All*
8. Summary of Written Reports – *All*
9. Election of Officers – *All*
10. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Sandpiper C

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

**TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee Meeting
8:30 am – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order – *Ted Switzer, Chair*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Ted Switzer*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 28, 2025) – *Ted Switzer*
4. Advancing eDNA Operations for Fisheries Monitoring – *Dr. Matt Campbell*
5. Administrative Report – *Jeff Rester*
6. Review of All SEAMAP 2026 Sampling – *All*
 - a. Spring Plankton Survey
 - b. Bottom Longline Survey
 - c. Reef Fish Survey
 - d. Summer Shrimp/Groundfish Survey
 - e. Fall Plankton Survey
 - f. Fall Shrimp/Groundfish Survey

--BREAK--

7. Future SEAMAP Reef Fish Sampling – *Ted Switzer*
 - a. Update on Legislative Budget Request
 - b. Reef Fish Database Status
 - c. 2026 Video Reading and 2027 Field Sampling
 - d. 2027 Reef Fish Workshop
 - e. Review of Habitat Mapping Capabilities and Future Needs
8. Development of a NOAA Tech Memo Discussing Importance of SEAMAP Surveys – *Jeff Rester*
9. FWRI SEAMAP Collections Status and Potential Letter of Support – *Ted Switzer*
10. Evaluating Potential Survey Reductions in Response to Reduced Funding Levels – *All*
11. SEAMAP Groundfish Data Updates – *Adam Pollack*
 - a. Responsibility for Updates
 - b. Frequency of Updates
 - c. Best Practices for Updating Species Data
12. Future of SEAMAP Groundfish Collection Programs (TRiP, SEAL) – *Adam Pollack*
13. Future of SEAMAP Plankton Surveys – *Frank Hernandez*
14. Possible SEAMAP Publication Topics – *All*
15. Election of Officers
16. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Sandpiper D

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

**State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee
Menhaden Advisory Committee Meeting
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Ben Landry, Chair*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *All*
3. Approval of Minutes (March 31, 2026) – *All*
4. Review of 2025 Gulf Menhaden Season and Forecast for 2026 – *Steve VanderKooy*
5. Update on the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery – *Ben Landry*
6. Report on Texas Cap for 2026 – *Carey Gelpi*
7. Menhaden as Prey Using DNA Barcoding of Predator Gut Contents in Louisiana
– *Dr. Justine Whitaker*

--BREAK--

8. GSMFC Menhaden Data Program – *Steve VanderKooy*
 - a. CDFR Electronic Reporting for 2026/2027
 - b. Port Sample Acquisition and Processing in 2026/2027
9. Marine Stewardship Certification of Gulf Menhaden Updates – *Peter Himchak*
10. Final Discussion and Adoption of Menhaden Advisory Committee SOPs – *All*
11. Discussion of Current Bait Effort in Gulf – *All*
12. Election of Officers – *All*
 - a. Chair – State Rotation
 - b. Vice Chair – Federal Rotation
13. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

**TCC Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee Meeting
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Jason Herrmann, Chair*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Jason Herrmann*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 28, 2025) – *Jason Herrmann*
4. Finalize the Gulf Oyster Reporting Typology/Gulf Oyster Metrics Document – *All*
5. Update and Discussion on Time-Temperature Matrix Working Group – *All*

--BREAK--

6. ISSC January 2027 Coordination/Preview – *All*
7. Gulf Oyster Consortium Results of Seed Line Research – *Heather King*
8. Election of Officers
 - a. Chair – Mississippi Rotation
 - b. Vice Chair – Louisiana Rotation
9. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Sandpiper B

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

**Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting
8:30 am – 5:00 pm**

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Nicole Beckham, Chair*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Nicole Beckham*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 29, 2025) – *Nicole Beckham*
4. Fish Telemetry in the Gulf of America
 - a. Welcome – *Steve VanderKooy*
 - b. Overview of Tagging 101 – *Dr. Lucas Griffin*
 - c. Species Under Study
 1. Sheepshead – *Dr. Michael Andres*
 2. Mangrove Snapper – *Josh Perry*
 3. Black Drum – *Alyssa Pagel*
 4. Flounder – *Dr. Dylan Kiene*
 5. Tripletail – *Eric Gigli*

--BREAK--

6. Tarpon – *Dr. Michael Dance*
 7. Cobia – *Dr. Sean Powers*
- d. GEI Historic Cobia Tagging Project – *Dr. Meg Lamont*
- e. Panel Q&A – *All*

--RECESS--

Meeting Room: Coral Ballroom A & B

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

5. Discussion of Marine Stock Enhancement Data & Reports – *All*
6. Update on MS/AL Creel – *Eric Gigli/John Mareska*
7. Update and Discussion of Recreational Angler Partnership Improvement Directive (RAPID)
– *Tim Sartwell*
8. Update and Discussion of Inland Essential Fish Habitat Boundary – *Matt Johnson/Noah Claflin*
9. Overview of Southeast Fishery Observer Program – *Scott Leach*
10. IJF Updates – *Steve VanderKooy*
 - a. 2027 Proposed SuRF Projects
 - b. Discussion and Approval of Black Drum Management Profile

--BREAK--

Meeting Room: Coastal Ballroom A

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

**Technical Coordinating Committee Meeting
8:30 am – 5:00 pm (Cont'd)**

11. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Artificial Reef – *Rachel Parmer*
 - b. Crab – *Jason Saucier*
 - c. GulfFIN – *Nicole Beckham*
 - d. Molluscan Shellfish – *Jason Herrmann*
 - e. SEAMAP – *Ted Switzer*
12. Partner Highlights
 - a. Texas
 - b. Louisiana
 - c. Mississippi
 - d. Alabama
 - e. Florida
 - f. NOAA Fisheries
 - g. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - h. U.S. Geological Survey
13. Election of Officers
 - a. Chair – Mississippi Rotation
 - b. Vice Chair – Louisiana Rotation
14. Other Business
 - a. Introduction of Gulf Cooperative Institute Fostering Aquaculture Research and Marketing
– *Dr. Eric Saillant*

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Coastal Ballroom A

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

**GSMFC Law Enforcement Committee/
Gulf Council's Law Enforcement Technical Committee Meeting**

General Session: 8:30 am – 2:30 pm

1. Introductions and Adoption of Agenda – *Les Casterline, Chair*
2. Approval of Minutes (October 29, 2025 – Closed Session and General Session) – *Les Casterline*
3. Summary from Joint ASMFC/GSMFC Session (May 5-6, 2026) – *All*

Gulf Council LETC Items:

4. Hook Limitations on Commercial Longline Vessels – *Assane Diagne*
5. Crew Size Restrictions for Dually Permitted Vessels – *Assane Diagne*
6. Discussion on JEA Activities – *Les Casterline*
7. Election of Joint Officers

--BREAK--

GSMFC LEC Items:

8. Future Joint OLE/Enforcement JEA Meetings – *All*
9. Future GSMFC/ASMFC Joint LE Committees Meetings – *All*
10. IJF Program Activity – *Steve VanderKooy*
 - a. Black Drum Profile Status
 - b. Striped Mullet Profile
 - c. Commission Publications
 - 1) Annual Law Summary
 - 2) License and Fees
11. Partner Report Highlights – *All*
 - a. Florida
 - b. Alabama
 - c. Mississippi
 - d. Louisiana
 - e. Texas
 - f. USCG
 - g. NOAA OLE
 - h. USFWS
12. Other Business

Closed Session: 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

1. Introductions – *Les Casterline, Chair*
2. Case Work Discussion – *All*
3. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Sandpiper D

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

**Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Advisory Committee Meeting
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Dominique Seibert, Chair*
2. Approval of Minutes – *All*
3. Gulf Sea Grant Fisheries Extension State Reports
 - a. Florida – *Angela Collins/Michael Sipos*
 - b. Mississippi/Alabama – *Marcus Drymon/Amanda Jefferson*
 - c. Louisiana – *Dominique Seibert/Jeff Plumlee*
 - d. Texas – *Alexis Sabine/Laura Picariello*

--BREAK--

4. Regional Topics Discussion – *All*
 - a. USDA Office of Seafood
 - b. Regional Projects and SG Collaborations
 - c. Other
5. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Sandpiper B & C

Thursday, October 15, 2026

**State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee Meeting
8:30 am – 12:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Luiz Barbieri, Chair*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Luiz Barbieri*
3. Approval of Minutes (April 30, 2026) – *Luiz Barbieri*
4. Discussion and Final Approval of IJ State Research Funding for 2027 – *Steve VanderKooy*
5. Discussion of GulfFIN and SEAMAP Funding Activities for 2027
– *Gregg Bray/Jeff Rester*
6. Menhaden Advisory Committee Report – *Steve VanderKooy*
7. Approval of Menhaden Advisory Committee SOPs – *Steve VanderKooy*

--BREAK--

8. Update and Discussion of Recreational Angler Partnership Improvement Directive (RAPID)
– *Tim Sartwell*
9. Update on Recreational Survey Analysis Project – *Gregg Bray*
10. Update on Epigenetic Ageing Research – *Dr. David Portnoy*
11. Discussion of State Capabilities for Federal Biosampling Assistance – *Gregg Bray*
12. Election of Officers
13. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Coral Ballroom A & B

Thursday, October 15, 2026

**Commission Business Meeting
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Introductions – *Jason Froeba, Chair*
 - Brief Overview of Commission Voting Procedures – *Dave Donaldson*
2. Adoption of Agenda – *Jason Froeba*
3. Approval of Minutes (October 30, 2025) – *Jason Froeba*
4. GSMFC Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Law Enforcement Committee – *Les Casterline*
 - b. Technical Coordinating Committee – *Nicole Beckham*
 1. Artificial Reef Subcommittee
 2. Crab Subcommittee
 3. GulfFIN Committee
 4. Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee
 5. SEAMAP Subcommittee
 - c. State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee – *Luiz Barbieri*
 1. IJ State Research Funding Priorities
 2. GulfFIN and SEAMAP Funding Updates
 3. Menhaden Advisory Committee
5. Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Meeting Report – *Dominique Siebert*
6. NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Comments – *Jessica Stephen*
7. USFWS Region 4 Office Comments – *James Ballard*
8. NOAA Fisheries Budget Update – *Dave Donaldson*
- BREAK --
9. Update on Commission/USGS Partnership – *Steve VanderKooy*
10. Update on NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Projects – *Jeff Rester*
11. Selection of 2027 Lyles-Simpson Award Recipient – *All*
12. GSMFC Program Reports
 - a. Interjurisdictional Fisheries Program – *Steve VanderKooy*
 - b. Aquaculture Program – *Steve VanderKooy*
 - c. Gulf Fishery-Independent Research Project – *Steve VanderKooy*
 - d. SEAMAP – *Jeff Rester*
 - e. Sportfish Restoration Program – *Charlie Robertson*
 - f. Fisheries Restoration Program – *Charlie Robertson*
 - g. Fisheries Information Network – *Gregg Bray*
 - h. Data Infrastructure and Research Project – *Gregg Bray*
 - i. Fisheries Observer Support – *Gregg Bray*

Meeting Room: Coral Ballroom A & B

Thursday, October 15, 2026

**Commission Business Meeting
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

13. Executive Committee Report – *Jason Froeba*
 - a. GSMFC Audit
 - b. Financial Statement (9/2026)
 - c. FY2027 Budget
 - d. Staff Compensation
14. State Directors' Reports
 - a. Florida – *Dan Ellinor*
 - b. Alabama – *John Mareska*
 - c. Mississippi – *Joe Spraggins*
 - d. Louisiana – *Jason Froeba*
 - e. Texas – *Christopher Mace*
15. Future Meetings – *Nancy Marcellus*
 - a. October 18-21, 2027 – Texas
 - b. October 16-19, 2028 – Louisiana
16. Review of Committee Listings by State – *All*
17. Publications List – *Dave Donaldson*
18. Election of Officers
 - a. Chair – Mississippi Rotation
 - b. 1st Vice Chair – Florida Rotation
 - c. 2nd Vice Chair – Texas Rotation
19. Other Business

--ADJOURN--

Meeting Room: Coral Ballroom A & B

SOCIAL EVENTS*

Monday, October 12, 2026

Room

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Welcome Reception

Sunrise Deck

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Lyles-Simpson Award Dinner/Reception
2026 Recipient – *Jerry Sansom*

Coral Ballroom C & D

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Reception

Emerald Ballroom E

***You must be registered for the meeting to attend these functions.**

Name badge required.

NOTES

NOTES

STAFF

Dave Donaldson

Alyssa Mathers

Nancy Marcellus

Serena Ahrens

Cheryl Noble

Brad Smith

Steve VanderKooy

Samantha Peterson

Jeff Rester

Celine Guerrero

Gregg Bray

Jake Bruning

Joe Ferrer, III

Kenzie Forgie

Deanna Valentine

Meghan Miller

Donna Bellais

Ali Wilhelm

Angie Rabideau

Ashley Lott

Charlie Robertson, III

Dalton Powell

Keith Wilson

Michael Brochard

Bethany Bell

COMMISSIONERS AND PROXIES

ALABAMA

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Montgomery, AL 36130-1901

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ADCNR, Marine Resources Division
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Senator David Sessions
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Chris Nelson
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Roger Young
FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
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TBA – Legislative

TBA – Private Citizen

LOUISIANA

Tyler Bosworth
Secretary
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Jason Froeba
LDWF
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Representative Troy Hebert
3639 Ambassador Caffery Parkway, Suite 214
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Tyler Hibbs
2413 Mallard Street
Slidell, LA 70460

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TBA – Legislative

Read Hendon
Ocean Springs, MS

TEXAS

David Yoskowitz, Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

proxy: Christopher Mace
TPWD
4300 Waldron Road
Corpus Christi, TX 78418

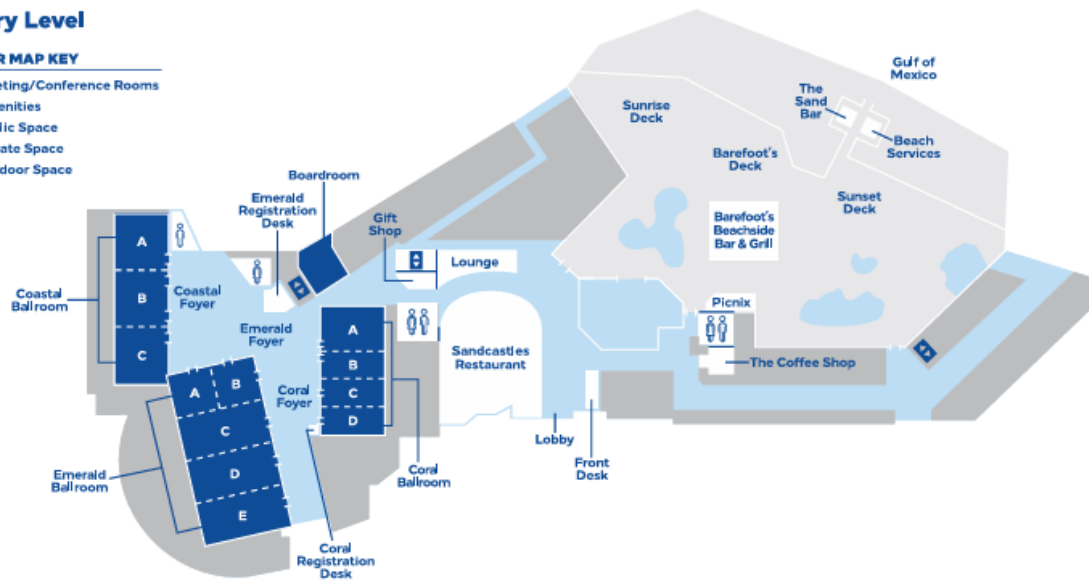
TBA – Legislative

Doug Boyd
739 Kreutzberg Road
Boerne, TX 78006

Entry Level

FLOOR MAP KEY

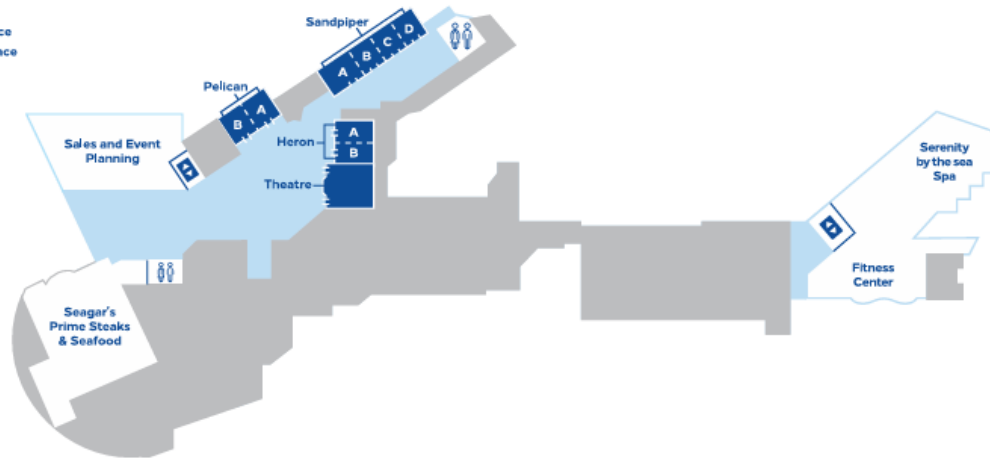
- Meeting/Conference Rooms
- Amenities
- Public Space
- Private Space
- Outdoor Space



Lower Level

FLOOR MAP KEY

- Meeting/Conference Rooms
- Amenities
- Public Space
- Private Space





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