



## **GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION**

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# **REGIONAL MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Announces \$5M Multi-State, Research Consortium for Cobia and Tripletail**

OCEAN SPRINGS, Miss. – The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) announced on Monday, January 5, the start of a \$5 million project to conduct fishery-independent research on two finfish species in the Gulf of America.

As part of the grant-funded research program, a multi-state consortium lead by Dr. Sean Powers with the University of South Alabama will involve collaboration with eight additional universities, state agencies, and private researchers to 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 GSMFC thanks those who took the time to submit proposals and looks forward to working with Dr. Powers and the Consortium on this vital project, which will contribute significantly to assessing and responsibly managing Cobia and Tripletail populations in the region..

Funding for the project is being made available from the NOAA Fisheries through the GSMFC.

For more information, please contact Steve VanderKooy at the GSMFC office.

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS/PUBLISHERS

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### **ABOUT GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION**

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) was established by an act of Congress (P.L. 81-66) in 1949 as a compact of the five Gulf States. Its charge is:

*“to promote better utilization of the fisheries, marine, shell and anadromous, of the seaboard of the Gulf of Mexico [now Gulf of America], 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.”*

The GSMFC is composed of three members from each of the five Gulf States: the head of the marine resource agency of each state, a member of the state legislature, and a citizen appointed by the governor. The GSMFC is empowered to make recommendations to the governors and legislatures of the five Gulf States on action regarding programs helpful to the management of the fisheries. The states do not relinquish any of their rights or responsibilities in regulating their own fisheries by being members of the GSMFC. Recommendations to the states are based on scientific studies made by experts employed by state and federal resource agencies and advice from law enforcement officials and the commercial and recreational fishing industries. The GSMFC is also authorized to consult with and advise the proper administrative agencies of the member states regarding fishery conservation problems. In addition, the GSMFC advises the U.S. Congress and may testify on legislation and marine policies that affect the Gulf States. One of the most important functions of the GSMFC is to serve as a forum for the discussion of various problems, issues, and programs concerning marine management.