



NOTICE OF MEETING

77th Annual Meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission October 12-15, 2026 – Miramar Beach, Florida

OCEAN SPRINGS, Miss. – The [Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission](#) will hold its 77th Annual Meeting from Monday, October 12 through Thursday, October 15, 2026 at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa in Miramar Beach, Florida. A preliminary meeting schedule, which is subject to change at any time, is included in this detailed notice. Daniel Ellinor with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is the presiding Chairman.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Commission shall convene inside the [Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa](#) (4000 Sandestin Boulevard South, Miramar Beach, FL) on the sugar white sand beaches and emerald green water of the Gulf of America. Hilton Sandestin Beach is the largest full-service beachfront resort in the area. Amenities include an award-winning Spa, Salon and Fitness Center, 6 restaurants, 1 indoor pool and 2 outdoor pools, 4 championship golf courses, 15 tennis courts, shopping and much more.

Hotel reservations must be made before September 18, 2026. Room availability is not guaranteed beyond this date. A block of rooms is being held at the negotiated room rate of **\$164.00/night** for a single or double occupancy plus applicable sales tax of 7% and occupancy tax of 5%. **The \$40 resort fee has been waived.** Hilton Sandestin requires a first night's deposit of room and tax, per room, to guarantee your reservation. All major credit cards are accepted and will be charged for the stipulated room and tax at time of reservation. Individual room deposits will be forfeited if a cancellation is received less than fourteen (14) days prior to arrival.

Early Departure Fee – In the event the guest checks out prior to the reserved checkout date, the Hotel will add an early checkout fee of one room night and tax to the guest account. To avoid an early checkout fee, advise the Hotel at or before check-in of any change in planned length of stay.

Reservations can be made by using this link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/gulfstatemarinefisheries-gsf2026/>

****Please note that the rates are subject to change based on the FY 2027 Federal per diem rates once released.****

Check-In is 4:00 p.m. and Check-Out is by 11:00 a.m. The hotel will make the best effort to accommodate requests for early check-in or late departures, based upon availability.

If you have any problems regarding accommodations, please contact Nancy Marcellus at 228.875.5912 or nmarcellus@gsmfc.org.

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING

Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa is located in the Florida Panhandle and is conveniently located close to Interstate 10 and Highway 90.

There are daily flights from three regional airports:

(VPS) Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport

(ECP) Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport

(PNS) Pensacola Regional Municipal Airport

Complimentary secured Self-Parking and Valet Parking is available at the Hilton Sandestin Resort.

REGISTRATION

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER TO RECEIVE YOUR NAME BADGE AND CONFERENCE MATERIALS.

The Commission encourages you to pre-register online at www.gsmfc.org by Friday, October 9 at NOON (CST). Under Upcoming Meetings click "Learn More" under GSMFC 77th Annual Meeting.

Guests should be included on your registration. Co-workers or associates SHOULD NOT BE REGISTERED AS GUESTS.

The registration fee is \$200 USD/per participant and \$75/per spouse or guest. Attendees with a GSMFC Travel Authorization are **EXEMPT** from paying the registration fee since your participation is included in the grant work plan. Printed registration forms may also be mailed, or faxed to (228) 875-6604. Payments may be made by cash, check, or credit card.

2026 LYLES–SIMPSON AWARD



The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission shall present its **2026 Lyles-Simpson Award** to **Jerry Sansom** from **Florida**. This annual, prestigious award recognizes an individual, agency, or organization that has contributed to the betterment of Gulf fisheries through significant biological, industrial, legislative, enforcement, or administrative activities. A program honoring Jerry and the presentation of the Lyles-Simpson Award will be held Tuesday, October 13 in the Coral Ballroom C & D. Recommended attire is business casual. A reception will be held when doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the dinner and award presentation immediately following. **Registration is required for the dinner.**

For 45 years, Jerry was the voice for and the face of the individual commercial fishermen in Florida as the Executive Director of the Organized Fishermen of Florida (OFF), tirelessly working for the rights of those who provide "Fresh From Florida Seafood." Fishermen and colleagues say Sansom's efforts are a major reason that their community has survived in Florida, despite net ban campaigns of the 1990s and continuing political and development pressures. Whether working with fishermen or politicians, Sansom was always straight with his answers and recommendations, as well as outlining options and obstacles.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

A final agenda and meeting materials will be posted on October 9, 2026
to the Commission website: <https://www.gsmfc.org/#mtg255>.

Monday, October 12, 2026

8:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Registration	<i>Coral Registration Booth</i>
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Gulf Regional Recreational Fishery Research Coordination Workshop (with an Emphasis on Mobile Bay)	<i>Coral Ballroom A & B</i>
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	TCC Artificial Reef Meeting	<i>Sandpiper B</i>
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Welcome Reception	<i>Sunrise Deck</i>

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	<i>Coral Registration Booth</i>
8:30 am – 12:00 noon	TCC Artificial Reef Meeting	<i>Sandpiper B</i>
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	FIN Committee	<i>Coral Ballroom A & B</i>
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee	<i>Sandpiper D</i>
8:30 am – 12 noon	TCC Crab Subcommittee	<i>Sandpiper C</i>
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	TCC Molluscan Shellfish Subcommittee	<i>Sandpiper B</i>
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	S/FFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee	<i>Sandpiper C</i>
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Reception/2026 Lyles-Simpson Award Dinner	<i>Coral C & D</i>

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	<i>Coral Registration Booth</i>
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	Technical Coordinating Committee General Session “Telemetry”	<i>Coral Ballroom A & B</i> <i>Coastal Ballroom A</i>
8:30 pm – 5:00 pm	LEC/LETC Meetings	<i>Sandpiper D</i>
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Sea Grant Extension Program	<i>Sandpiper B & C</i>
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Reception	<i>Emerald Ballroom E</i>

Thursday, October 15, 2026

7:00 am – 8:30 pm	Executive Committee Breakfast	<i>Sandpiper A</i>
8:00 am – 12 noon	Registration	<i>Coral Registration Booth</i>
8:00 am – 10:00 am	State/Federal Fisheries Management Committee	<i>Coral Ballroom A & B</i>
10:30 am – 12 noon	Commission Business Meeting	<i>Coral Ballroom A & B</i>
12 noon – 1:00 pm	<i>Commissioner's Luncheon</i>	<i>Sandpiper B & C</i>
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Commission Business Meeting	<i>Coral Ballroom A & B</i>

*All business meetings are open to the public (observers and media).
Attendance is recorded in the minutes for all meetings.*

Any questions concerning the 77th Annual Meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission should be relayed to Nancy Marcellus at (228) 875-5912 or nmarcellus@gsmfc.org.

We look forward to seeing you all in Miramar Beach, Florida, this October!



PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

77th Annual Meeting of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission October 12 – 15, 2026

Please complete this registration form and return with **OR** without registration fee payable to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, ATTN: Accounts Payable, 2404 Government Street, Ocean Springs, MS 39564.

Your registration packet includes a name badge, agenda book, and other conference materials. These items will be ready for pick up at Registration (Coral Registration Booth) Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa, Miramar Beach, FL starting Monday, October 12, 2026.

First & Last Name: _____

Affiliation Name: _____

Circle One: *Government Agency* *Business* *University/Nonprofit* *Media* *Other*

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Email:** _____

- ☐ Travel Authorization No. _____.
- ☐ Registration fee of \$200.00 is enclosed.
- ☐ Please pre-register me. I will pay upon arrival at the Registration Desk.

Please check events that you plan to attend:

- ☐ Welcome Reception (Monday, October 12)
- ☐ Lyles-Simpson Award Reception (Tuesday, October 13)
- ☐ Reception (Wednesday, October 14)

SPOUSE/GUEST REGISTRATION

(Do Not Register Co-workers or Associates as Guests)

Spouse's/Guest's Name: _____

- ☐ \$75.00 registration fee is enclosed.
- ☐ Please pre-register my spouse/guest. I will pay upon arrival at the Registration Desk.

Please check events that your spouse/guest plan to attend:

- ☐ Welcome Reception (Monday, October 12)
- ☐ Lyles-Simpson Award Dinner (Tuesday, October 13)
- ☐ Reception (Wednesday, October 14)