



GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gulf of Mexico Oyster Aquaculture Consortia FY2019 Funding Opportunity

Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida – The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC), in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is seeking proposals to form regionally focused research consortia that will address critical research needs surrounding oyster aquaculture.

The Gulf Commission is making approximately **\$840,000** available annually for the funding period of August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2024 (dependent on appropriations) available to support ongoing research for off-bottom oyster production in coastal areas of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. The goal is to form **Research Consortiums** that will focus research on oyster genetics, disease, environmental interactions, regulatory challenges and, economic modeling. Additionally, regional partnerships are encouraged to classify and preserve natural genetic variation in oysters. Pre-proposals must be submit as a single file by e-mail no later than **5:00 p.m. CST on Friday, March 15, 2019**. Please see the Request for Proposal (RFP) for complete details, qualifying requirements, and submission instructions. The RFP is available on the GSMFC website at <http://www.gsmfc.org/> or directly through this link at

[2019 Oyster Consortia RFP.](#)

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

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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, 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.