



GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 1, 2017

**Gulf of Mexico Marine Aquaculture Pilot Projects Grants
FY2018 Funding Opportunity**

Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida – The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) is requesting proposals to develop potential marine aquaculture projects in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico (Gulf) region. The GSMFC is making \$450,000 available for the funding period of April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019. The Commission plans to award several projects ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 each, but will give consideration to projects that can justify a greater need. Any investigator seeking support for this period must submit, as a single file, an electronic proposal by e-mail no later than **5:00 p.m. CST on Thursday, February 1, 2018**. Please see the *Request for Proposals* (RFP) for complete proposal 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

http://www.gsmfc.org/pubs/IJF/Pilot_Project_RFP.pdf.

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.