

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

David M. Donaldson, Executive Director



**State of Louisiana
State Senate**
600 Main Street, Suite 1
Franklin, LA 70538

Senator R.L. "Bret" Allain, GSMFC Chairman

MEETING NOTICE

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION 69th Annual Meeting

October 15-18, 2018 – South Padre Island, Texas

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's 69th Annual Meeting will be held October 15-18, 2018 at the Isla Grand Beach Resort. This notice contains meeting details, including the preliminary meeting schedule. All of the business meetings scheduled during this week are open to the public, free of charge. Please note the preliminary schedule is subject to change. R. L. "Bret" Allain, Louisiana State Senate, is the presiding Chairman of the Commission.

ACCOMODATIONS: Texas is our host state and arrangements have been made to convene at the Isla Grand Beach Resort (500 Padre Boulevard, South Padre Island, Texas 78597). The Isla Grand Beach Resort is the premier resort along the Texas Gulf Coast. Located right on the beach, in the southern portion of South Padre Island, the Isla Grand is easy to find and conveniently located near all of South Padre's top attractions. This beachfront resort offers 10 acres of plush tropical foliage giving the oasis like paradise appearance. Isla Grand has great onsite amenities such as two swimming pools, hot tubs, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, restaurants, nightclub, gift shop, outdoor-burger shack grill, coffee shop, activities and more. The Isla Grand also provides 24-hour security, complimentary self-parking, no resort fees, and high speed internet in all meeting and sleeping rooms.

A block of rooms is being held at the negotiated room rate of **\$93.00** plus city hotel/state/city and county venue tax (currently 17%). Reservations can be made online at www.islagrand.com with the group code **1810GSFISH**. You can also contact the Isla Grand directly at 800.292.7704 or 956.761.6511. Hotel reservations must be made before **Thursday, September 20, 2018**. **Room availability will not be guaranteed beyond this date.** Please be aware that you must guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or one night's advance payment and you must notify the hotel of any cancellation **72 hours prior to arrival** or you will be billed one night's room plus tax. **If you have any problems regarding accommodations, please contact Nancy Marcellus at 228.875.5912 or nmarcellus@gsmfc.org.**

TRANSPORTATION: Nestled between Harlingen and Brownsville, South Padre Island is 37 miles from Valley International Airport and 22 miles from Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport.

The South Padre Shuttle provides service between Valley International Airport and South Padre Island for \$35/One-Way Per Passenger. For more information or to book reservations, visit their website at www.SouthPadreShuttle.com or call 877. 774.0050.

There are 3 FREE shuttle services operating at the Brownsville airport: Valley Metro 800.574.8322, Island Metro 855.220.8827 and Metro Connect (formerly The WAVE) 956.761.8178. Check the Brownsville airport website at <http://flybrownsville.com/transportation/airport-island-shuttle> for shuttle departure times.

LYLES – SIMPSON AWARD: The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission is pleased to announce that the 2018 Lyles-Simpson Award has been awarded to Chris Blankenship. This prestigious Award is presented annually to an individual, agency, or organization which has contributed to the betterment of the fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico through significant biological, industrial, legislative, enforcement, or administrative activities.



Chris has been involved in the marine fisheries world for over 24 years, and he is currently the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Over his notable career, he has worked for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in various capacities, including Conservation Enforcement Officer, Director of Marine Resources Division, and Deputy Commissioner. In addition, he served as a Commissioner for the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission for numerous years, including several times as Chairman, member of the Board of Control of the Employees Retirement System of Alabama, Co-Chair of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's Executive Committee, member of the Alabama Coastal Resources Advisory Committee, member of Ocean Policy Committee for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and Chairman of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council Law Enforcement Advisory Panel and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Law Enforcement Committee.

It is with great pride that the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission presents this year's Lyles-Simpson Award to such a worthy recipient.

A luncheon to present this award and honor Chris is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 12 noon. All participants and guests are invited to attend.

General Session “Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtles”: On Wednesday, October 17, 2018 a General Session will be held from 8:30 am until 12 noon to discuss the current science and status of the Kemp’s ridley sea turtle. Presentations will include information on the 2018 sea turtle nesting season, the current population status and need for an updated stock assessment, simulating the movements of young sea turtles to predict spatiotemporal variation in their distribution, and recent studies on the carrying capacity of Kemp’s ridleys. All registered guests are invited to attend and a question and answer discussion will be held at the end of the session.

REGISTRATION: Pre-registration assists us in planning a successful meeting and saves you money on your registration fee. The meeting registration fee is \$95/per participant and \$25/per spouse or guest **if you register by October 1, 2018**. After **October 1st** and in South Padre Island the fees will be \$110 per participant. You may register online by visiting our website at www.gsmfc.org and selecting GSMFC Upcoming Meetings. If you prefer, you can still pre-register by returning the attached form to our office. Please do not register co-workers or associates as guests. We accept cash, checks, or PAYPAL. **Please note if the Commission pays for your travel, you will only be reimbursed for the regular registration fee; late fees will not be reimbursed.**

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, October 15, 2018

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Early Registration

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration

8:30 am – 5:00 pm TCC Data Management Subcommittee

8:30 am – 12 noon TCC Crab Subcommittee

8:30 am – 12 noon TCC SEAMAP Subcommittee

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm SFFMC Menhaden Advisory Committee

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Reception

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration

8:30 am – 5:00 pm LEC/LETC Meetings

8:00 am – 12 noon General Session – “Kemp’s Ridley Sea Turtles”

12 noon – 1:30 pm Luncheon –“Lyles-Simpson Award”

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| 1:30 pm – 5:00 pm | Sea Grant Extension Program |
| 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Technical Coordinating Committee |
| 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm | State-Federal Fisheries Management Committee |
| 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm | Reception |

Thursday, October 18, 2018

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| 7:30 am – 9:00 am | Executive Committee Breakfast |
| 9:00 am – 12 noon | Commission Business Meeting |
| 12 noon – 1:00 pm | <i>Commissioner's Luncheon</i> |
| 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Commission Business Meeting |

The final agenda and meeting materials will be available October 1, 2018 on the Commission website www.gsmfc.org – Upcoming Meetings: GSMFC Annual Meeting. In the interim, if there are any questions concerning the 69th Annual Meeting of the Commission, please contact Nancy Marcellus at 228.875.5912 or nmarcellus@gsmfc.org. We look forward to seeing you all in South Padre Island in October!

**GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM
69th ANNUAL MEETING
October 15 – 18, 2018**



Please complete and return **with** or **without** your registration fee payable to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, 2404 Government Street, Ocean Springs, MS 39564. Your registration packet will be ready for you in the registration area on your arrival at the Isla Grand Beach Resort in South Padre Island, Texas. **Reminder: A \$15.00 late fee will be added after October 1.**

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Telephone/E-Mail _____

Date of Arrival _____ Date of Departure _____

- Registration fee of \$95.00 is enclosed.
- Please pre-register me. I will pay upon arrival at the Registration Desk.

Please check events that you plan to attend:

- Reception (Tuesday, October 16)
- Lyles-Simpson Award Luncheon (Wednesday, October 17)
- Reception (Wednesday, October 17)

SPOUSE/GUEST REGISTRATION: (Do not register co-workers or associates as guests)

Spouse/Guest _____

- \$25.00 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:

- Reception (Tuesday, October 16)
- Lyles-Simpson Award Luncheon (Wednesday, October 17)
- Reception (Wednesday, October 17)