

Committees Schedule & Council Agendaⁱ
January 26-28th, 2026
Hyatt Centric
New Orleans, Louisiana & [Virtual](#)

Monday, January 26th – Committee Sessions

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM CST: Administrative/Budget (Tab G) – Gen. Spraggins

- Review and Discuss Proposed 2026 Activities and Budget
- Update on Final 2020-2024 Administrative Award and Inflation Reduction Act Funding
- Review Advisory Panel Appointments for Red Drum, Coastal Migratory Pelagics, and Ad Hoc Advisory Panels

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM CST: Law Enforcement (Tab L) – Gen. Spraggins

- Summary Report from October 2025 Law Enforcement Technical Committee

----- Break 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM CST -----

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM CST: Sustainable Fisheries (Tab E) – Dr. Banks

- Draft Workplan for Regulatory Streamlining Recommendations and Next Steps

----- Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM CST -----

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM CST: Data Collection (Tab F) – Mr. Walker

- Southeast For-hire Integrated Electronic Reporting Document
- Update on Commercial Electronic Logbook Program Implementation Plan
- Presentation: SERO Permit Database System Updates
- Discussion: Deep-water Grouper Complex Recreational Mandatory Reporting

----- Break 3:30 PM – 3:45 PM CST -----

3:45 PM – 5:30 PM CST: Outreach and Education (Tab O) – Dr. Overton

- Management Area Mapping Tool
- Recreational Initiative Communications Recommendations
- Anonymous Voice Mail Box
- 2025 Communications Analytics
- 2026 Communications Improvement Plan
- Other Items from the O&E Technical Committee Summary

– Recess –

Tuesday, January 27th – Committee Sessions, Continued

8:30 AM – 8:45 AM CST: Litigation Update – *Ms. Levy*

8:45 AM – 10:30 AM CST: Reef Fish Committee (Tab B) – *Dr. Sweetman*

- 2025 Reef Fish and IFQ Landings Update
- **FINAL ACTION** – Reef Fish Amendment 62: Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper Management Measures
 - Presentation: January 2026 SSC Webinar Summary
- **FINAL ACTION** – Reef Fish Amendment 58A: Modifications to Other Shallow-water Grouper Management Measures

----- **Break 10:30 AM – 10:45 AM CST** -----

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM CST: Reef Fish Committee *continued* (Tab B) – *Dr. Sweetman*

- Draft Options: Reef Fish Amendment 63: Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper IFQ Program

----- **Lunch 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM CST** -----

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM CST: Reef Fish Committee *continued* (Tab B) – *Dr. Sweetman*

- Draft – Reef Fish Amendment 59A: Permit Requirements in IFQ Programs and Ad Hoc IFQ Advisory Panel Meeting Summary Report

----- **Break 3:30 PM – 3:45 PM CST** -----

3:45 PM – 5:30 PM CST: Reef Fish Committee *continued* (Tab B) – *Dr. Sweetman*

- Presentation: Regional Management of Greater Amberjack for the Recreational Sector
- Presentation: Recreational Initiative Working Group Prioritization and Recommendations
- Presentation: January 2026 SSC Webinar Summary

– **Recess** –

5:35 PM – 6:30 PM CST: Immediately following the Reef Fish Committee

- General Question and Answer Session – *Mr. Strelcheck / Dr. Walter / Dr. Simmons*

Wednesday, January 28th – Council Session

- I. **8:30 AM – 8:35 AM CST:** Call to Order, Announcements, and Introductions – *Mr. Dugas*
- II. **8:35 AM – 8:40 AM CST:** Adoption of Agendaⁱ and Approval of Minutes (**Tab A, No's 3 & 4**) – *Mr. Dugas*
- III. **8:40 AM – 9:00 AM CST:** Presentation: Update on Gulf Commission Programmatic Activities (**Tab A, No. 7**) – *Mr. Bray*

----- **Break 9:00 AM – 9:15 AM CST** -----

- IV. **9:15 AM – 12:30 PM CST:** Public Comment ^{ii, iii, iv, v} – *Mr. Dugas*
 - **FINAL ACTION:** Reef Fish Amendment 62: Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper Management Measures
 - **FINAL ACTION:** Reef Fish Amendment 58A: Modifications to Other Shallow-water Grouper Management Measures
 - Open Testimony on other Fishery Issues or Concerns

----- **Working Lunch 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM CST** -----

- V. **1:00 PM – 2:00 PM CST:** Supporting Agencies Update (**Tab R**) – *Mr. Dugas*
 - South Atlantic Council Liaison (**Tab R, No. 1**) – *Mr. Roller*
 - Louisiana Law Enforcement Efforts (**Tab R, No. 2**) – *Major Aucoin*
 - NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) Report (**Tab R, No. 3a**) and Presentation (**Tab R, No. 3b**) – *Mr. Walia*
 - Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission – *Mr. Donaldson*
 - U.S. Coast Guard (**Tab R, No. 5**) – *Lt. Morton*
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Department of State

Wednesday, January 28th – Council Session continued

Committee Reports:

- A. **2:00 PM – 2:15 PM CST:** Administrative/Budget (**Tab G**) – *Gen. Spraggins*
- B. **2:15 PM – 2:30 PM CST:** Law Enforcement (**Tab L**) – *Gen. Spraggins*
- C. **2:30 PM – 2:45 PM CST:** Sustainable Fisheries (**Tab E**) – *Dr. Banks*
- D. **2:45 PM – 3:15 PM CST:** Data Collection (**Tab F**) – *Mr. Walker*

----- **Break 3:15 PM – 3:30 PM CST** -----

- E. **3:30 PM – 3:45 PM CST:** Outreach and Education (**Tab O**) – *Dr. Overton*
- F. **3:45 PM – 5:00 PM CST:** Reef Fish (**Tab B**) – *Dr. Sweetman*

5:00 PM – 5:05 PM CST: Update on Documents Transmitted for Rule Making – *Mr. Helies*

5:05 PM – 5:10 PM CST: Discussion of Council Planning and Primary Activities (**Tab R, No. 6**) – *Dr. Simmons / Mr. Dugas*

5:10 PM – 5:30 PM CST: Other Business (**Tab U**) – *Mr. Dugas*

– Adjourn –

<p>Next Meeting Tuesday, April 7 – Friday, April 10, 2026 The Battle House Renaissance Mobile, Alabama</p>

i The established times for addressing items on the Council agendas may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. Public testimony may begin earlier than 9:15 am CST on January 28, 2026, but will not conclude before that time. Public testimony may end before the published agenda time if all registered in-person and virtual participants have completed their testimony.

ii Persons wishing to give public testimony **virtually** must sign up on the Council website beginning on the first day of the Council meeting. Registration closes one hour before public testimony begins. During public testimony, the Council will hear testimony related to final actions of the Council and pertinent agenda items. Time constraints may limit individual speaking time as determined by the presiding officer.

To help ensure that Council members have sufficient time to consider your written testimony, please submit your comments at least three business days prior to the start of the Council meeting.

iii Any oral or written statement shall include a brief description of the background and interests of the person testifying and the source and date of any specific information. Persons wishing to submit written testimony or information can do so by emailing it to gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org. All written comments will be posted on the Council's website for viewing by Council members and the public.

iv Oral or written communications provided to the Council are public documents. These communications will be made available to the public in their entirety and maintained by the Council as part of its permanent record. Further, knowingly, and willfully submitting false information to the Council is a violation of Federal law.

v Anyone wishing to use electronic visual aids during public testimony must provide staff with a copy of the material at least one hour before comment begins to allow for a virus scan of said material.