

Committees Schedule & Council Agendaⁱ

April 7 – 9th, 2026

**The Battle House Renaissance
Mobile, Alabama & Virtual**

Tuesday, April 7th – Full Council Closed Session

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM CDT: Full Council Closed Session (Tab T) – *Mr. Dugas*

- Preliminary Selection of Coastal Migratory Pelagics and Red Drum Advisory Panel Members
- Selection of 2025 Law Enforcement Officer/Team of the Year

----- Break 9:30 AM – 9:45 AM CDT -----

Tuesday, April 7th – Committee Sessions

9:45 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: Shrimp (Tab D) – *Mr. Schieble*

- Review of SEDAR 87 Gulf Penaeid Shrimp Stock Assessments and SSC Recommendations
- Review of the Texas Closure
- Remaining Items from the Summary of the March 2026 Shrimp Advisory Panel Meeting
- Update on Working Group for Shrimp Bycatch Methodology for Finfish Species
- Update on the Early Adopter Program

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

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM CDT Migratory Species (Tab M) – *Dr. Banks*

- HMS Presentation on Proposed Rule on Commercial and Recreational Shark Management Measures
- Gulf Council Draft Comment Letter on HMS Proposed Rule

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM CDT: Data Collection (Tab F) – *Mr. Walker*

- Presentation: Exploring Alternative Methods for Estimating Recreational Landings for Rarely Encountered Species

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

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM CDT: Gulf SEDAR (Tab I) – *Mr. Dugas*

- Update on MRIP-Fishing Effort Survey (FES) Pilot Results and SSC Recommendations
- SEDAR Steering Committee Assessment Schedule Updates
- Remaining SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting Outcomes

– Recess –

Wednesday, April 8th – Committee Sessions, Continued

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

8:45 AM – 10:00 AM CDT: **Reef Fish Committee (Tab B)** – *Dr. Sweetman*

- Presentations: 2025 Gulf State Private Recreational Red Snapper and Greater Amberjack Landings Updates
- **FINAL ACTION** – Abbreviated Framework Action: Modification of Gulf Lane Snapper Catch Limits

----- **Break 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM CDT** -----

10:15 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: **Reef Fish Committee *continued* (Tab B)** – *Dr. Sweetman*

- Public Hearing Draft: Reef Fish Amendment 63: Modifications to Gulf Red Grouper IFQ Program
- **FINAL ACTION** - Abbreviated Framework Action: Red Grouper IFQ Set Aside Quota Holdback

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

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

- Draft Options: Modifications to Red Snapper Private Recreational Accountability Measures
- Presentation: Delegate Federal For-Hire Red Snapper Management to Gulf States

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

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM CDT: **Reef Fish Committee *continued* (Tab B)** – *Dr. Sweetman*

- Presentation: Remaining February 2026 SSC Items Summary
- Discussion of 2026 Gag Grouper and Greater Amberjack Recreational Fishing Seasons
- Discussion of 2026 Federal For-hire Red Snapper Fishing Season

– **Recess** –

Thursday, April 9th – Council Session

- I. **8:30 AM – 8:35 AM CDT:** Call to Order, Announcements, and Introductions – *Mr. Dugas*
- II. **8:35 AM – 8:40 AM CDT:** Adoption of Agendaⁱ and Approval of Minutes (**Tab A, No's 3 & 4**) – *Mr. Dugas*
- III. **8:40 AM – 12:00 PM CDT:** Public Comment ^{ii, iii, iv, v} – *Mr. Dugas*

- **FINAL ACTION** – Abbreviated Framework Action: Modification of Gulf Lane Snapper Catch Limits
- **FINAL ACTION** - Abbreviated Framework Action: Red Grouper IFQ Set Aside Quota Holdback
- Open Testimony on other Fishery Issues or Concerns

----- Working Lunch 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM CDT -----

Thursday, April 9th – Council Session continued

Committee Reports:

- A. **12:30 PM – 1:00 PM CDT:** Shrimp (**Tab D**) – *Mr. Schieble*
- B. **1:00 PM – 1:15 PM CDT:** Migratory Species (**Tab M**) – *Dr. Banks*
- C. **1:15 PM – 1:30 PM CDT:** Data Collection (**Tab F**) – *Mr. Walker*
- D. **1:30 PM – 2:00 PM CDT:** Gulf SEDAR (**Tab I**) – *Mr. Dugas*
- E. **2:00 PM – 2:05 PM CDT:** Announcement of 2025 Law Enforcement Officer / Team of the Year (**Tab T**) – *Mr. Dugas*

----- Break 2:05 PM – 2:15 PM CDT -----

- F. **2:15 PM – 4:15 PM CDT:** Reef Fish (**Tab B**) – *Dr. Sweetman*
- IV. **4:15 PM – 4:45 PM CDT:** Supporting Agencies Update (**Tab R**) – *Mr. Dugas*
 - South Atlantic Council Liaison (**Tab R, No. 1**) – *Mr. Hemilright*
 - Alabama Law Enforcement Efforts (**Tab R, No. 2**) – *Major Downey*
 - 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
- 4:45 PM – 5:00 PM CDT:** Update on Documents Transmitted for Rule Making – *Mr. Helies*
- 5:00 PM – 5:15 PM CDT:** Discussion of Council Planning and Primary Activities (**Tab R, No. 6**) – *Dr. Simmons / Mr. Dugas*
- 5:15 PM – 5:30 PM CDT:** Other Business (**Tab U**) – *Mr. Dugas*

– Adjourn –

Next Meeting
 June 1-4, 2026
 Hilton Tampa Airport
 Westshore
 Tampa, Florida

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 8:40 am CDT on April 9, 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.