

Committees Schedule & Council Agendaⁱ

**August 24-27th, 2026
Golden Nugget Biloxi
Biloxi, Mississippi & Virtual**

Monday, August 24th – Full Council Session

8:30 AM – 8:40 AM CDT: Induction of Re-Appointed Council Members – Mr. Strelcheck

Monday, August 24th – Committee Sessions

8:40 AM – 9:40 AM CDT: Administrative / Budget Committee (Tab G) – General Spraggins

- Review Final 2026 Funded Budget and Activities
- Discussion of Future Funding Cycles, Timing of Releases, and Council Planning

9:40 AM – 10:40 AM CDT: Shrimp Committee (Tab D) – Mr. Schieble

- July 2026 SSC Meeting Summary and Recommendations
 - Estimation of Shrimp Trawl Bycatch Methodology
 - Gray Triggerfish Bycatch Estimation (SEDAR 100)
 - Review of the Minimum Threshold Number of Federal Gulf Shrimp Permits
- Status Update on Working Group to Address Interactions and Bycatch of Protected Resources in Shrimp Trawls

----- Break 10:40 AM – 10:50 AM CDT -----

10:50 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: Gulf SEDAR Committee (Tab I) – Mr. Dugas

- Summary Report from July SEDAR Steering Committee Meeting

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

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM CDT: Ecosystem Committee (Tab Q) – Mr. Anson

- Contractor Report: Identification of Stakeholder-Driven Fishery Ecosystem Issues

----- Break 3:00 PM – 3:15 PM CDT -----

3:15 PM – 5:00 PM CDT: Data Collection Committee (Tab F) – Mr. Walker

- **FINAL ACTION** – Generic Amendment: Modifications to Gulf For-hire Data Collection Program
- Presentation: MRIP-FES Pilot Study Results

– Recess –

Tuesday, August 25th – Committee Sessions, Continued

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

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

- Draft Options – Reef Fish Amendment 64: Delegate Federal For-Hire Red Snapper Management to Gulf States
- Draft Options – Management Flexibility for the Federal For-hire Component of the Red Snapper Fishery

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

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

- Draft – Modifications to Red Snapper Private Recreational Post-Season Accountability Measures
- July 2026 SSC Meeting Summary

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

1:30 PM – 3:15 PM CDT: **Reef Fish Committee** *continued (Tab B) – Dr. Sweetman*

- Draft – Reef Fish Amendment 59A: Permit Requirements in IFQ Programs
- Discussion: Decision Points for Red Snapper Catch Limits and Allocations

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

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM CDT: **Reef Fish Committee** *continued (Tab B) – Dr. Sweetman*

- Public Hearing Draft – Reef Fish Amendment 55/Snapper Grouper Amendment 44: Mutton Snapper and Yellowtail Snapper Management Measures
- Discussion – Exempted Fishing Permits

– **Recess** –

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM CDT: Social at Hotel: Highlighting Photo Contest Winners and 50 Year Anniversary Accomplishments of Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in the Gulf

Wednesday, August 26th – Committee Sessions

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

- Overview: Understanding Catch Per Unit Effort from Fishery-Independent and -Dependent Indices of Relative Abundance
 - Presentation: Understanding CPUE from Fishery-Independent and -Dependent Indices of Relative Abundance

- Presentation: G-FISHER Composite Video Index
- Presentation: Red Grouper Commercial CPUE Index

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

10:45 AM – 11:15 AM CDT: Sustainable Fisheries Committee (Tab E) – Dr. Banks

- Discussion of 5-year Standardized Bycatch Reporting

Wednesday, August 26th – Council Session

- I. **11:16 AM – 11:18 AM CDT:** Call to Order, Announcements, and Introductions – *Mr. Dugas*
- II. **11:18 AM – 11:20 AM CDT:** Adoption of Agendaⁱ and Approval of Minutes (**Tab A, No's 3 & 4**) – *Mr. Dugas*
- III. **11:20 AM – 12:00 PM CDT:** Supporting Agencies Update (**Tab R**) – *Mr. Dugas*
 - South Atlantic Council Liaison (**Tab R, No. 1**) – *Mr. Hemilright*
 - Mississippi Law Enforcement Efforts (**Tab R, No. 2**) – *Col. Kyle Wilkerson*
 - 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

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

- IV. **1:30 PM – 2:00 PM CDT:** Celebrating 50 Years of Magnuson-Steven Fishery Conservation and Management Act in the Gulf – *Ms. Muehlstein*
 - Presentation
 - Infographic
- V. **2:00 PM – 5:00 PM CDT:** Public Comment ^{ii, iii, iv, v} – *Mr. Dugas*
 - **FINAL ACTION** – Generic Amendment: Modifications to Gulf For-hire Data Collection Program
 - Exempted Fishing Permits
 - Open Testimony on other Fishery Issues or Concerns

Thursday, August 27th – Council Session continued

Committee Reports:

- A. **8:30 AM – 8:45 AM CDT:** Administrative / Budget (**Tab G**) – *General Spraggins*
- B. **8:45 AM – 9:00 AM CDT:** Shrimp (**Tab D**) – *Mr. Schieble*
- C. **9:00 AM – 9:15 AM CDT:** Gulf SEDAR (**Tab I**) – *Mr. Dugas*
- D. **9:15 AM – 9:30 AM CDT:** Ecosystem (**Tab Q**) – *Mr. Anson*
- E. **9:30 AM – 10:00 AM CDT:** Data Collection (**Tab F**) – *Mr. Walker*

F. 10:00 AM – 10:15 AM CDT: Sustainable Fisheries (**Tab E**) – *Dr. Banks*

----- Break 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM CDT -----

G. 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM CDT: Reef Fish (**Tab B**) – *Dr. Sweetman*

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

H. 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM CDT: Reef Fish *continued* (**Tab B**) – *Dr. Sweetman*

2:30 PM – 2:40 PM CDT: Update on Documents Transmitted for Rule Making – *Mr. Helies*

2:40 PM – 2:45 PM CDT: Discussion of Council Planning and Primary Activities (**Tab R, No. 6**) – *Dr. Simmons / Mr. Dugas*

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM CDT: Other Business (**Tab U**) – *Mr. Dugas*

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM CDT: Election of Council Chair and Vice-Chair – *Mr. Donaldson*

– Adjourn –

Next Meeting
October 26-29, 2026
The Tremont House Hotel
Galveston, Texas

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 2:00 pm CDT on August 26, 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. Virtual registration for public comment begins the first day of the Council meeting and closes 30-minutes after 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.