

# FISHES:

## Fishermen Invested in Science, Healthy Ecosystems, and Sustainability



## Syllabus 2025

September 25<sup>th</sup> – October 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Coordinators

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### Purpose

The purpose of the *FISHES* program is to extend practical, science-based information about fisheries management, fisheries science, and sustainability to fish enthusiasts in a user-friendly format.

### Objectives

1. To communicate information about the frameworks and functions of various regulatory bodies tasked with managing fisheries.
2. To explain applied fisheries science concepts that collectively form the basis for fisheries management.
3. To expose participants to emerging ecosystem modifications and issues.
4. To encourage public engagement in fisheries management and fisheries science efforts.

## **Requirements**

The training requirements include 20 hours of instruction as follows:

- 5 2-hour classroom sessions
- 1 5-hour field excursion
- 5 hours of required reading

## **Attendance**

To achieve the *FISHES Certification*, each participant must attend all classroom sessions and complete all required reading. However, a participant may miss up to two classroom sessions as excused absences. Should an excused absence occur, the participant will be required to make up the missed material by viewing recorded lectures and taking short quizzes. If extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness, accident, death in family, etc.) cause a participant to miss more classroom sessions than the standards allow, an exception to the attendance policy may be made per coordinator approval.

## **Continuing Education Units (CEUs)**

Completion of this program qualifies each participant to receive two CEU credits through the Mississippi State University Extension Service Center for Continuing Education. Each participant interested in obtaining these CEU credits must complete an online application and remit the required fee (\$25) within two weeks of program completion. Contact the coordinators for more information. (Note: to obtain the full two CEUs, the participant must attend the field excursion.)

## **Textbook**

The textbook written to accompany this program is titled *FISHES: Fishermen Invested in Science, Healthy Ecosystems, and Sustainability*. It is available for download [here](#). Printed copies are available upon request. Reading assignments are described below.

## **Classroom Sessions**

All classroom sessions will be held *in-person* at the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center (1815 Popps Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS 39532) in room A102 from 6 - 8 PM. Light refreshments will be provided. In general, two chapters will be covered during each session, with a short break between and plenty of time for questions and discussion. For a change of pace, special guest lecturers will discuss their areas of expertise. Details for each session are provided on the next page.

**Thursday, September 25, 2025: read chapters 1 and 2**

Program introduction, Introduction to the Gulf of Mexico, Foundations of Gulf of Mexico fisheries management

**Thursday, October 2, 2025: read chapters 3 and 4**

Current Gulf of Mexico fisheries management, Fisheries science and stock assessment

**Thursday, October 9, 2025: read chapters 5 and 6**

Life history, Diet

**Thursday, October 16, 2025: read chapters 7 and 8**

Movement studies, Human alterations to the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. Guest lectures by Jeff Plumlee and Eric Sparks.

**Thursday, October 23, 2025: read chapters 9 and 10**

Human alterations to Gulf of Mexico species, FISHERIES in action. Guest lecture by Mark Albins. Course evaluation, certificates and swag bags to follow lectures.

**Field Excursion: Saturday, October 4, 2025 (1 PM - 5 PM)**

The field excursion will be held *in-person* at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (101 Bienville Boulevard, Dauphin Island, AL 36528). During this trip, we will demonstrate two gear types discussed during the course: a bottom trawl and a bottom longline. *Please note the following:*

- This field excursion will take place on a research vessel, the R/V Alabama Discovery, most likely in Mobile Bay, Alabama.
- Participants are required to provide their own transportation, food, beverages, and closed-toe, closed-heel shoes.
- A hat, sunscreen, and seasickness medication are recommended.
- Each participant may bring *one* guest (i.e., friend or family member) free of charge!
- **IMPORTANT:** Participants *must* arrive on time! The boat will not wait at the dock for anyone who is running late!