

FISHES:

Fishermen Invested in Science, Healthy Ecosystems, and Sustainability



Syllabus 2026

October 1st – November 5th

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 15-20 hours of instruction as follows:

- 5 2-hour online, asynchronous classroom sessions
- 5 hours of required reading
- (Optional) 1 5-hour field excursion

Attendance

To achieve the *FISHES Certification*, each participant must complete all classroom sessions and all required reading.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

Completion of this program qualifies each participant to receive one and a half (1.5) or two (2) 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 (2) 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 for local pickup upon request. Reading assignments are described on the next page.

Classroom Sessions

All classroom sessions will be held *online and asynchronously* via Canvas, Mississippi State University's cloud-based Learning Management System. Two chapters will be covered in each session. Details for each session are provided on the next page.

Due Thursday, October 8, 2026:

Read chapters 1 and 2

Course introduction

Pre-class survey

The Gulf of Mexico

Foundations of Gulf of Mexico fisheries management

Due Thursday, October 15, 2026:

Read chapters 3 and 4

Current Gulf of Mexico fisheries management

Fisheries science and stock assessment

Due Thursday, October 22, 2026:

Read chapters 5 and 6

Life history

Diet

Due Thursday, October 29, 2026:

Read chapters 7 and 8

Movement studies

Anthropogenic alterations to the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem

Due Thursday, November 5, 2026:

Read chapters 9 and 10

Anthropogenic alterations to Gulf of Mexico species

FISHES in action

Post-class survey

Course evaluation

Certificates information and survey

Field Excursion:

Sunday, October 25, 2026 from 8 AM - 12 PM

Rain date: Sunday, November 1, 2026 from 8 AM - 12 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 who attends the field excursion will receive a swag bag!
- **IMPORTANT:** Participants must arrive on time! The boat will not wait at the dock for anyone who is running late!