



Issue 29, Spring 2023

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Get Hooked Up!

Together, Mississippi and Alabama comprise only about six percent of the U.S. Gulf Coast, with less than 100 miles of shoreline between the two states. However, this small area is anything but uniform — any local angler would agree that these nutrient-rich waters support a great diversity of life. In 2021, effort from Mississippi and Alabama anglers accounted for more than 25% of the total recreational fishery landings (by weight) in the Gulf. Whether they fish from shore, pier, or boat, there is something for every angler here.

Local fishing clubs and online groups provide valuable opportunities for anglers to connect with others who share their passion, learn new techniques, and participate in fishing trips and tournaments. There are plenty of ways to get involved whether you are a beginner or an avid fisherman. The following active organizations are focused on promoting the sport of saltwater fishing and building communities of like-minded individuals. Explore the groups and links below to learn more!

MISSISSIPPI ORGANIZATIONS

Historic Ocean Springs Saltwater Fly Fishing Club (HOSSFly)



Some HOSSFly members completed the Marine Fisheries Ecology Program's F.I.S.H.E.S (Fishermen Invested in Science, Healthy Ecosystems, and Sustainability) class in the fall of 2022, and even demonstrated some fly fishing techniques during the class field trip! Photo courtesy of the Marine Fisheries Ecology Program.

The Historic Ocean Springs Saltwater Fly Fishing Club (or HOSSFly, for short) is located in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, but members of this club fish all over the world. This group is very active in the community and invested in promoting responsible fishing practices. Members of HOSSFly attend local seminars, classes, and conferences, and the club's monthly meetings often include a guest lecture from Gulf Coast fisheries researchers and professionals.

Location: Ocean Springs, MS

Type: Fly fishing

Meetings: Monthly

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066387649123>

Mississippi Coast Fly Fishers

The Mississippi Coast Fly Fishers is a club that focuses on both freshwater and saltwater fishing along the Mississippi coast. Their monthly newsletters offer local fishing reports, exciting stories, fly fishing tips, and club updates. Members of the club offer one-on-one mentorship so that new fly-fishers can learn techniques from fly tying to rod building.

Location: Gulfport, MS

Type: Fly fishing

Meetings: 1st and 3rd Thursday each month

Website: <http://www.mississippicoastflyfishers.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mississippicoastflyfishers/>

Contact: mscoastflyfishers@gmail.com

Mississippi Gulf Coast Big Game Fishing Club



Anglers participating in Mississippi Gulf Coast Big Game Fishing Club tournaments can enter fish in weigh-in and catch and release categories. Photo courtesy of Mississippi Gulf Coast Big Game Fishing Club.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Big Game Fishing Club specializes in offshore fishing for big-game species including dolphin, tunas, billfishes, and wahoo. They host multiple tournaments each year, including the Mississippi Gulf Coast Billfish Classic and the Ladies Tournament.

Location: Gulfport, MS

Type: Offshore, big game

Meetings: Quarterly

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mgcbgfc/>

Contact: Rmwdmd@gmail.com

ALABAMA ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



The Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association aims to provide a family-oriented fishing club where people can meet new friends and learn new skills. Photo courtesy of the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association.

The Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA) is an inshore saltwater fishing club that promotes friendship, fellowship, sportsmanship, and ethical conservation practices in fishing with an emphasis on fostering a family-oriented environment. Monthly meetings feature guest speakers and are held at Moe's BBQ in downtown Mobile, AL. Other member events include a year-long big fish contest, club tournaments, and an awards banquet!

Location: Mobile, AL

Type: Inshore

Meetings: 1st Thursday each month, February-November

Website: <https://www.acfafish.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/106719252709176/>

Contact: To send a message, click [here](#)

Eastern Shore Fly Fishers Club



The Eastern Shore Fly Fishers Club partners with GCRL to host the Tripletail Classic Tournament, allowing researchers to tag and release a significant quantity of fish. Photo courtesy of the Eastern Shore Fly Fishers Club.

The Eastern Shore Fly Fishers Club consists of fly fishers of all experience levels and encourages newcomers to the sport and area. Notably, the club hosts the Tripletail Classic Fly Fishing Tournament — a catch, tag, photo, release style tournament in partnership with researchers at the USM Gulf Coast

Research Lab (GCRL). They also provide opportunities to learn fly fishing, casting, and tying throughout the year.

Location: Fairhope, AL

Type: Fly fishing

Meetings: 3rd Thursday each month; social fly tying 4th Thursday each month

Website: www.easternshoreflyfishers.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EasternShoreFlyFishers/>

Contact: info@easternshoreflyfishers.com

Mobile Bay Kayak Fishing Association



The Mobile Bay Kayak Fishing Association was created to build a network of like-minded kayak anglers and to create a way for them to get together to learn new fishing techniques. Photo courtesy of the Mobile Bay Kayak Fishing Association.

The Mobile Bay Kayak Fishing Association promotes kayak fishing camaraderie and tournaments on the Alabama Gulf Coast. Events include the Angler of the Year Race and the Championship Trail Series, which feature prizes up to \$1,000!

Location: Mobile, AL

Type: Kayak fishing

Meetings: Monthly

Website: <https://www.mbkfa.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/958536077543655>

Contact: mbkfatournament@gmail.com, Renombkfa@gmail.com

Mobile Big Game Fishing Club

The Mobile Big Game Fishing Club aims to foster, promote, and increase interest in the sport of big game fishing, oceanography, marine biology, and other related and similar fields. They increase knowledge by supporting research and sponsoring lectures, films, and educational activities. The club hosts multiple tournaments throughout the year such as the Memorial Day Tournament, Ladies Tournament, Junior Angler Tournament, and Billfish Limited Tournament.

Location: Mobile, AL

Type: Offshore, big game

Meetings: Monthly, May-November

Website: <http://mbgfc.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theMBGFC/>

Contact: drchrispark@gmail.com

GULF-WIDE ORGANIZATIONS

Gulf Coast Council Fly Fishers International



Gulf Coast Council Fly Fishers International represents all aspects of fly fishing, from fly tying and casting to the protection of natural systems that support healthy fisheries. Photo courtesy of Gulf Coast Council Fly Fishers International.

Fly Fishers International (FFI) represents all aspects of fly fishing, from fly tying and casting to the protection of natural systems that support healthy fisheries. Their mission is to ensure the legacy of fly fishing continues by focusing on conservation, education, and a sense of community. The Gulf-wide chapter publishes a newsletter regularly with important announcements, upcoming events, and articles by members. To see the full list of partnering clubs across the Gulf Coast, visit the FFI Gulf Coast Council's website [here](#).

Location: Chapters in LA, MS, AL, and FL panhandle

Type: Fly fishing

Meetings: Annually

Website: <https://gulfcoastcouncilffi.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ffigulfcoastcouncil/>

OTHER RESOURCES

Casting for Conservation



Casting for Conservation registration is free for children ages 5 to 13 and each child receives a rod-and-reel and a t-shirt. Photo courtesy of the Coastal Conservation Association of Mississippi.

Held by the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) of Mississippi, Casting for Conservation is an educational program that aims to introduce kids to the outdoors and promote responsible fishing practices among the next generation

of anglers. This free event is a great opportunity for children ages 5–13 to learn how to fish, and each participant will receive a free rod and reel along with other tackle and gear to get them started!

Check the CCA's website [here](#) to see their upcoming events!

ONLINE FISHING GROUPS

Mobile Saltwater Fishing Forum

The Mobile Saltwater Fishing Forum's mission is to establish a community of great people and their families interested in fishing and other outdoor activities.

Website: <https://mobilesaltwaterfishing.activeboard.com/>

Gulf Coast Fly Tyers

The Gulf Coast Fly Tyers is an internet-based regional club.

Website: www.gcft.gulfcoastcouncilffi.org

Contact: gulfcoastflytyers@gmail.com

Saltwater Fishing Facebook Groups

Fishing Mississippi Gulf Coast: click [here](#)

Local Fishing Reports for Biloxi/Gulfport/Surrounding Areas: click [here](#)

Mississippi Coastal Fishing: click [here](#)

Mississippi Saltwater Fishing: click [here](#)

South Mississippi Kayak Fishing Club: click [here](#)

Alabama Gulf Coast Surf Fishing: click [here](#)

Alabama Salt Water Fishing: click [here](#)

Free Fishing Days

Free fishing days allow anglers to fish without a license. The specific days vary by state and are a great way for beginners to try out fishing!

Mississippi:

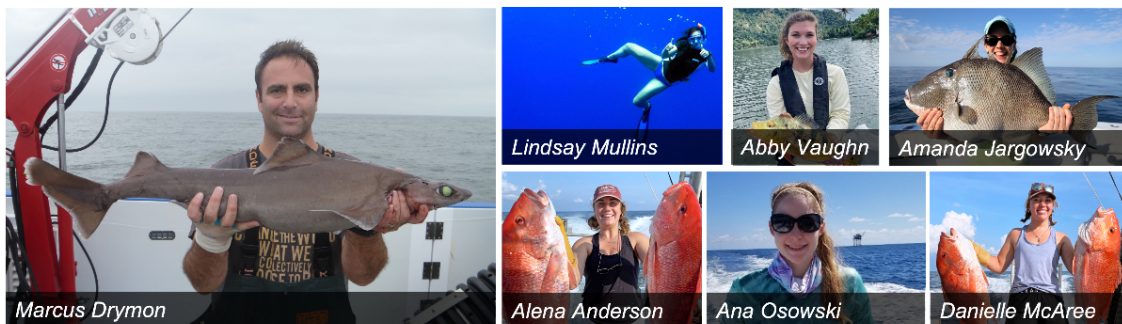
On June 5th and 6th, 2023, during National Fishing and Boating Week, a sport fishing license is not required for Mississippi residents for all public waters. Mississippi residents can also fish without a fishing license on July 4th in all waters of the state. State Fishing Lake and State Park permits are still required.

Alabama:

A fishing license is not required to fish recreationally in Alabama's public waters on June 12th, 2023. State Fishing Lake permits are still required.

Free Fishing Day takes place during Alabama's red snapper season. While fishing license requirements are waived, those fishing for red snapper will need a \$10 Gulf Reef Fish Endorsement and a free saltwater angler registration. For more information, click [here](#).

If you are a part of a fishing club not included in this newsletter, reach out to us at marinefisheriesecology@gmail.com!



I'm Marcus Drymon, an Assistant Extension Professor at Mississippi State University and a Marine Fisheries Specialist at Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant. Lindsay Mullins, Abby Vaughn, Amanda Jargowsky, Alena Anderson, Ana Osowski, Danielle McAree, and I are the Marine Fisheries Ecology Lab. We'd

love to hear from you! Please reach out to us at
marinefisheriesecology@gmail.com



Facebook Website

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