



73RD ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC INTERSTATE SEAFOOD SEMINAR & GULF AND SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES SHELLFISH CONFERENCE

November 6 - 8, 2023

Wilmington, North Carolina

We hope you will join us for the first ever joint **Gulf and South Atlantic States Shellfish Conference** and **Interstate Seafood Seminar**, to be held Monday, November 6th through Wednesday, November 8th at the Hotel Ballast in Wilmington, North Carolina. Located directly along [the Riverwalk](#) in the heart of [downtown Wilmington](#), with views of the Cape Fear River and the historic [USS North Carolina](#) and a short drive away from Wrightsville Beach, the Hotel Ballast will make for a great conference venue, and will allow for easy access to restaurants, shops, and opportunities to explore. The registration desk will be open starting on Sunday afternoon, November 5th, and the conference will include two full days on Monday and Tuesday as well as a half day on Wednesday, all starting at 8:30 am. There will also be an evening reception on Tuesday at the nearby [Warehouse on Water](#), which will include drinks, heavy hors d'ouvres, and dessert.

Conference participants will have the opportunity to hear a variety of engaging presentations on topics related to shellfish and public health, habitat and resource management, patrol and enforcement, recreational water quality, and much more. There will be a number of break-out sessions, hands-on demonstrations, trainings, and informational booths/exhibits that will give participants the opportunity to get involved, network with colleagues, and learn new things in a variety of different formats. A tentative agenda is attached, and a final, detailed agenda will be distributed to registrants as soon as it is available.

Hotel and Conference Venue

The Hotel Ballast includes rooms facing the City of Wilmington, as well as rooms with a view of the Cape Fear River, with rates ranging from \$139/night for city-side rooms up to \$164/night for river view rooms, not including tax (currently 13%). To guarantee these rates, hotel reservations must be made through the group block prior to Thursday, October 5th. Reservations as part of this block can be made through [this link](#), or by calling 1-800-HILTONS and mentioning the group code "ISS". Please note that there is also a \$17/day parking fee at the hotel, and that the hotel operates a complementary shuttle to and from the [Wilmington International Airport \(ILM\)](#).

Conference Registration

The registration fee for the full conference is \$250, although there are individual day attendance rates available as well. The registration deadline is October 15th, and registration can be paid by check or by credit card. Please see the attached registration form for additional details on rates and payments. The full conference registration cost includes:

- Admission to all conference sessions, trainings, break-out sessions, and demonstrations
- Coffee, tea, beverages, breakfast pastries, fruit, and snacks throughout each conference session
- Snacks and drinks at informal social events on Sunday and Monday evenings
- Food and drinks at the Tuesday evening reception

We look forward to seeing you in November!

Shannon Jenkins
Shellfish Sanitation & Recreational Water Quality, NC Division of Marine Fisheries

Col. Carter Witten
Marine Patrol, NC Division of Marine Fisheries