

Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute

# Call for Special Sessions and Workshops



# GCFI79: Call for Special Sessions & Workshops

## About GCFI

The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) was founded in 1947 to promote the exchange of information on the use and management of marine resources in the Gulf and Caribbean Region. GCFI is a unique organization comprised of scientists, academics, students, fishers, managers, government, civil society and other stakeholders who share a common interest in the sustainability and advancement of the conservation of marine resources in the region. The primary activity of GCFI is the Annual Conference which has been held in the region since 1948. This diverse, multidisciplinary group meets annually to share ideas and learn from one another, in a collegial, friendly atmosphere underscored by mutual respect.

## Special Sessions and Workshops

Special sessions and workshops provide an informal setting where participants have the opportunity to discuss technical topics in an atmosphere that fosters the active exchange of ideas. A special session/workshop should offer professional development/educational opportunities for conference participants. Workshops may be research-focused (e.g., insights on new methodologies in research) or specific topic or species-based studies (e.g. Nassau grouper, spawning aggregations, megafauna etc).

Special session/workshop organizers will be responsible for inviting speakers, ensuring their participation, and submission of abstracts, manuscripts and final session reports. They will also structure and lead the discussion sessions. Acceptance will be primarily based on an evaluation of the special session/workshop's potential for generating useful results, relevance and expected level of interest in the topic, and the organizers' ability to lead a successful workshop.

## Time Allowance

Limited time and meeting space are available for conference special sessions/workshops. Time allotted for special sessions will be a minimum of half day and a maximum of a full day. There is also opportunity to host workshops on the weekend before and after the main conference. Be sure to indicate the amount of time you think you will need to conduct your special session/workshop when developing your proposal.

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## Submission Requirements

1. **Session Title and Description** of the session/workshop, specifying the goals and the technical issues that will be its focus, and an agenda outlining presentation format. Remember, titles are critical - most people make decisions about what session to attend based solely on the title. Please choose carefully.
2. **Target Audience & Benefit:** Describe why the session/workshop is of interest, and who would benefit most from the proposed session?
3. **Contact Information:** Include the names, phone numbers and email addresses of the proposed session organizer(s) including the name of the primary contact for the proposed session. Note: All details for the session/workshop will be finalized via communications with this individual.
4. **Funding Source:** Provide a description of the source of funding for the session/workshop (Full Day Session = \$10,000; Half Day Session = \$5,500). Please note, a lack of funding does not reduce eligibility to host a session at GCFI79. Please contact [gcfi@gcfi.org](mailto:gcfi@gcfi.org) for more information
5. **Potential Presenters:** If available, provide a list of tentatively confirmed speakers and/or proposed invited presenters/panelists.
6. **Abstract Submission:** All special session presenters must submit an abstract following standard guideline for abstracts. All presenters also are required to submit a manuscript or an extended abstract for publication on the GCFI proceedings.
7. **Summary Report:** Special session and workshop organizers must produce a summary document and email to [gcfi@gcfi.org](mailto:gcfi@gcfi.org) before November 23, 2026
8. **Deadline:** This session proposal should be submitted [via the online portal](#). The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2026.

**NOTE:** The conference organizers reserve the right to refuse a proposed special session if time/space is limited, and to cancel any special session if deadlines are missed by the session organizers. **If you have questions about developing the programmatic format, please contact the GCFI Program Chair - Dr. Alejandro Acosta** ([alejandro.acosta@gcfi.org](mailto:alejandro.acosta@gcfi.org)).

**Submit your Proposal here:** [www.gcfi.org/gcfi-special-sessions-workshops/](http://www.gcfi.org/gcfi-special-sessions-workshops/)

## Timeline

April 30, 2026	Special Session/Workshop Proposal Submission deadline. <a href="#">Submit here</a>
May 29, 2026	Acceptance notification.
June 10, 2026	Deadline for submission of finalized session description for publication on the website.
July 1, 2026	Deadline for special session presenters to submit abstracts via the online abstract submittal form.
September 30, 2026	Session Organizer to email GCFI the final agenda for your session, including speaker names, talk titles and order of presentation, detailed request for room setup, including AV requirements.
November 23, 2026	Special Session / Workshop Organizer to submit Summary Report as an MS Word document to <a href="mailto:gcfi@gcfi.org">gcfi@gcfi.org</a>

### GCFI organizers will be responsible for:

1. Providing a meeting place and logistical support for the special session including audio visual equipment and other technology.
2. Publicizing the special session/workshop on the conference web site and in conference materials, GCFI email distribution list and social media.
3. Determining the session date and time (organizing committee constraints will be accommodated to the greatest possible extent).

<b>Session Sponsorship Benefits</b>	<b>Full Day (\$10,000)</b>	<b>Half Day (\$5,500)</b>
Acknowledgment in opening & closing remarks	x	x
Complimentary GCFI Membership & Registration	x3	x2
Dedicated posts on Whova, Social Media & LinkedIn	x	x
Logo displayed on website, app & digital and printed items	x	x
Exhibitor Space	x	x
Session advertised as supported by your organisation	x	x