

# GULF OF MEXICO



## FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, located roughly 115 miles south of the Texas/Louisiana coast, is part of a connected ecosystem of banks, patch reefs, and valleys along the continental shelf of the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. While the crests of the banks support diverse coral reef ecosystems, beautiful mesophotic reefs, supporting a variety of fish and invertebrates, extend throughout the 'twilight zone' (~130ft to 500ft). These deepwater reef ecosystems provide valuable habitat for many different species and are considered habitat highways between banks in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico.

Collage of mesophotic organisms from the banks of the northwestern Gulf of Mexico- Photography by FGBNMS/NURC-UNCW and Joyce and Frank Burek

