

**Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule
Working Group Scope of Work
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council**

September 2019

Membership:

- Two (2) Scientific and Statistical Committee Members
- One (1) Southeast Fisheries Science Center Representative
- Two (2) Council Staff Members
- One (1) Council Member

Objective:

- To evaluate other tiered catch limit control rules used by other fisheries management entities, and to identify deficiencies in the Council's existing ABC Control Rule, in order to determine appropriate improvements or modifications.

Meetings:

All meetings for this ABC Control Rule Working Group will take place via webinar. Three webinars will be scheduled initially; more may be scheduled as the need arises.

Webinar 1:

- Review and discuss both the existing control rule and those used by other regions
 - Pros and cons of other rules
 - Evaluate the proposed Control Rule developed by the SEFSC
 - Goals of a new Gulf rule
 - Triage list of goals for development process

Webinar 2:

- Create new rule framework
 - Sort qualifying data
 - Specify data qualifying for each tier
 - Specify weighting of data within each tier
 - Specify adjustments for each tier to bracket uncertainty
 - Consider specific tier for data-limited assessments
 - Consider specific tier for interim analyses
 - Consider scalar(s) to account for additional scientific or other uncertainty

Webinar 3:

- Test new Control Rule performance against the previous Control Rule
 - Evaluate performance and plausibility of results
 - Identify adjustments to scalars and weighting of data in each tier
- Finalize framework of new Control Rule
- Draft new Control Rule for consideration by the Council's SSC