



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100

Tampa, FL 33607

Phone: 813.348.1630 • Toll free: 888.833.1844 • Fax: 813.348.1711

www.gulfcouncil.org

Meeting Notice
February 14, 2012

Contact: Charlene Ponce
813-338-1630

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to Convene Three Web-based Meetings of its ABC Control Rule Working Group

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council has scheduled three meetings of its ABC Control Rule Working Group to be held via webinar. The meetings will convene March 8, 2012; March 15, 2012; and March 22, 2012. Each webinar will begin at noon eastern time, and conclude by 4:00 p.m. Information on how to register for the webinars will be posted on the Council's website - www.gulfcouncil.org - as soon as it becomes available.

The ABC Control Rule Working Group will discuss potential revisions to the Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) control rule that was recently implemented as part of the Council's Generic Annual Catch Limits/Accountability Measures Amendment. While all areas of the control rule will be subject to review, particular attention will be given to whether the P-star approach used to determine Acceptable Biological Catch in Tier 1 of the control rule realistically captures scientific uncertainty, as well as possible revisions to the Tier 2 method for data poor stocks. Recommendations from the Working Group will be presented to the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee when it meets in late March.

Copies of the agenda and other related materials can be obtained by calling 813-348-1630. Materials will also be available to download from the *ABC Control Rule Working Group* folder on the Council's FTP site, which is accessible from the *Quick Links* section of the Council website at www.gulfcouncil.org.

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the Working Group for discussion, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions by the Working Group will be restricted to those issues identified in the agenda, and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take action to address the emergency.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Pereira at the Council at least five working days prior to the meeting.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council prepares fishery management plans designed to manage fishery resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

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