



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

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

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Meeting Notice
August 27, 2010

Contact: Steven Atran
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Annual Catch Limit/Annual Catch Target Control Rule Working Group to Meet

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will convene two meetings of its Annual Catch Limit/Annual Catch Target Control Rule Working Group to review and further develop a draft control rule to be included in the Generic Annual Catch Limits/Accountability Measures Amendment.

The first working group meeting will convene at 9 a.m. on Monday, September 20, 2010 and conclude by 3 p.m., and will be held at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council office – 2203 N. Lois Avenue, Tampa, FL 33607. The second meeting will be held via webinar, convening at 9 a.m. Wednesday, October 6, 2010, and concluding by 12 p.m. Every attempt will be made to webcast the in-person meetings, and webinars will be open to the public for monitoring.

Copies of the agenda and other related materials can be obtained by calling 813-348-1630. Materials can also be downloaded from the Council's ftp site – [ftp.gulfcouncil.org](ftp://ftp.gulfcouncil.org). For direct access to the meeting materials visit <http://ftp.gulfcouncil.org?user=anonymous> and navigate to the folder titled *ACL-ACT Control Rule Working Group*.

A control rule is a specified approach to setting catch targets and limits. Having a standard, specified approach allows management decisions to be made with respect to catch targets and limits in a consistent and objective manner. Development of control rules requires interaction between fisheries managers and scientists, as well as input from the public in order to determine the appropriate approach and level of acceptable risk under any given situation.

The control rule will be used by the council in setting a buffer that accounts for management uncertainty between the acceptable biological catch and annual catch limit, or between the annual catch limit and annual catch target. For fisheries that have the annual catch limit allocated into sectors, the control rule will determine the buffer for each sector individually.

Annual catch limits and accountability measures are now required by the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act of 2006 to end and prevent overfishing. Implementation of annual catch limit and accountability measure provisions must begin in 2010 or earlier for stocks subject to overfishing, and in 2011 or earlier for all other stocks under federal management.

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 of the working group will be restricted to those issues specifically identified in the agenda and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under Section 305© 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 Tina O'Hern at least five working days prior to the meeting.

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