



# 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, Florida 33607 USA  
Phone: 813.348.1630 • Toll free: 888.833.1844 • Fax: 813.348.1711  
[www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org)

Meeting Notice  
February 12, 2010

For More Information Contact:  
Steven Atran at 813-348-1630

## Gulf Council Convenes Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rule Working Group

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) Control Rule working group will meet March 5, 2010, via webinar.

The working group, a sub-group of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, is developing a structured decision-making framework to assist in assessing scientific uncertainty, the probability of overfishing, and acceptable levels of risk when setting acceptable biological catch.

During its meeting, the group will discuss and finalize a draft of the acceptable biological catch control rule currently under development. The discussion will include developing a method for determining the appropriate probability of overfishing for stocks that are managed by the Council. For stocks that have adequate data, the group will develop an acceptable-risk based approach to determining acceptable biological catch.

For data-poor stocks – stocks with insufficient data to apply an acceptable-risk based approach – the group will develop appropriate alternatives to setting acceptable biological catch, depending upon the amount of data available. The group will also develop recommendations to the Council on setting a minimum stock threshold – a threshold below which harvest is not allowed.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will end no later than noon. For instructions on how to access the webinar, please visit the Council's website at [www.gulfcouncil.org](http://www.gulfcouncil.org). 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 of the Council's FTP site (<http://ftp.gulfcouncil.org?user=anonymous>).

Although other non-emergency issues not on the agenda may come before the working group, in accordance with the M-SFCMA, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Actions of the working group are restricted to those issues identified in the agenda.

This webinar is accessible to people with disabilities. For assistance with any of our webinars, contact Tina O'Hern 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 Act. The Council prepares fishery management plans designed to manage fishery resources in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

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2203 N. Lois Avenue

Suite 1100

Tampa, FL 33607

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