
Moving from Species Based to Island Based Management

Comment Period for the Notice of Intent Ends July 8, 2013

NOAA Fisheries, along with the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, intends to prepare a draft environmental impact statement to outline a range of management alternatives to be considered for a comprehensive management plan for the federal waters of St. Croix.

The agency is hosting a series of scoping meetings to give people the opportunity to provide comments on the actions addressed in the environmental impact statement. Prior to these meetings the public can submit written comments on developing an island-based approach to fishery management from now through **July 8, 2013**.

This comprehensive plan will incorporate and modify, as needed, federal fisheries management measures included in each of the existing species-based management plans (Spiny Lobster, Reef Fish, Coral, and Queen Conch).

The goal is to create a management plan tailored to the specific fishery management needs of St. Croix. If approved, this new management plan for St. Croix in conjunction with similar plans being developed for Puerto Rico and St. Thomas/St. John, will replace the current species-based plans presently governing commercial and recreational harvest in the U.S. Caribbean federal waters.

**Dates and Locations of Scoping Meetings:**

1. **July 8, 2013** at 7 p.m. - at the Centro de Usos Multiples de Vieques, Calle Antonio G. Mellado, Vieques, Puerto Rico.
2. **July 9, 2013** at 7 p.m. - at the DoubleTree by Hilton San Juan, De Diego Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
3. **July 9, 2013** at 7 p.m. - at the Buccaneer Hotel, Estate Shoys, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.
4. **July 10, 2013** at 7 p.m. - at the Holiday Inn (Windward Passage Hotel) Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.
5. **July 10, 2013** at 2 p.m. - at the Holiday Inn Ponce & Tropical Casino, 3315 Ponce By Pass, Ponce, Puerto Rico.
6. **July 10, 2013** at 7 p.m. - at the Holiday Inn, 2701 Hostos Avenue, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.
7. **July 11, 2013** at 7 p.m. - at the Asociacion de Pescadores Unidos de Playa Hucare in Naguabo, Puerto Rico.
8. **July 12, 2013** at 6 p.m. – at the Club Nautico de Arecibo, Carr, 681 Km. 1.4, Barrio Islote, Sector Vigia, Arecibo, Puerto Rico.

**Request for Comments**

Written comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in the draft environmental impact statement must be received by NOAA Fisheries by **July 8, 2013**.

**Addresses**


Electronic copies of the NOI can be obtained at [www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0092](http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0092).
You may submit comments by the following methods:

**Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal.

- Go to: www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0092.
- Click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

**Mail:** Submit written comments to Miguel Lugo, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701, or to the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918. All comments will be part of the public record, and generally posted for public viewing to www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter, may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. Anonymous comments will be accepted.

To receive fishery bulletins via email, please sign up through Constant Contact at http://bit.ly/HQDUEU. You may also sign up for Constant Contact by visiting our Web site http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov (sign-up option is located on the left side of the page).