



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Status of CFMC Amendments/Actions Island-based Fishery Management Plans

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CFMC 184th Meeting

April 23-24, 2024

Puerto Rico



CFMC Status of Current Actions (as of April 2024)¹



FMP/Amendment/Other Action	Status	Additional info
Framework Amendment 1 IBFMPs: Spiny Lobster Reference Points	- Regulations effective on April 15, 2023	Updates based on SEDAR 57 Spiny Lobster Assessments
Amendment 1 IBFMPs: Buoy Gear Definition and Use	- Regulations effective on August 21, 2023	Prohibits buoy gear use for recreational sector; Allows up to 25 hooks on buoy gear for commercial fishers.
Framework Amendment 2 IBFMPs: Update OFL, ABC, and ACL for Spiny Lobster	- SSC recommended OFLs and ABCs for 2024-2026 for spiny lobster for each FMP. - Final Rule under review; will be published soon	Based on the 2022 Update Assessment to the SEDAR 57 Spiny Lobster Assessments. Would set new ACLs for spiny lobster under each FMP.
Amendment 2 IBFMPs: Trawl, Net Gear, and Descending Devices	- Council took final action in Dec 2023. - Council submitted amendment in March 2024 - NOA and Proposed Rule under development	Would prohibit use of all trawl gear, trammel nets and purse seines in EEZ; limit the use of gillnets to surface gillnets with specifications for non-FMP species; require use of descending devices when fishing for reef fish in EEZs.
Framework Action 3 under Puerto Rico FMP: Modification of Triggerfish Reference Points	- At Dec 2023 meeting, Council tasked staff to develop action - Framework being reviewed by the SEFSC, completed review at SERO - Council will review at April 2024 meeting and may take final action.	- Based on Queen triggerfish assessment (SEDAR 80) completed in 2022
Amendment 3 to the PR, STX and STT/STJ FMPs: Management Measures for Dolphin and Wahoo	- Amendment has been reviewed by SERO and SEFSC - Council will review at April 2024 meeting and may take final action	Would establish recreational bag limits and size limits for all fishing for dolphin and wahoo stocks.

¹Development of actions depends on CFMC priorities
Items in red: for this April 2024 meeting

CFMC Status of Current Actions (as of April 2024)¹



FMP/Amendment/Other Action	Status	Additional info
<p>Amendment 4 to the Puerto Rico FMP: Reclassification of the Rainbow Runner as a Pelagic Fish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council discussed plan to develop the amendment at Dec 2023 meeting. - Council tasked SSC with addressing concerns about commercial ACL. - SSC to make recommendation/statement at the April 2024 meeting. - IPT would resume development of amendment. 	<p>Rainbow runner is currently classified as reef fish in Puerto Rico FMP, but it is caught as a pelagic (water column).</p> <p>The stock would be reclassified as a pelagic fish under the PR FMP, as recommended to the Council by SSC and DAP</p>
<p>Action: Modification of Red Hind Seasonal Closure in the St. Croix EEZ to address Pelagic Fishing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council discussed White Paper in Dec 2023, and decided on actions/alternatives to address gear types, fishing methods, and species that could be fished for during the seasonal closure in Lang Bank, east of St. Croix. - Staff will develop the action for further discussion at the August 2024 meeting. - STX DAP meeting to be scheduled for information gathering 	<p>Evaluate modifying the Lang Bank red hind area closure to allow fishing for pelagic species during the closure.</p>
<p>Triggerfish Reference Points based on SEDAR 80 for STX and STT/STJ - USVI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SSC will make recommendations based on their April 2024 meeting - Council may task staff to develop Framework actions to update reference points for STX and STT/STJ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Queen triggerfish assessment (SEDAR 80) – USVI - Development of the stock assessments will be continue outside of the SEDAR process – SSC and SEFSC lead

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Items in red: for this meeting

CFMC Status of Current Actions (as of April 2024)¹



FMP/Amendment/Other Action	Status	Additional info
Action: Development of Federal Permit System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NMFS guided discussion about permits /requirements, considerations, in Dec 2023 - NMFS SERO will develop an example of a limited access permit on deep water snappers for the August 2024 meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revives action tabled in 2016. - Would evaluate general permits, limited permits, other. - Needs guidance from the Council on scope of action - Most interest is from Puerto Rico
Grammanik/Hind Bank Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council tasked staff to look into issues and address questions through discussion in Dec 2023 - Council received presentation by R. Nemeth - No specific actions discussed or tasked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The St. Thomas STFA brought concerns to the Council regarding Nassau grouper, Grammanik and Hind Bank connectivity, landings and area use, outreach and education, other.
Puerto Rico Bajo de Sico/Nassau Grouper Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council tasked staff to look into issues and address questions. - To be addressed during a future meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Researchers/Fishers request changes to management in Bajo de Sico to address Nassau grouper recovery, access to fishing deepwater fishing grounds, enforcement, ESA listing

CFMC Status of Other Actions (as of April 2024)

FMP/Amendment/Other Action	Status	Additional info
Action: Trap Reduction Plan for USVI EEZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CFMC received update at December 2022 meeting. - Postponed until more information/interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would evaluate compatibility with USVI trap reduction program.
Action: Timing of Seasonal Area Closures for the Red Hind Grouper in the Puerto Rico EEZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion paper presented at December 2021 meeting. - Staff met with scientists, continue gathering info - Postponed until more information is collected (e.g diver vs acoustic surveys) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informational workshops with fishers and data requests pending. - Research in Abrir La Sierra - ongoing

Summary of Items to Address in 2024*:



FMP/Amendment/Other Action	Task	Additional info
2023 AM Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revisit ACLs for stocks that would fall under “Enhanced Reporting.” because of new management regime under island-based FMPs 2. Determine actions to be taken when pelagics ACT is exceeded <p>Council tasked staff/SSC/SERO to compile information for the SSC evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For stocks that may continue to exceed their ACLs due to enhanced reporting. - Pelagics – AM different than other managed species. No specific action defined for when ACT is exceeded. - Council may need to task SSC to address these.
Management of Corals, Sea Urchins, and Sea Cucumbers, other	Council to discuss a potential reclassification as ecosystem component species or other options	Stocks with harvest prohibitions have status as unknown.
Changes to Framework Actions under each FMP	Make changes to the list of actions that can be taken under a framework amendment	Changes needed to address routine actions, specific changes to reference points, gear types, other to streamline process
Queen Conch Rebuilding Plan	Evaluate status of the queen conch after end of rebuilding plan	Needs coordination between SERO/SEFSC and SSC