



Island-Based FMPs: Authorized Gears

**Caribbean Fishery Management Council
August 11-12, 2020 Meeting**

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Overview

- We will discuss:
 - Authorized gears for the commercial longline and hook and line fishery for managed *reef fish*
 - Prohibited gears and methods
 - Gear and anchoring restrictions by area



Puerto Rico Reef Fish

- **Snappers:** black, blackfin, silk, vermilion, wenchman, cardinal, queen, lane, mutton, dog, schoolmaster, yellowtail, cuvera*
- **Groupers:** Nassau, goliath, coney, graysby, black, red, tiger, yellowfin, yellowmouth*, yellowedge, misty, red hind, rock hind
- **Parrotfishes:** blue, midnight, rainbow, queen, princess, redtail, stoplight, redband, striped
- **Surgeonfishes:** blue tang, ocean surgeonfish, doctorfish
- **Triggerfishes:** ocean, queen, gray*
- **Wrasses:** hogfish, puddingwife, Spanish hogfish
- **Angelfishes:** queen, grey, French
- **Grunts:** white grunt
- **Jacks:** crevalle jack*, African pompano*, rainbow runner*

* New to management



St. Thomas/St John Reef Fish

- **Snappers:** black, blackfin, silk, vermilion, queen, lane, mutton, yellowtail
- **Groupers:** Nassau, goliath, coney, red hind, black, red, tiger, yellowfin, yellowmouth*, yellowedge, misty
- **Parrotfishes:** blue, midnight, rainbow, queen, princess, redtail, stoplight, redband, striped, redfin
- **Surgeonfishes:** blue tang, ocean surgeonfish, doctorfish
- **Triggerfishes:** queen
- **Wrasses:** hogfish
- **Angelfishes:** queen, grey, French
- **Grunts:** white grunt, bluestriped, margate
- **Jacks:** Blue runner
- **Porgies:** jolthead, saucereye, sheepshead, sea bream

Reef Fish-STT/STJ

* New to management



St. Croix Reef Fish

- **Snappers:** black, blackfin, silk, vermilion, queen, lane, gray, mutton, schoolmaster, yellowtail
- **Groupers:** Nassau, goliath, graysby, coney, red hind, rock hind, black, red, tiger, yellowfin, misty
- **Parrotfishes:** blue, midnight, rainbow, queen, princess, redtail, stoplight, redband, striped, redfin
- **Surgeonfishes:** blue tang, ocean surgeonfish, doctorfish
- **Triggerfishes:** queen
- **Angelfishes:** queen, grey, French
- **Grunts:** white grunt, bluestriped
- **Squirrelfish:** longspine squirrelfish

Reef Fish - St. Croix



Commercial Longline/Hook and Line Fishery for Managed Reef Fish

- Longline
- Hook and line
- 50 CFR 600.725(v) gear table

The gear table will be updated in the regulations implementing the island-based FMPs

Authorized Gears



Longline Definitions

- Longline means “a line that is deployed horizontally to which gangions and hooks are attached;” can be a bottom longline or a pelagic longline
- Bottom longline means a longline that is deployed, or in combination with gear aboard the vessel, e.g., weights or anchors, is capable of being deployed to maintain contact with the ocean bottom.
- Pelagic longline means a longline that is suspended by floats in the water column and that is not fixed to or in contact with the ocean bottom.

50 CFR 600.725(v) gear table and 50 CFR 622.2 definitions

Authorized Gears



Hook and Line Definitions (1 of 3)

Authorized Gears

- Hook-and-line means “automatic reel, bandit gear, **buoy gear**, handline, longline, and rod and reel.”
- Buoy gear means fishing gear that fishes **vertically** in the water column that consists of a **single drop line suspended from a float**, from which **no more than 10 hooks** can be connected between the buoy and the terminal end, and the terminal end contains a **weight that is no more than 10 lb (4.5 kg)**. The drop line can be rope (hemp, manila, cotton or other natural fibers; nylon, polypropylene, spectra or other synthetic material) or monofilament, but must not be cable or wire. The gear is **free-floating and not connected to other gear or the vessel**. The drop line must be **no greater than 2 times the depth of the water being fished**. All hooks must be attached to the drop line **no more than 30 ft (9.1 m) from the weighted terminal end**. These hooks may be attached directly to the drop line; attached as snoods (defined as an offshoot line that is directly spliced, tied or otherwise connected to the drop line), where each snood has a single terminal hook; or as gangions (defined as an offshoot line connected to the drop line with some type of detachable clip), where each gangion has a single terminal hook.



Hook and Line Definitions (2 of 3)

- Hook-and-line means “**automatic reel**, **bandit gear**, buoy gear, handline, longline, and rod and reel.”
- Automatic reel means a reel that remains attached to a vessel when in use from which a line and attached hook(s) are deployed. The line is payed out from and retrieved on the reel electrically or hydraulically.
- Bandit gear means a rod and reel that remain attached to a vessel when in use from which a line and attached hook(s) are deployed. The line is payed out from and retrieved on the reel manually, electrically, or hydraulically.

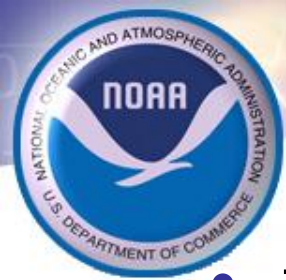
50 CFR 600.725(v) gear table and 50 CFR 622.2 definitions



Hook and Line Definitions (3 of 3)

- Hook-and-line means “automatic reel, bandit gear, buoy gear, **handline**, longline, and **rod and reel**.”
- Handline means a line with attached hook(s) that is tended directly by hand.
- Rod and reel means a rod and reel unit that is not attached to a vessel, or, if attached, is readily removable, from which a line and attached hook(s) are deployed. The line is payed out from and retrieved on the reel manually, electrically, or hydraulically.

50 CFR 600.725(v) gear table and 50 CFR 622.2 definitions



- The use of any gear not listed as authorized for the fishery is prohibited (50 CFR 600.725(v)).
- Options for fishers to use other gears:
 1. Fisher notification:
 - Notify the Council of intent to use the gear
 - Notice has required elements (50 CFR 600.747(c))
 - After 90 days, the fisher may use the gear unless action is taken to prohibit it
 - NMFS may amend the regulations to allow broad use of the gear
 2. Council could amend FMP to redefine gears

Authorized Gears



Prohibited Gears

General Prohibitions

- Explosive (all target species)
- Poison, drug, other chemical (reef fish)
- Powerhead (reef fish)
- Gillnet and trammel net (reef fish)

50 CFR 622.9 and 50 CFR 622.433



Area Prohibitions

- Fishing with pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets, or trammel nets, year round in:
 - Mutton snapper spawning aggregation area (defined);
 - Red hind spawning aggregation areas: East of St. Croix; West of Puerto Rico (Tourmaline Bank and Abrir La Sierra Bank);
 - Grammanik Bank (St. Thomas);
 - Bajo de Sico (PR).
- Anchoring by fishing vessels in Bajo de Sico and Hind Bank Marine Conservation District, year round

Prohibited Gears



Thank you!

Questions?