



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Status of Island-based Fishery Management Plans and Amendments



NOAA Fisheries, Sustainable Fisheries Division-Caribbean Branch

180th Caribbean Fishery Management Council Meeting

Dec 6-7, 2022

CFMC Status of Current Actions (as of Dec 2022)¹



FMP/Amendment/Other Action*	Status	Additional info
Puerto Rico FMP, St. Croix FMP, St. Thomas & St. John FMP (IBFMPs)	Plans are effective	Final Rule Effective: <u>October 13, 2022</u> 87 FR 56204, published September 13, 2022
Generic Framework Amendment IBFMPs: Spiny Lobster Reference Points	- Submitted by CFMC on Sep 26, 2022 - Proposed Rule will publish soon	Updates based on SEDAR 57
Generic Amendment IBFMPs: Buoy Gear Definition and Use	- Submitted by CFMC on Nov 2, 2022 - Next stage: draft of proposed rule	Prohibits buoy gear use for recreational sector; Allows up to 25 hooks on buoy gear for commercial fishers.
Generic Amendment IBFMPs: Trawl, Net Gear, and Descending Devices	- Draft of Chapters 1 and 2 for CFMC to select preferred alternatives at Dec 2022 meeting.	May prohibit use of all trawl gear in EEZ or MMAs; may prohibit use of gillnets, trammel nets, purse seines in EEZ; may require use of descending devices when fishing for reef fish in EEZ.
Generic Amendment IBFMPs: Pelagic Management Measures	- IPT had first meeting - Draft being developed for CFMC review. Need guidance from Council on scope of actions	May establish recreational bag limits, commercial trip limits and/or recreational and/or commercial size limits for pelagic stocks.
*Action: Development of Federal Permit System	- IPT had first meeting - Need guidance from Council on scope of action. Will be discussed at April 2023 CFMC Meeting	Revives action tabled in 2016. Would evaluate general permits, limited permits, or any other.
*Action: Trap Reduction Plan for USVI EEZ	- CFMC requested presentation with issues for Dec 2022 CFMC Meeting	Would evaluate compatibility with USVI trap reduction program.
*Action: Timing of Seasonal Area Closures for the Red Hind Grouper in the Puerto Rico EEZ	- Discussion paper was presented at CFMC Dec 2021 CFMC Meeting	Informational workshops with fishers and data requests – pending.
*Action: Modification of Red Hind Seasonal Closure in the St. Croix EEZ	- Request from Council at April CFMC 2022 Meeting; SERO staff conferred with HMS staff (Summer of 2022)	Develop a scoping paper to evaluate modifying Lang Bank red hind closure to allow fishing for pelagic species during closure – pending.

¹Development of actions depends on CFMC priorities