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Generic Framework Amendment to the Fishery Management Plans for Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John, and St. Croix

Modification of Spiny Lobster Management Reference Points Based on SEDAR 57 Stock Assessments

175th Caribbean Fishery Management Council Meeting

August 11, 2021

**Generic Framework Amendment to the Fishery
Management Plans for Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and
St. John, and St. Croix: Modification of Spiny Lobster
Management Reference Points Based on SEDAR 57
Stock Assessments**



Including Environmental Assessment, Regulatory Impact Review, and
Regulatory Flexibility Act Analysis



Version 3.0, August 2021



Review from April 2021 Council Meeting

Council reviewed actions in the draft framework amendment to the island-based FMPs, which updates spiny lobster management reference points following the accepted SEDAR 57 stock assessments and the change from Tier 4 to Tier 3 under the ABC Control Rule.

Action 1 - Update spiny lobster OFL/ABC/ACLs using constant-catch or variable-catch approach.

Action 2 - Update accountability measure (AM) trigger for spiny lobster.

The framework amendment updates the maximum sustainable yield, overfished criteria, and overfishing criteria for spiny lobster in each island area based on outcomes from the SEDAR 57 stock assessments.



Action 1 – Spiny Lobster OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs

Alternative 3 (Preferred for each FMP): Select the constant-catch approach for specifying the OFL and ABC for spiny lobster and use the constant-catch ABC to derive the spiny lobster constant-catch ACL.

Island/Island Group	Year	Preferred Sub-alternative 3b (ACL = ABC * 0.95)
Puerto Rico	2021-2023	369,313
	2024+	366,965
St. Thomas/ St. John	2021 - 2023	142,636
	2024+	126,089
St. Croix	2021 - 2023	140,667
	2024+	120,830



Action 2 – Spiny Lobster AM Trigger

Alternative 2 (Preferred for each FMP): Use the average of the most recent three years of spiny lobster landings to evaluate whether an AM is triggered. An AM is triggered if average landings exceeded average ACLs in place during those years. The years of landings used to trigger an AM can be adjusted to account for the best scientific information available.

Fishing Year	Most Recent Landings Available*	AM Trigger Preferred Alternative 2
2022	2020	Three-year average (2018-2020)
2023	2021	Three-year average (2019-2021)
2024	2022	Three-year average (2020-2022)
2025	2023	Three-year average (2021-2023)
2026	2024	Three-year average (2022-2024)

* Assuming landings are available two years after when the fishing occurred (i.e., the fishing year).

Next Steps

Council could vote to submit the amendment to the Secretary of Commerce for implementation.

- Council give staff permission to make non-substantive, editorial changes.
- Council give Chair permission to review changes and submit

Rulemaking started

- Proposed rule would include a 30-day public comment period
- Final rule after the island-based FMPs are implemented (amendment likely effective in early 2022)



Questions



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