



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Status of Amendments to the Island-based Fishery Management Plans

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181st Caribbean Fishery Management Council Meeting

April 18-19, 2023



CFMC Status of Current Actions (as of April 2023)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 1 IBFMPs: Spiny Lobster Reference Points	- Submitted by CFMC on Sep 26, 2022 - Amendment effective since Apr 15, 2023	Updates based on SEDAR 57 Spiny Lobster Assessments
Generic Amendment 1 IBFMPs: Buoy Gear Definition and Use	- Submitted by CFMC on Nov 2, 2022 - Notice of Amendment published April 6, 2023 - Comment period open until June 5, 2023	Prohibits buoy gear use for recreational sector; Allows up to 25 hooks on buoy gear for commercial fishers.
Generic Amendment 2 IBFMPs: Trawl, Net Gear, and Descending Devices	- Draft EA ready for Council to finalize selection of preferred alternatives at this meeting (April) - Final action may be in August 2023	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 Framework Amendment 2 IBFMPs: Update OFL, ABC, and ACL for Spiny Lobster	- SSC recommended OFL and ABCs for 2024-2026 for each FMP. - Amendment drafted; Council to select preferred alternatives at this meeting (April) - Final Action may be in August 2023	Based on the 2022 Update Assessment to the SEDAR 57 Spiny Lobster Assessments
Amendment 3 to the STX and STT/STJ FMPs: New Management Measures for Dolphin and Wahoo**	**Result of Pelagic Amdt. Split in 2: USVI and PR - Restructured document by Island/Species (4 actions) - Need guidance from Council on scope of actions; - Council to select preferred alternatives at this meeting (April) - Final Action may be in August 2023	May establish recreational bag limits, commercial trip limits and/or recreational and/or commercial size limits for pelagic stocks.

¹Development of actions depends on CFMC priorities

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CFMC Status of Current Actions (as of Apr 2023)¹



FMP/Amendment/Other Action*	Status	Additional info
Amendment 3 to the PR FMP: New Management Measures for Pelagic Species**	**Pelagic Amdt split in 2: USVI and PR - On hold until additional information from PR	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	- Will be discussed at August 2023 CFMC Meeting. - Need guidance from Council on scope of action.	Revives action tabled in 2016. Would evaluate general permits, limited permits, or any other.
Action: Trap Reduction Plan for USVI EEZ	CFMC received update at Dec 2022 CFMC Meeting - Pending USVI internal actions, then Council decision on moving forward	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 - Council to decide if moving forward with this action or not.	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) - Council to decide if moving forward with this action or not.	Develop a scoping paper to evaluate modifying Lang Bank red hind closure to allow fishing for pelagic species during closure – pending.

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