



189th CFMC Hybrid Regular Meeting Motions
April 21-22, 2026
St. Croix, USVI

Motion #1

The Council requests the SSC to provide additional rationale for their recommendation to derive OFL (502,387 lbs) and ABC (443,062 lbs) from the MSY proxy 30% SPR considering the Puerto Rico spiny lobster assessment concluded overfishing was not occurring in recent years (2022-2024) when average landings (571,265 lbs) exceeded the current OFL (426,858 lbs).

Motion by: Heather Blough

Second by: Tony Blanchard

Votes: all yes; motion passes unanimously



Motion #2

The Council requests that the SSC consider alternative approaches for setting the Puerto Rico spiny lobster OFL and ABC, including setting variable OFLs and ABCs that are consistent with the predicted values from the assessment to achieve optimum yield while stock biomass is above the target level.

Motion by: Heather Blough

Second by: Vanessa Ramirez

Votes: all yes; motion passes unanimously



Motion #3

The Council selects Action 1, Alternative 2 as the preferred: Update the St. Croix spiny lobster OFL and ABC values and set the ACL equal to the recommended ABC (186,063 lbs). The ACL would equal 186,063 lbs.

Motion by: Vanessa Ramirez

Second by: Heather Blough

Votes: 2 yes, 3 no; 2 abstentions; motion fails



Motion #4

The Council selects Action 1, Alternative 3 as the preferred: Update the St. Croix spiny lobster OFL and ABC values and set the ACL equal to 95% of the recommended ABC (186,063 lbs). The ACL would equal 176,760 lbs.

Motion by: Heather Blough

Second by: Nicole Angeli

Votes: all yes; motion passes unanimously



Motion #5

The Council selects Action 2, Alternative 2 as the preferred: Update the St. Thomas/St. John spiny lobster OFL and ABC values and set the ACL equal to the recommended ABC (132,964 lbs). The ACL would equal 132,964 lbs.

Motion by: Roberto Sabater

Second by: Vanessa Ramirez

Votes: all yes; motion passes unanimously



Motion #6

For Action 2, because St. Thomas/St. John spiny lobster landings have been consistently higher than in the past, the Council requests the SEFSC to provide an interim assessment by December 2027 to update OFL projections and inform catch levels using updated available information (e.g., fishery-dependent abundance index).

Motion by: Nicole Angeli

Second by: Tony Blanchard

Votes: all yes; motion passes unanimously



Motion #7

The Council moves to approve Framework Action 4 (USVI spiny lobster) and submit the action to the Secretary of Commerce for review. We thereby allow staff to make editorial, non-substantive changes to the Framework Action 4. We give the Council Chair the authority to deem any modifications made to the proposed rule and regulations as necessary and appropriate for implementing Framework Action 4.

Motion by: Heather Blough

Second by: Vanessa Ramirez

Votes: all yes; motion passes unanimously



Motion #8

Request staff to review the effectiveness and necessity of the seasonal closure for Grouper Unit 4 in St. Thomas/St. John, considering other management measures that restrict harvest of the stocks and protect the habitat supporting those aggregations such as the Hind Bank MCD and Grammanik Bank, among others.

Motion by: Tony Blanchard

Second by: Vanessa Ramirez

Votes: all yes; motion passes unanimously



Motion #9

Request staff draft an options paper to review the effectiveness and necessity of prohibiting all fishing in the Tourmaline and Abrir la Sierra seasonal management areas relative to the management objectives to protect red hind.

Motion by: Vanessa Ramirez

Second by: Tony Blanchard

Votes: all yes; motion passes unanimously



Motion #10

Request staff to review the effectiveness and necessity of the spatial and seasonal closures for mutton snapper in STX relative to their management objectives.

Motion by: Nicole Angeli

Second by: Vanessa Ramirez

Votes: all yes; motion passes unanimously



Motion #11

Request staff to develop an options paper to apply the decision tree for evaluating managed stocks presented by staff at the April 2026 meeting and bring it back to the Council at the August 2026 meeting.

Motion by: Heather Blough

Second by: Vanessa Ramirez

Votes: all yes; motion passes unanimously



Motion #12

Motion to prioritize Motion 8 as #1, Motion 9 as #2 and Motion 10 as #3 from the motions discussed today.

Motion by: Tony Blanchard

Second by: Vanessa Ramirez

Votes: all yes; motion passes unanimously



Motion #13: To appoint Roberto Sabater once he finishes his term as a Council Member in August 2026.

Motion by: Vaneesa Ramírez

Second by: Tony Blanchard

Motion #14: To re-appoint Delmis Alicea, Jannette Ramos, Ruth Gómez, Vilmarie Roman, and Emily Muehlstein for another term of the OEAP.

Motion by: Tony Blanchard

Second by: Daniel Matos

Votes: unanimously

Motion #15: To re-appoint Gerson Martínez for another term of the OEAP.

Motion by: Daniel Matos

Second by: Vanessa Ramírez

Votes: unanimously

Motion #16: To reappoint all the SSC members to another term.

Motion by: Tony Blanchard

Second by: Vanessa Ramírez

Votes: all in favor,

Motion #17: To reappoint all the EBFMTAP members to another term.

Motion by: Tony Blanchard

Second by: Vanessa Ramírez

Votes: all in favor,



Motion #14

Motion by:
Second by:
Votes:



Motion #15

Motion by:
Second by:
Votes: