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CFMC	1	Regulatory (Amendment) - Review species currently managed under the Puerto Rico Fishery Management Plan to determine if any species are no longer in need of federal conservation and management.	50 CFR 622.438; 622.440 Subpart S	Review the list of all species/stocks currently under federal management in the PR FMP to determine if (a) species are no longer in need of federal management, (b) should be managed by the state, (c) should be moved to ecosystem component.	SERO/SEFSC and the CFMC are working together to review the list of species under federal mangement to determine if any of the currently-managed species are not in need of conservation and management under the FMP. Staff will revisit the selection criteria using a summary matrix of qualitative and quantitative information on each managed stock. The action is expected to improve efficiency of federal fisheries management in the U.S. Caribbean, focusing resources on those species caught in federal waters that are in need of conservation and management while recognizing the importance of species that provide a critical role to the coral reef ecosystems in the region. Revising the list of managed species would likely require revising the managment reference points (e.g., ACLs) if the composition of stock complexes change and to update based on the best scientific information available. The Council also has engaged an ad hoc committee and has already begun discussion onthis item. Neither the NMFS nor the CFMC have the resources to manage all species or stock complexes. The CFMC/SEFSC collaborators are also considering alternative management strategies under the NOAA's EBFM Policy (e.g., SEDAR 103).	The NMFS/CFMC have already started a review of the species under management. The review considers available data, biological information, harvest levels, productivity and vulnerability scores, among others. Species-specific stock assessments have not proven helpful for management in the U.S. Caribbean. Reducing the number of species in need of stock assessments most likely will result in better management. This reduction in the number of species being reported will reduce the burden of reporting for fishers. The target dates for this action is 2026-2027.	CFMC/NMFS/Local Governments														
CFMC	1	Regulatory (Amendment) - Review species currently managed under the St. Thomas/St. John Fishery Management Plan to determine if any species are no longer in need of federal conservation and management.	50 CFR 622.438; 622.440 Subpart U	Review the list of all species/stocks currently under federal management in the STT/STJ FMP to determine if (a) species are no longer in need of federal management, (b) should be managed by the state, (c) should be moved to ecosystem component.	SERO/SEFSC and the CFMC are working together to review the list of species under federal mangement to determine if any of the currently-managed species are not in need of conservation and management under the FMP. Staff will revisit the selection criteria using a summary matrix of qualitative and quantitative information on each managed stock. The action is expected to improve efficiency of federal fisheries management in the U.S. Caribbean, focusing resources on those species caught in federal waters that are in need of conservation and management while recognizing the importance of species that provide a critical role to the coral reef ecosystems in the region. Revising the list of managed species would likely require revising the managment reference points (e.g., ACLs) if the composition of stock complexes change and to update based on the best scientific information available. The Council also has engaged an ad hoc committee and has already begun discussion onthis item. Neither the NMFS nor the CFMC have the resources to manage all species or stock complexes. The CFMC/SEFSC collaborators are also considering alternative management strategies under the NOAA's EBFM Policy (e.g., SEDAR 103).	The NMFS/CFMC have already started a review of the species under management. The review considers available data, biological information, harvest levels, productivity and vulnerability scores, among others. Species-specific stock assessments have not proven helpful for management in the U.S. Caribbean. Reducing the number of species in need of stock assessments most likely will result in better management. This reduction in the number of species being reported will reduce the burden of reporting for fishers. The target dates for this action is 2026-2027.	CFMC/NMFS/Local Governments														
CFMC	1	Regulatory (Amendment) - Review species currently managed under the St. Croix Fishery Management Plan to determine if any species are no longer in need of federal conservation and management.	50 CFR 622.438; 622.440 Subpart T	Review the list of all species/stocks currently under federal management in the STX FMP to determine if (a) species are no longer in need of federal management, (b) should be managed by the state, (c) should be moved to ecosystem component.	SERO/SEFSC and the CFMC are working together to review the list of species under federal mangement to determine if any of the currently-managed species are not in need of conservation and management under the FMP. Staff will revisit the selection criteria using a summary matrix of qualitative and quantitative information on each managed stock. The action is expected to improve efficiency of federal fisheries management in the U.S. Caribbean, focusing resources on those species caught in federal waters that are in need of conservation and management while recognizing the importance of species that provide a critical role to the coral reef ecosystems in the region. Revising the list of managed species would likely require revising the managment reference points (e.g., ACLs) if the composition of stock complexes change and to update based on the best scientific information available. The Council also has engaged an ad hoc committee and has already begun discussion onthis item. Neither the NMFS nor the CFMC have the resources to manage all species or stock complexes. The CFMC/SEFSC collaborators are also considering alternative management strategies under the NOAA's EBFM Policy (e.g., SEDAR 103).	The NMFS/CFMC have already started a review of the species under management. The review considers available data, biological information, harvest levels, productivity and vulnerability scores, among others. Species-specific stock assessments have not proven helpful for management in the U.S. Caribbean. Reducing the number of species in need of stock assessments most likely will result in better management. This reduction in the number of species being reported will reduce the burden of reporting for fishers. The target dates for this action is 2026-2027.	CFMC/NMFS/Local Governments														
CFMC	2	Revision of Compatible and Non-compatible Regulations Between Federal and State Governments (Regulatory Amendment)	50CFR 622 Subparts S, T, U; Puerto Rico Reglamento de Pesca #7949; USVI fishing regulations V.I. Code Title 12 Conservation Chapter 9A	Review list of current regulations and determine the feasability of (1) Conducting a management evaluation strategy (MSE) to remove unnecessary regulations; and (2) establishing compatible regulations across jurisdictions. One set of regulations for commonly managed species.	The review strategy will examine the rationale for the current regulations to identify those that could be revised. in place at present to determine its success or failure. It aims to improve management, increase regulatory compliance, and enhance economic profitability by opening up fisheries previously regulated or prohibited. The discussions about regulatory compatibility have have already started at the request of the commercial fishers. Compatibility and derogation of not needed regulations that are still in place would ultimately benefit fishers in having one coherent set of fishery regulations. Creating consistent regulations by removing unnecessary ones would ultimately benefit all fishers	Discussions on regulatory compatibility have already started at the request of the commercial fishers. Additional discussions could be scheduled during the December 2025 and Spring and Summer 2026 Council meetings 2025-2026. MSE review depends on availability of funds and staff.	CFMC/NMFS/PRDNER/USVIDPNR; Local Governments.														
CFMC	1	Review possible redundancy in regulations of seasonally closed areas, no take areas, and seasonal closures for spawning fish species (Regulatory).	50CFR 622 Subparts S, T, U	(1) Remove regulations that are redundant or unnecessary to avoid duplication and burdens to fishers, and increase management efficiency. 2) Evaluate marine protected areas for effectiveness in protecting species and/or habitat and determine if regulations need to be modified to allow fishing activities. Include EBFM approaches in the evaluation, including assessment of socioeconomic impacts of closures, where applicable.Review rationale for current seasonal and are closures.	Reviewing and removing redundant regulations could significantly improve the efficiency of fisheries management and create new fishing opportunities. This approach would allow for a more flexible management system, one that is more responsive to the latest scientific data.There is a need to continue CRCP beyond 2026 to continue including fishers in the monitoring and assessments of fish populations and MPAs. These fishers are paid at the same level of scientists at sea. Their knowledge is needed to improve science. The increased understanding of the management science by fishers and of the realities of the industry by scientists could improve assessments, reduce regulatory burden, improve the economy of the industry by self monitoring. Remove regulations that are redundant or unnessearty to unburden fishers. It is important that Cooperative Research be considered for consistently monitoring the areas as part of the deregulation process.	NMFS/CFMC are compiling a list of regulations that were established 20 or more years ago that could be modified to enhance fishing opportunities. The list will be shared at the December 2025 Council Meeting. Additional discussions and amendment development in 2026/2027.	CFMC/NMFS														

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CFMC	1	Review effectiveness of current MPAs to determine which are effective and which can be eliminated. (Regulatory - Amendment)/ Science Data collection for monitoring MPAs	For example: 50 CFR 622.439 (a)(2) Tourmaline Bank, Puerto Rico (shared jurisdiction).	Open MPAs if not accomplishing its purpose. Plan to allow for controlled access to the areas through a cooperative research protocol (being developed under CRCP 2025 grant) to assess recovery of fish population in other closed areas. Enhance monitoring (e.g., annual periodicity, species use by habitat and depth) of managed areas through a cooperative research program to support action. Assess the MPAs through an EBFM (assessing regulatory impacts) approach, rather than single species, to evaluate effectiveness and impacts of closed areas.	Marine Managed Area (MMA) established to protect a fish spawning site could be reopened to fishing if it's no longer an active spawning area. Habitat changes or other factors may have rendered the MPA's original purpose obsolete. By re-evaluating these areas, the burden on fishers could be reduced and new fisheries could be developed in previously protected zones. Additionally, fishers could be allowed to operate under a standardized, scientifically-guided protocol to help assess the recovery of these MMAs. Open access to the area if the area is no longer an active spawning aggregation site or not acting as an MPA for the protection of the reproducing stock. Changes due to habitat or other issues could have changed the purpose for which they were established. This would reduce burden on fishers as other fisheries could be open in the area. Access to previously protected areas could result in new fisheries being developed. Fishers could also be allowed to fish under standardized and scientifically guided protocols to provide an assessment of the recovery in the MPAs. This will provide for an additional income for fishers.	Extending the NOAA Cooperative Reserach Program beyond 2026 is crucial for keeping fishers involved to continue monitoring and assessing fish populations and marine protected areas. Fishers are compensated at the same level as at-sea scientists for their valuable expertise, which is essential for improving the science. This program fosters a mutual understanding between fishers and scientists; fishers would gain insight into management science, and scientists would better understand the realities of the fishing industry. This collaboration could lead to improved assessments, a reduced regulatory burden, and a more sustainable industry through self-monitoring. In 2026-2027 the CFMC through the CRCP grant will have the data that could help in deciding if the Tourmaline area should be open. The work will be conducted by fishers and scientists. Current research supported by the CFMC could be used to make determinations as to whether the MPAs are achieving their purpose. For example, a 2026-2027 Coral Reef Conservation Program grant project will focus assessing fish usage/presence in the Tournaline Bank MMA. Amendments if needed 2026-2028.	CFMC/NMFS/Other Federal Agencies /Local Governments													
CFMC	3	Collect recreational data in the US Caribbean (Science)	50 CFR 622 Subparts S, T, U	Restablish recreational fishing data collection efforts in the U.S. Caribbean. The MRFSS/MRIP program was halted in 2017 and has not resumed to date.	Local state recreational fishing licenses will assist data collection efforts in the region. If these licenses and data are certified for federal use, it could be used in stock assessments and in ACL monitoring efforts enhancing management in the US Caribbean.	Effectively implement the Marine Resource Information Program (MRIP) in the US Caribbean (PR and USVI). USVI just implemented recreational fishing license and reporting (2025).	NMFS/Local Governments/CFMC													
CFMC	1	Regulatory (Amendment) - Revise the accountability measure for the Caribbean Spiny Lobster in Puerto Rico. Science/Data collection: survey that samples individuals larger than those being caught in the fisheries to confirm there are large individuals in the population (SSC and Fishers' reccommendation).	50 CFR 622 Subpart S	The Puerto Rico spiny lobster AM needs to be revised in response to a series of ACL overages.	The recommended action would try to better understand how environmental and economic conditions impact landings and determine an more appropriate response (AM) to ensure sustainability of the fishery.	The Council will develop an amendment the Puerto Rico FMP to modify the spiny lobster AM. Target date is 2027. Science/Data Target: as soon as funding (e.g., CRP) becomes available.	NMFS/CFMC													
CFMC	1	Revise accountability measures for managed pelagic stocks (Regulatory Amendment)	50 CFR 622 Subparts S, T, U	Pelagic stocks are new to management in the US Caribbean. The AM for pelagic stocks in all three FMPs need to be revised to determine corrective action(s) to take when the annual catch limit is exceeded.	The recommended action would consider the regional seasonality and availability of pelagic stocks and its influence over markets and is expected to improve social and economic opportunities while complying with required mandates (MSA). Social and economic improvement to fishing communities when overages do not occur. Seasonal markets influence the harvest regime and understanding these could enhanced economic activity by not continuously incurring in overages.	The Council will develop an amendment to the FMPs to modify the pelagic AMs. Target date is 2026.	NMFS/CFMC													
CFMC	1	Consider alternative approaches for Annual Catch Limits (Regulatory)	50 CFR 622 Subparts S, T, U	(1) Consider allowing a portion of the unharvested ACL be added to the next year's catch limit for that particular stock (carry over). (2) Evaluate the use of alternative methods for setting reference points for data-limited stocks in the U.S. Caribbean fisheries (e.g., ecosystem reference point)	(1)This action would increase flexibility for managers and provide economic benefits to fishermen in the form of increased harvest opportunities and could reduce disruptions to fishing communities.This action would benefit the industry if the review determines that overregulation is the reason for not harvesting the ACLs. Deregulation could enhance economic profitability lessing the burden on the fishers. The carry over could decrease closures due to overages. (2) Alternate methods of managing data-limited fisheries in the US Caribbean could help address management challenges and may result in a stable markets and ecosystems.	Proposed plan: (1) Start discussion at Council meeting to determine if staff should develop an action for review and amendment(s) to the FMPs. (2) Alternate methods for data-limited stocks would be discussed/developed through the SEDAR 103 scheduled for 2025-2027. (3) Complete quality assessment/quality control (QA/QC) of all U.S. Caribbean commercial and recreational data available to date for the species under management.	CFMC/NMFS													
CFMC	1	Conduct queen conch population assessment in the U.S. Caribbean (Regulatory Amendment)	50 CFR 622 Subparts T, U	Evaluate the status of the queen conch stock(s) in the U.S. Caribbean and determine if a rebuidling plan for the species is needed. The assessment would allow the Council to reconsider the current management regime for the queen conch established under the previous rebuilding plan (e.g., harvest prohibitions and area and seasonal closures). Extend assessments to include closed areas managed by other jurisdiction/agencies, such as the monuments in St. Croix, USVI. Facilitate this effort by inviting these agencies and jurisdictions to collaborate on these research efforts.	An assessment would provide the scientific foundation for management decisions that can prevent overfishing of the queen conch and to lessen restrictions on the harvest, for example by showing that the stock is not overfished and can be removed from a rebuilding plan. It would help reduce uncertainty to set harvest levels, which would help stabilize markets and provide a stable supply of queen conch. Use advance and remote technology, in combination with AI to contribute to the population assessment. Train fishers to assist in the use of the technology to advance the understanding of queen conch population dynamics, habitat preferences, and create a database of the environmental parameters that impact on these populations. Fishers involvement can enhance profitability and help in decreasing illegal markets; both from poaching and incoming imports.	NMFS SEFSC to continue research on queen conch populations in the U.S. Caribbean. Interest fishers and academicians to apply for Cooperative Research Program (CRP) grants for use of advanced technology in the surveys of queen conch in the EEZ. Compensate fishers for the work performed. If a seasonal closure was re-enacted in the EEZ, an additional measure could be the ban on imports during the seasonal closure. Target date dependent on funding availability.	CFMC/NMFS/Local Governments/DOI (VI Coral Reef National Monuments; Buck Island Reef National Monument)													
CFMC	1	Assess commercial and recreational fishing data to determine fishing effort in the U.S. Caribbean. Develop methodology to determine fishing effort by gear type as needed. (Regulatory; Data collection)		Work with local agencies to update the mechanisms (e.g., commercial catch reports) to acquire effort data from the commercial and recreational sectors. This information would improve data inputs/models used in Caribbean stock assessments and the evaluation of actions (e.g., managment measures) in FMP amendments.	Enhancing the understanding of fishing effort would result in better management of Caribbean fisheries. This is always a gap identified in stock assessments.	These efforts are underway at the SEFSC, but there is a need for dedicated staff to improve data collection for the benefit of the industry and the sceintific understanding of the US Caribbean fisheries. Implementation TBD as funding becomes available.	NMFS/ Local Governments/CFMC													
CFMC	1	Enforce import regulations for spiny lobster and queen conch	50 CFR §622.409 Subparts S, T, U and 622.446	Monitoring of imports and enforcement of the minimum size, meat and tail weight in place. Consider no sale of imports if there is an ACL overage closures.	Illegal imports are detrimental to the industry by fetching in some cases a lower price per pound. Imports, when there are closures perhaps can also be stopped to maintain the price of local lobster.	Enforcement action	NMFS													
CFMC	1	Prioritize socio-economic data needs for decision-making in the U.S. Caribbean fisheries (Science/Data Collection)	N/A - data needed to be used in FMPs and Amendments	Explore the factors that currently prevent the integration or use of socio-economic data for management decisions in the region: (1) Inadequate frequency and resolution of socio-econ data; disparate timeframes. (2) Lack of appropriate involvement of social scientists in the stock assessment, review, and management advice process. (3) Lack o rpoor buy-in and trust from stakeholders-- impediment to integration of LEK (Caribbean Strategic Planning-SEFSC, NMFS)	Use a systematic approach to guide the consideration of socio-economic factors in stock assessment and fisheries management. Enhance fisheries management in the US Caribbean via the incorporation of these primary indicators of the status of the markets.	Further ongoing efforts to include socie-economic data into data-limited stock assessments. SEDAR 103 U.S. Caribbean Application of Alternate Assessment Methods - October 2025-2027.	NMFS/CFMC													
Other Agencies		Policy and Funding - Implement policies that would help domestic spiny lobster and queen conch products compete against imports.	N/A	Implement policies that would help domestic spiny lobster and queen conch products compete against imports.	Ilegal imports are detrimental to the industry by fetching in some cases a lower price per pound. Imports, when there are closures perhaps can also be stopped to maintain the price of local lobster.	Coordinate with the appropriate agencies to prohibit sale of queen conch and other seafood during their local and federal seasonal closures. Increase advertisements of species closures; Increase marketing of queen conch and other fish during the open seasons.	Other Agencies													

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