



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Status of Amendments to the Island-based Fishery Management Plans

Maria López-Mercer, NOAA Fisheries

Sustainable Fisheries Division-Caribbean Operations Branch

SSC & EBFM TAP Joint Meeting

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CFMC Status of Current Actions (as of May 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: October 13, 2022 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 on 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. - Proposed Rule published April 24, 2023. Comment period open until May 24, 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	- Council selected all preferred alternatives at April 2023 meeting. - Final action may be in August 2023	Would prohibit use of all trawl gear in EEZ or MMAs; prohibit use of gillnets, trammel nets, purse seines in EEZ; 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. - Council selected preferred alts. April 2023 meeting (5% buffer from ABC to set ACL for all islands) - 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**	**Pelagic Amendment - Restructured Dec. document by Island/Species (4 actions) - Council selected preferred alts. at April 2023 mtg. for USVI and requested staff include size and recreational bag limit options for dolphin and wahoo in Puerto Rico. - Council will review Amendment at August 2023 meeting and finalize preferred alts.	Would establish recreational bag limits and size limits for all fishing for dolphin and wahoo stocks.

¹Development of actions depends on CFMC priorities

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Amendment 3 to the PR FMP: New Management Measures for Pelagic Species**	** PR was on hold - Council included dolphin and wahoo in Puerto Rico in Amendment 3 already under development.	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 Dec 2021 CFMC Meeting - Council tasked staff to bring additional info to Aug 2023 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) - Council tasked staff to move forward the action. Options paper for Aug or Dec meeting.	Develop a scoping paper to evaluate modifying Lang Bank red hind closure to allow fishing for pelagic species during closure.
Rainbow runner	Council tasked staff to look into reclassification as a pelagic under the PR FMP.	Rainbow runner currently classified as reef fish in PR FMP, but it is caught as a pelagic (water column).
2023 AM Discussion	Revisit ACLs for stocks that would fall under “Enhanced Reporting”	For stocks that may continue to exceed their ACLs due to enhanced reporting. Determine actions when ACT is exceeded. Council to task SSC.

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