

SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 29, 2023 DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

7 MEMBERS ATTENDED WITH 1 ABSENT

The St. Croix District Advisory Panel was presented with the geographical area of responsibility for St. Croix's Island Based Fishery Management plan. Included in the discussion were the changes from U.S. Caribbean wide plans to the importance of managing species that are directly targeted by each island district.

Also included in the discussion were the old regulations that were included in the island based plans such as queen conch, spiny lobster, snapper/grouper complex and aggregate bag limits for recreational fishers. Included from the old plan was the closed season, prohibited take species and annual catch limits.

We also discussed the status of current actions at the Council such as framework amendment for spiny lobster, framework amendment for buoy gear and amendments for trawl and net gear and descending device. We also discussed pelagic management measures for the dolphinfish and wahoo, possible modification of the red hind seasonal closure area for St. Croix's EEZ, and the possible development of a federal permit system.

A few members mentioned the need for compatible regulations and members discussed having separate ACL's for commercial and recreational whenever the recreational data becomes available.

The DAP members had a healthy discussion on the new species included for management including discussing trip limits, size limits, bag limits for the recreational and commercial sectors. In the end the DAP voted in favor with one 'NO' vote to include a size and bag limit for the

recreational sector but not the commercial sector. The members also recommended the use of circle hooks instead of J-hooks for the pelagic fishery.

For outreach and education the DAP recommended introduction to commercial fishing at the junior high school level and the distribution of posters, and material to promote fishing at tackle shops and marinas.

THIS ENDS MY PRESENTATION.