

April 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 presentation

# Outreach and Education Activities

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## Activities and Events

Information Boxes

Video on pertinent points of Lobster ruling

Initial meeting with MREP, foundation building for the upcoming workshop this Summer.

Afternoon On the Green

# INFORMATION BOXES AT FRENCH TOWN AND HULL BAY

Have received phone calls and questions by fishers that were not sure what Island Based management means. Good conversations about implementation.

## ISLAND-BASED FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

Fishing in the US Caribbean presents a greater diversity. Although we, as inhabitants of the Caribbean, share similar environments, culture, and history, we also have elements that imply various differences among our islands. That is why the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) is in the process of transitioning the way that fisheries management is done in the US Caribbean Economic Exclusive Zone waters. Instead of managing fisheries by species, the new management plans will provide management measures for each island separately. Here, we share some of the background of the process of developing the Island-Based Fisheries Management Plans (IBFMPs).

### A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

In 2012, the CFMC initiated a discussion about an island-based approach to the fishery management through public hearings and workshops with the participation of fishers and the general public, and meetings with the District Advisory Panels and the Scientific and Statistical Committees.

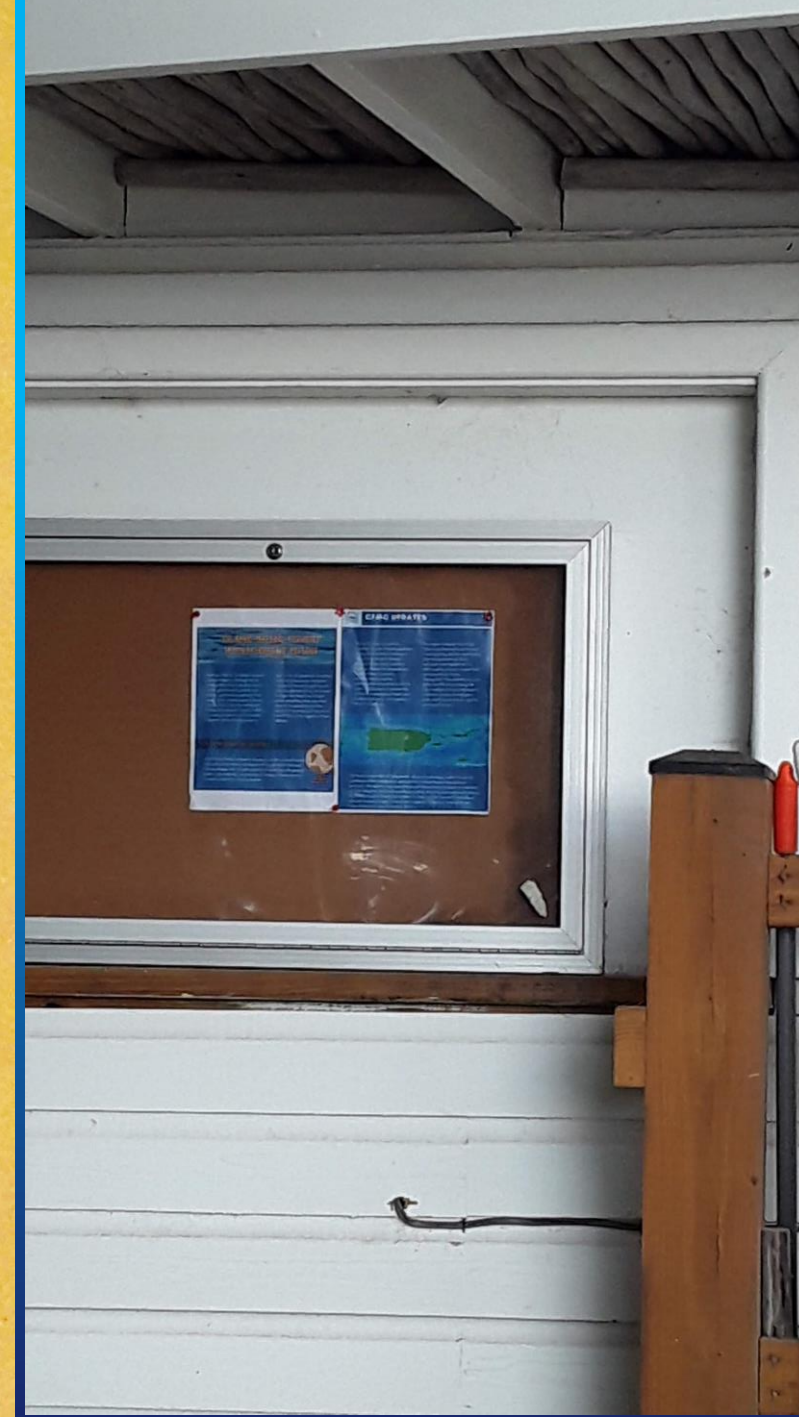
## CFMC UPDATES

### WHICH MEASURES ARE KEPT AND WHICH ARE REVISED BY THE IBFMPs?


The IBFMPs retain most of the management measures established under the U.S. Caribbean-wide fishery management plans that apply to the respective island management areas, including seasonal and area closures, minimum size limits, and recreational bag limits. In addition, the IBFMPs revise certain management measures, such as the species included for federal management, to adapt to the individual characteristics of Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and St. John, and St. Croix.

### WHAT HAPPENED IN 2020?

On June 26, 2020, NMFS published in the Federal Register a notice of availability for the three island-based FMPs and requested public comment (85 FR 30350). NMFS received the comments. On September 22, 2020, the Secretary of Commerce approved the three Island-Based FMPs under section 304(a)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. NMFS will respond to any relevant comments from the notice of availability and this proposed rule in any final rule for this action. These plans when implemented will retain the management measures applicable to the specific management areas, and implement other management measures from the approved plans.





A woman with dark curly hair pulled back, wearing a white floral patterned top, is pointing her right index finger towards the text overlay on the left. She is standing in a room with a light-colored wall. Above her is a rectangular sign with a decorative border that reads "BAR & GRILL" in a bold, serif font. To her right is a large, illuminated aquarium with blue lighting, containing various fish and coral.

BAR & GRILL

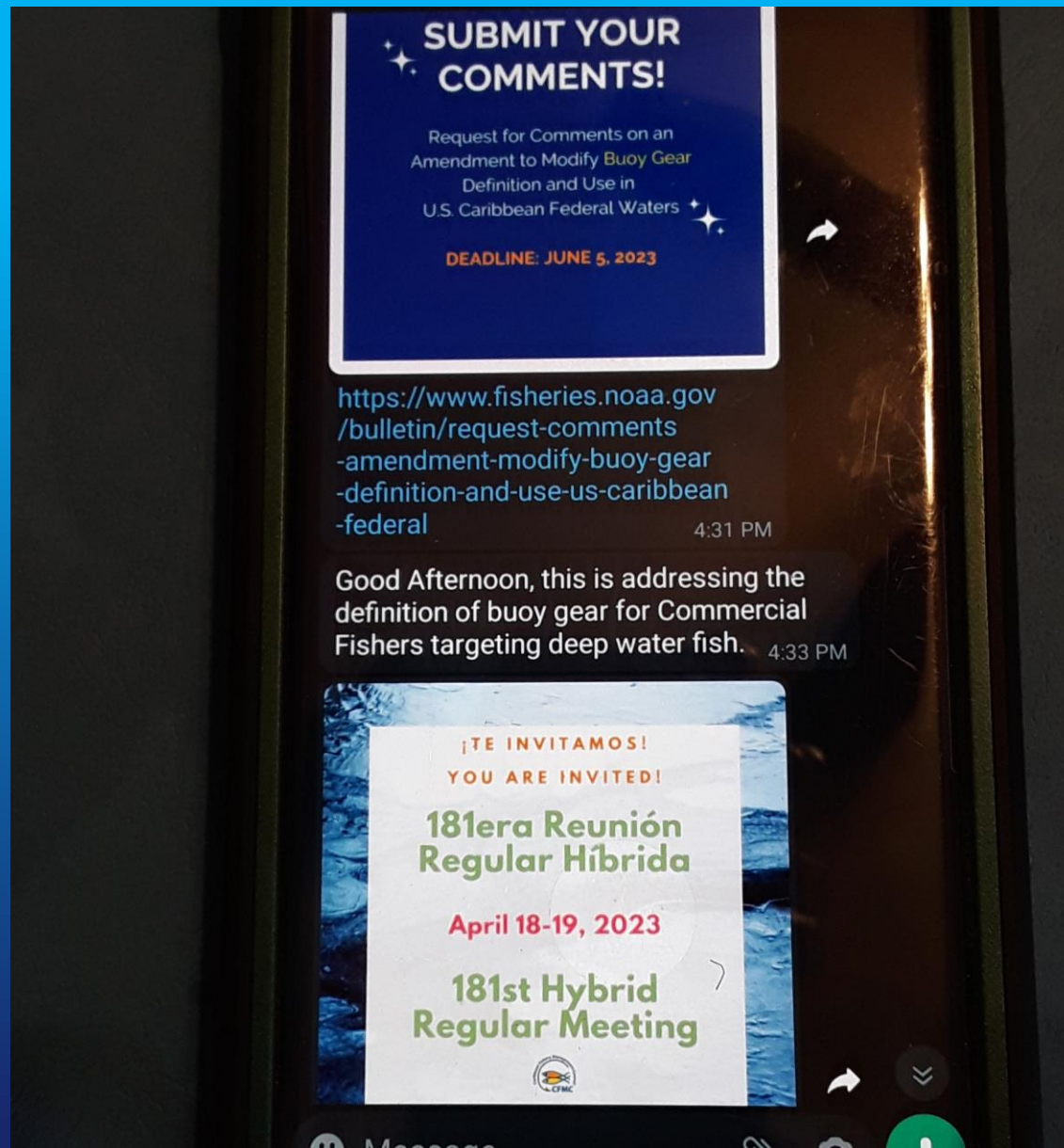
What This Means:

The final rule will modify management reference points to reflect newer scientific information available from the spiny lobster stock assessments.

The rule will:

Modify the annual catch limit for spiny lobster in federal waters around St. Thomas and St. John to 142,636 lbs in 2023 and 126,089 lbs in 2024 and later years.

# WhatsApp Broadcast!





University of the Virgin Island Fair  
Speaking about Sustainable Seafood  
And ways to keep our Fisheries stable

Give aways-Activity books, seasonal  
closure magnets and fish species  
posters.





**THANK YOU**

