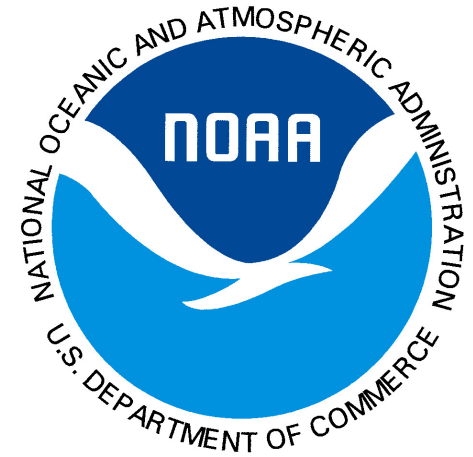


# **Outreach and Education Advisory Panel (OEAP)**

## **REPORT TO THE COUNCIL**

### **181st CFMC Regular Hybrid Meeting**

**April 18 - 20, 2023**  
**Hilton Hotel, Ponce, PR**





# 5YSP Communication objectives that we are following



- Basic concepts of **Ecosystem Based Management** and their application to the management measures. The objective is to help fishers and consumers in general to understand the components of the marine ecosystem, the importance of the **Fishery Ecosystem Plan** for the marine fishery ecosystem and their responsibility in keeping it healthy and sustainable.
- **Island Based Fishery Management Plans (IBFMP) for Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix.** The objective is for fishers and consumers to recognize the species being managed, their natural function in the marine ecosystem and the importance of management measures to keep the ecosystem healthy and the fishery resources sustainable.
- **Sustainable Fish and Seafood consumption** to educate consumers on the importance to consume these products and, at the same time be aware of the impact of removing those species from the ecosystem.
- **Marine Protected Areas in Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix.** Their importance as instruments for the protection of fishes spawning aggregation and the regulations applied to these areas from territorial and federal government agencies.

# Outreach & Education Products

FACT SHEET

## ISLAND BASED FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS

### What is an IBFMP?

The Island Based Fishery Management Plans are management updates of federal fisheries in the U.S. Caribbean. There will be three (3) separate fishery management plans: one for Puerto Rico, one for St. Thomas-St. John and one for St. Croix.

For each island there are management measures for Reef Fish Fishery, Spiny Lobster Fishery, Queen Conch Resources and for the Corals and Reef associated Plants and Invertebrates. These are basically the same species that have been managed in the previous US Caribbean FMPs.

### What are the changes in the new IBFMPs?

Each of the island-based fishery management plans retain most of the management measures established under the U.S. Caribbean-wide fishery management plans that apply to the respective island management area, including seasonal and area closures, minimum size limits, and recreational bag limits. The island-based fishery management plans revise certain management measures, such as the species included for Federal management, and annual catch limits and accountability measures.

### What are the benefits of the IBFMPs?

NOAA Fisheries and the Caribbean Fishery Management Council expect the island-based approach to fisheries management to better account for the existing differences among the U.S. Caribbean islands with respect to culture, markets, fishing gear used, seafood preferences, and ecological impacts.

### What species will be covered in the IBFMPs?

The Reef Fish, Spiny Lobster, Queen Conch, and Coral FMPs and the regulations implementing those FMPs include 81 species of reef fish, 58 species of aquarium trade fish, spiny lobster, queen conch, 94 genera or species of corals, and 63 genera or species of aquarium trade invertebrates. The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the District Advisory Panel (DAP) from each island management area provided recommendations on the criteria used for the Council to select the species to be managed under each island-based FMP.

### When will the IBFMPs will be initiated?

Since October 13, 2022, the Puerto Rico Fishery Management Plan, the St. Thomas-St. John, and the St. Croix are the legal document to be followed in the US Caribbean.



### Where can you get more information on each IBFMP?

Visit the CFMC website:  
[www.caribbeanfmc.com](http://www.caribbeanfmc.com)

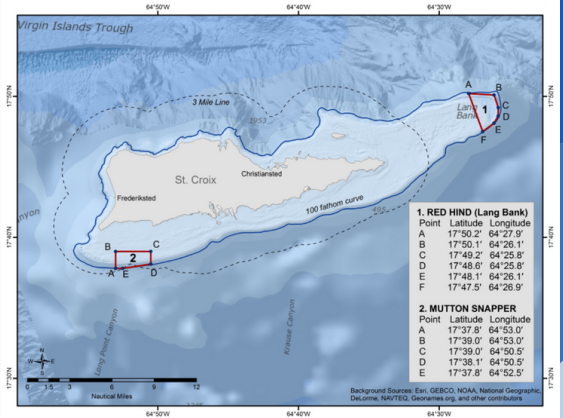
# FACT SHEET

## ST. CROIX

### FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Fisheries governed by the St. Croix FMP are located primarily in the U.S. EEZ surrounding St. Croix (i.e., the St. Croix EEZ), defined as the federal waters ranging from 3 to 200 nautical miles (nm) [6 – 370 kilometers [km]] from the nearest coastline point of the Island of St. Croix). Fishery resources within 3 nm (6 km) of the USVI coast are managed by the territorial government of the USVI.



The St. Croix FMP is one of three island-based FMPs developed by the Council to update management of federal fishery resources in the U.S. Caribbean. The St. Croix FMP incorporates those components of the U.S. Caribbean-wide Reef Fish, Spiny Lobster, Queen Conch, and Corals FMPs that pertain to the EEZ surrounding the island of St. Croix.


The St. Croix FMP is intended to ensure productive and sustainable fisheries for the long-term livelihood, enjoyment, economy, and environment of St. Croix and the U.S.; conserve and manage the fisheries of St. Croix within an island-based approach; and enhance stewardship among fishermen, residents, and others who value the fishery resources and the marine and coastal environments of St. Croix and the U.S.

Prior to development of the St. Croix FMP, stocks, and stock complexes in the St. Croix EEZ (and throughout the U.S. Caribbean) were managed within the Spiny Lobster FMP (CFMC 1981), the Reef Fish FMP (CFMC 1985), the Coral FMP (CFMC 1995), and the Queen Conch FMP (CFMC 1996), as respectively amended.

Although the St. Croix FMP replaces the Council's Reef Fish, Spiny Lobster, Queen Conch, and Coral FMPs, the new FMP carries forward most of the management measures from those four U.S. Caribbean-wide FMPs as they apply to the St. Croix EEZ. It is important to know that the St. Croix FMP introduces some new management measures as well as new reference points and status determination criteria (SDC) evaluated and ultimately selected by the Council in the environmental assessment.

Management measures include harvest guidelines, minimum size limits, gear restrictions and identification, seasonal and areal closures, and harvest limits (among others) for all stocks managed by the Council in the St. Croix EEZ.

For the complete list of species, the application of management measures, such as: harvest prohibitions/restrictions, gear, and methods regulations you can reach the St. Croix FMP through the QR Code.



## FISHERY RESOURCES MANAGED IN THE ST. CROIX EEZ BY FISHERY GROUP:

### REEF FISH:

SNAPPERS

GROUPERS

PARROTFISHES

SURGEONFISHES

ANGELFISHES

GRUNTS

SQUIRRELFISHES

TRIGGERFISHES

### PELAGICS:

DOLPHINFISH

MACKERELS AND TUNAS

CORAL REEF RESOURCES

CARIBBEAN SPINY LOBSTER

QUEEN CONCH

Working on St. Thomas- St. John and Puerto Rico Fact Sheets

# Meetings with DAPs: St. Thomas/St. John, St. Croix and Puerto Rico

**Objective: Ask for recommendations on content of FMP Fact Sheets and other products for each island.**

- DAPs recommendations:
  - all DAPs: Produce a book/catalog with good illustrations, common and scientific names of all the reef fish, pelagics and other species included in the IBFMPs. Include important information on their ecology and biology.  
Members of each DAP in the working group: Ruth Gómez- DAP St.Thomas/St. Jhon, Carlos Farchette- DAP St. Croix and Nelson Crespo- DAP PR.
  - DAP-PR review species common names and check them for different regions of the Island. Produce a press release on spiny lobster closed seasons.

# Cont...

- Produce Fact Sheet on Bajo de Sico and the fishery management regulations in the área.
- OEAP should offer a workshop on fishery management regulations for new DAP members similar to the PEPCO workshop



# NOAA Fisheries EEJ Strategy

## Six Objectives

Equity in research and monitoring

Incorporation of EEJ into policies and plans

Inclusive governance

Equitable distribution of benefits

Equitable outreach and engagement

Empowering environment

# National Strategy and Regional Implementation

## National Strategy Rollout

- Fishery Bulletin
  - English
  - Spanish
  - Vietnamese
- Council presentations
  - Gulf - April
  - Caribbean - April
  - South Atlantic - June

## Regional Implementation Strategy

- 20 Focus Group meetings
  - Caribbean: 4
  - Gulf: 7
  - South Atlantic: 7
  - South Florida: 2
- Council coordination (CCC reps)
- Other internal and external partners



## Focus Groups

- One of a suite of ethnographic methods used to consult and collect data from local stakeholders
- Bring together a small group of people selected based on predefined experience or knowledge in order to answer questions in a moderated setting designed to shed light on a topic of interest
- Each will include up to 15 stakeholders from underserved communities that are impacted by our work to help us understand how to advance our 6 national EEJ objectives in the U.S. Caribbean

# Tentative Plan for Caribbean Focus Groups

## **USVI**

- May 8-12
  - St. Croix
  - St. Thomas / St. John

## **Puerto Rico**

- June 5-9
  - San Juan
  - Cabo Rojo

# Recommendations from OEAP for the EEJ

1. Puerto Rico should have more than 2 Focus groups; at least 4 –Cabo Rojo/Aguadilla, Cataño, Fajardo (including Vieques and Culebra), and Ponce. Differences in the socioeconomic environment in the north, west, south, and east of the PR archipiélago.
2. Presentations must be in Spanish or with a translation from English

# Ongoing O&E projects

Illustrated Booklets on Climate Change and U.S. Caribbean Fisheries

IBFMP essential topics (Chap. 5) for PR, St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix: Fact sheets, stickers and infographics on each IBFMP.

Integration of concepts on marine fisheries in the US Caribbean to the regular education curriculum.



# Activities and Products proposed by OEAP for 2023-2024

Support development of MREP and PEPCO Workshops for the USVI

Workshops for fishers and communities on the content of the IBFMPs in Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St John, and St. Croix

CFMC should create a collection of photographs and illustration of fish species, invertebrates, and marine fisheries ecosystem of the U.S. Caribbean. Ask researchers to send photos with species identification, where the photos were taken area, depth and who took the photos.

# Activities and Products proposed by OEAP for 2023-2024

## **Produce Fact Sheets and booklets on:**

- IBFMP essential topics (Chap. 5) for PR, St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix: Fact sheets, stickers and infographics on each IBFMP. \*
- Life Cycles of Nassau grouper, Mutton snapper, and Queen conch based on the texts and illustrations of existing posters.
- Content of FEP: Conceptual model, Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act.
- Fish identification booklets for children based on IBFMPs.
- Integration of concepts on marine fisheries in the US Caribbean to the regular education curriculum.



# O & E Products...

- **2024 Calendar: IBFMPs 4 months for each island**
- **Materials for snapper/grouper deep-water fishing**  
DAPs recommendations for materials on deep-water snapper/grouper fishing regulations.
- Understanding Stock assessment...not only fishers but all stakeholders
- Understanding management terminology: Optimum Yield (OY), Allowable Catch Limit (ACL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), and others.

# Questions?

