



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

# Status of Amendments to the Island-based Fishery Management Plans

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Sustainable Fisheries Division-Caribbean Operations Branch

182<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Council Meeting

*August 15-16, 2023*



# CFMC Status of Current Actions (as of August 2023)<sup>1</sup>



FMP/Amendment/Other Action	Status	Additional info
<b>Puerto Rico FMP, St. Croix FMP, St. Thomas &amp; St. John FMP (IBFMPs)</b>	Plans are effective	Final Rule Effective: <b>October 13, 2022</b> 87 FR 56204, published September 13, 2022
Framework Amendment 1 IBFMPs: Spiny Lobster Reference Points	Amendment and regulations effective on April 15, 2023	Updates based on SEDAR 57 Spiny Lobster Assessments
Amendment 1 IBFMPs: Buoy Gear Definition and Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Submitted by CFMC on November 2, 2022</li> <li>- <b>Final Rule published on July 20, 2023 (88 FR 46692)</b></li> <li>- <b>Regulations will be effective on August 21, 2023.</b></li> </ul>	Prohibits buoy gear use for recreational sector; Allows up to 25 hooks on buoy gear for commercial fishers.
Amendment 2 IBFMPs: Trawl, Net Gear, and Descending Devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Council finalized selection of preferred alternatives at April 2023 meeting.</b></li> <li>- <b>Council to revisit gillnet action to clarify items for each FMP</b></li> <li>- <b>Final Action may be postponed to December 2023.</b></li> </ul>	Would prohibit use of all trawl gear in EEZ; prohibit use of gillnets (except for surface gillnets used for baitfish), trammel nets, purse seines in EEZ; require use of descending devices when fishing for reef fish in EEZs.
Framework Amendment 2 IBFMPs: Update OFL, ABC, and ACL for Spiny Lobster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SSC recommended OFLs and ABCs for 2024-2026 for spiny lobster for each FMP.</li> <li>- <b>Council to take Final Action during August 2023 meeting.</b></li> </ul>	Based on the 2022 Update Assessment to the SEDAR 57 Spiny Lobster Assessments. Would set new ACLs for spiny lobster under each FMP.
Amendment 3 to the PR, STX and STT/STJ FMPs: New Management Measures for Dolphin and Wahoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Council reviewed Amendment at April 2023 meeting and chose preferred alternatives for some of the USVI actions.</b></li> <li>- <b>Council to review and choose preferred alternatives for Puerto Rico and revisit USVI alternatives as needed.</b></li> </ul>	Would establish recreational bag limits and size limits for all fishing for dolphin and wahoo stocks.

<sup>1</sup>Development of actions depends on CFMC priorities

Items in blue: from last meeting

Items in red: for this meeting

Continued on next slide

# CFMC Status of Current Actions (as of August 2023)



FMP/Amendment/Other Action	Status	Additional info
Queen Triggerfish Reference Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SSC will report on outcomes and progress status on stock assessment at this meeting</li> <li>- Council to develop amendments at a later date</li> <li>- Puerto Rico Amendment can move forward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Queen triggerfish assessment (SEDAR 80) – Puerto Rico completed</li> <li>- USVI – in progress</li> </ul>
Action: Development of Federal Permit System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion will be postponed until December 2023 CFMC Meeting.</li> <li>- Need guidance from Council on scope of action.</li> </ul>	Revives action tabled in 2016. Would evaluate general permits, limited permits, or any other.
Action: Trap Reduction Plan for USVI EEZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CFMC received update at December 2022 meeting.</li> <li>- Pending USVI internal actions, then Council decision on moving forward.</li> </ul>	Would evaluate compatibility with USVI trap reduction program.
Action: Timing of Seasonal Area Closures for the Red Hind Grouper in the Puerto Rico EEZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion paper was presented at December 2021 meeting.</li> <li>- Staff met with scientists, continue gathering info</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Informational workshops with fishers and data requests pending.</li> <li>- Research in Abrir La Sierra - ongoing</li> </ul>
Action: Modification of Red Hind Seasonal Closure in the St. Croix EEZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request from Council at April 2022 meeting.</li> <li>- Council tasked staff to move forward the action.</li> <li>- Will bring Options paper to December 2023 meeting.</li> </ul>	Develop a scoping paper to evaluate modifying Lang Bank red hind closure to allow fishing for pelagic species during closure.
Rainbow runner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council tasked SSC to look into classification of rainbow runner.</li> <li>- SSC will provide recommendation at this meeting.</li> </ul>	Rainbow runner is currently classified as reef fish in Puerto Rico FMP, but it is caught as a pelagic (water column).
2023 AM Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revisit ACLs for stocks that would fall under “Enhanced Reporting.”</li> <li>- Needs further guidance.</li> </ul>	For stocks that may continue to exceed their ACLs due to enhanced reporting. Determine actions when ACT is exceeded. Council to task SSC.

## Summary of Pending Items to Address at this Meeting:



FMP/Amendment/Other Action	Status	Additional info
2023 AM Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revisit ACLs for stocks that would fall under “Enhanced Reporting.”</li> <li>- Needs further guidance</li> </ul>	For stocks that may continue to exceed their ACLs due to enhanced reporting. Determine actions when ACT is exceeded. Council to task SSC.
Queen Triggerfish Reference Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SSC will report on outcomes and progress status on stock assessment at this meeting</li> <li>- Council to develop amendment(s) at a later date                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Puerto Rico Amendment can move forward</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Queen triggerfish assessment (SEDAR 80) – Puerto Rico completed</li> <li>- USVI – in progress</li> </ul>
Rainbow runner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council tasked SSC to look into classification of rainbow runner.</li> <li>- SSC will provide recommendation at this meeting.</li> </ul>	Rainbow runner is currently classified as reef fish in Puerto Rico FMP, but it is caught as a pelagic (water column).