

CFMC response to E.O. 14276 and ongoing efforts

Caribbean Fishery Management Council

188th CFMC Meeting

December 4, 2025



E.O. Action Priorities	Ongoing	Strategic Plan	SSC and EBFM TAP	Other efforts
<p>Regulatory (Amendment) - Review species currently managed under the PR, STT-STJ, STX Fishery Management Plan to determine if any species are no longer in need of federal conservation and management.</p>	<p>Review stocks Need for conservation and management (Matrix)</p>	<p>Strategy 3.9: Coordinate with NOAA OLE, USVI DPNR, and the USCG to review consistency of existing regulations for federally managed species. (e.g., STX)</p>	<p>Revision of matrix</p>	<p>Ad Hoc Recommendations</p> <p>Continue DAPs inputs</p>

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<p>Review effectiveness of current MPAs to determine which are effective and which can be eliminated. (Regulatory - Amendment)/ Science Data collection for monitoring MPAs</p>		<p>Strategy 6.1(PR), 6.7 (STTJ), 6.11 (STX): Evaluate existing spawning season closures and closed areas (e.g., Bajo de Sico, Tourmaline Bank, Abrir la Sierra) to determine contributions to ecosystem integrity.</p>		<p>CRCP 2025- Tourmaline</p>

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<p>Priority 1: Review possible redundancy in regulations of seasonally closed areas, no take areas, and seasonal closures for spawning fish species (Regulatory).</p> <p>Priority 2: Revision of Compatible and Non-compatible Regulations Between Federal and State Governments (Regulatory Amendment)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of Incompatible Regulations between Territorial and Federal Waters • Revision of Duplicative Regulations in Federal Waters 	<p>Strategy 3.12: Review regulations for effectiveness and/or redundancy. (e.g., STX)</p>		<p>DPNR: Increase compatible regulations</p>

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<p>Regulatory (Amendment) - Revise the accountability measure for the Caribbean Spiny Lobster in Puerto Rico. Science/Data collection: survey that samples individuals larger than those being caught in the fisheries to confirm there are large individuals in the population (SSC and Fishers' recommendation).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEDAR 91 Spiny Lobster Puerto Rico • Revision of AMs for Puerto Rico Spiny Lobster 		<p>Expand fishery independent monitoring and surveys</p>	<p>SEFSC: Puerto Rico lobster traps survey (Winter 2025/26)</p> <p>SEFSC: Rearing Caribbean Spiny Lobster to determine molt frequency and growth rates and heat stress experiments</p> <p>SEAMAP-C: Spiny lobster survey</p>

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Revise accountability measures for managed pelagic stocks (Regulatory Amendment)	Modification of Pelagic Accountability Measures (AM)			

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Consider alternative approaches for Annual Catch Limits (Regulatory)	Exploration of Carry-over of Unused ACLs			
<p>(1) Consider allowing a portion of the unharvested ACL be added to the next year's catch limit for that particular stock (carry over).</p> <p>(2) Evaluate the use of alternative methods for setting reference points for data-limited stocks in the U.S. Caribbean fisheries (e.g., ecosystem reference point)</p>				

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<p>Prioritize socio-economic data needs for decision-making in the U.S. Caribbean fisheries (Science/Data Collection)</p>		<p>Strategy 15.1(PR), 15.6(STTJ), 15.8(STX): Review and document the social and economic impacts of existing Puerto Rico closed seasons and spawning areas on commercial, for-hire, and recreational stakeholders.</p>	<p>SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA FOR MANAGEMENT: Periodic systematic collection of data to provide a baseline and comparative basis for social impact assessments</p> <p>EBFM (ASSESSING REGULATORY IMPACTS) Evaluate effectiveness and impacts of closed areas</p> <p>EBFM reference points for use in the fisheries management decision support system in the US Caribbean</p>	<p>SEDAR 103 US Caribbean application of alternative assessment methods</p> <p>SEFSC: SSRG Research Efforts in the Caribbean</p>

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<p>Priority 1: Assess commercial and recreational fishing data to determine fishing effort in the U.S. Caribbean. Develop methodology to determine fishing effort by gear type as needed. (Regulatory; Data collection)</p>			<p>FISHERIES LANDING DATA Improve Fisheries Landing Data based on Port Landings Studies. Develop statistics-based methods</p> <p>EFFORT ESTIMATION Develop alternate methods for estimating efforts</p>	<p>SEFSC: Puerto Rico Recreational Port Sampling</p> <p>DNPR: USVI Recreational data collection efforts</p>
<p>Priority 3: Collect recreational data in the US Caribbean (Science)</p>		<p>Strategy 1.4 (PR), 1.8 (STTJ), 1.12 (STX): Continue participation in re-initiation of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) in Puerto Rico.</p>	<p>Continue participation in re-initiation of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP).</p>	

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Enforce import regulations for spiny lobster and queen conch				
Conduct queen conch population assessment in the U.S. Caribbean (Regulatory Amendment)		<p>Strategy 4.10 (STX): Participate in international forums such as WECAFC and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) efforts to improve understanding and management of Caribbean-wide resources.</p>	Expand fishery independent monitoring and surveys	<p>SEFSC: Queen Conch Surveys</p> <p>SEAMAP-C: Queen conch survey</p>

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<p>Other agencies: Policy and Funding - Implement policies that would help domestic spiny lobster and queen conch products compete against imports.</p>			<p>Expand fishery independent monitoring and surveys</p>	