



Caribbean Amendments & Actions Status

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NOAA Fisheries • Southeast Regional Office (NMFS SERO)

190th CFMC Meeting • Isla Verde, Puerto Rico
Aug 11-12, 2026



Active Amendments & Priority Actions

Amendment / Action	Purpose / Objective	Timeline & Key Steps						
		Apr 2026 CFMC	May	June	July	Aug 2026 CFMC	Sep-Nov	Dec 2026 CFMC
Puerto Rico FMP Amendment 4: Rainbow Runner	Reclassify as pelagic species		NOA Published (5/21)		NOA comment period closed (7/20)	PR comment period closed (8/7)	Final rule publication pending	
			NOA/Proposed Rule Phase			Final Rule Phase		
Stocks Evaluation for need conservation and management	Maximize mgt. efficiency Seafood E.O. 14276	Reviewed Decision Tree	Developed Options			Discuss Draft Options	Form IPT and develop draft amdt.	Discuss Draft Amendment
			Scoping				IPT Process	



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Framework 4 USVI Spiny Lobster based on SEDAR 91	-Update and integrate assessments -Revise ACLs	- Discussed action - Selected preferred alternatives *Final Action	Finalize document		CFMC submit to NMFS	Development of Proposed Rule	Proposed Rule publication pending	
			IPT Process			Proposed Rule Phase		
Framework 4 Puerto Rico Spiny Lobster based on SEDAR 91	-Update and integrate assessments -Revise ACLs	Council requested additional input from SSC on ABCs & OFLs			SSC Mtg to revise recomms.	Council to re-evaluate SSC recomms. to develop Draft Framework	Action development	Discuss draft action
			AP Process				IPT Process	
Revision of AMs Spiny Lobster PR	Addressing ACL overages Reevaluating AMs	On hold				Consider adding action to FW 4 PR	IPT Process	

Priority Actions

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Evaluation of Grouper Seasonal Closure STT/STJ Priority #1		Staff tasked with initiating overview and info compilation		Scoping				
Evaluation Tourmaline Bank & Abrir La Sierra Bank PR Priority #2		Staff tasked with initiating overview and info compilation		No action				
Evaluation Mutton Snapper Seasonal Closure STX Priority #3		Staff tasked with initiating overview and info compilation		No action				

Recently Completed & Implemented Regulations

✓ **Amendment 2 to all FMPs (Trawl, Net Gear & Descending Devices):**

Mandatory descending device requirement active across federal waters (Eff. April 1, 2026)

Prohibition of nets in federal waters (except specific gillnets) (Eff. Nov 3, 2025)

IMPLEMENTED

✓ **USVI Framework 3:** SEDAR 80 Queen Triggerfish revised ACLs in place. (Eff. Apr 17, 2026)

IMPLEMENTED

✓ **Amendment 3 to all FMPs (Dolphin & Wahoo Measures):** Harvest size limits & recreational bag limits active in all federal waters. (Eff. July 25, 2025)

IMPLEMENTED

✓ **Puerto Rico Framework 3:** SEDAR 81 Triggerfish Stock Complex revised ACLs in place. (Eff. July 25, 2025)

IMPLEMENTED



Prioritized List of Actions to NMFS (E.O. 14276) and NMFS Recommendations

Key Management Priorities

- Evaluating a transition of queen conch and spiny lobster to territorial management.
- Amending accountability measures for spiny lobster and pelagic stocks.
- Reviewing the overall effectiveness of marine protected areas.
- Assessing compatibility between federal and territorial waters.

Strategic Mandates for Council Consideration

Evaluating managed stocks' need for active conservation and management

Expand and continue use of Exempted Fish Permits

Development Status: Some actions are already under development or scheduled for discussion.