



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Status of Amendments to the Island-based Fishery Management Plans

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183rd Caribbean Council Meeting

December 5-6, 2023



CFMC Status of Current Actions (as of December 2023)¹



FMP/Amendment/Other Action	Status	Additional info
Framework Amendment 1 IBFMPs: Spiny Lobster Reference Points	- Regulations effective on April 15, 2023	Updates based on SEDAR 57 Spiny Lobster Assessments
Amendment 1 IBFMPs: Buoy Gear Definition and Use	- Regulations effective on August 21, 2023.	Prohibits buoy gear use for recreational sector; Allows up to 25 hooks on buoy gear for commercial fishers.
Framework Amendment 2 IBFMPs: Update OFL, ABC, and ACL for Spiny Lobster	- SSC recommended OFLs and ABCs for 2024-2026 for spiny lobster for each FMP. - Council took Final Action during August 2023 meeting. - Proposed Rule being developed/reviewed	Based on the 2022 Update Assessment to the SEDAR 57 Spiny Lobster Assessments. Would set new ACLs for spiny lobster under each FMP.
Amendment 2 IBFMPs: Trawl, Net Gear, and Descending Devices	- Council finalized selection of preferred alternatives at April 2023 meeting. - Council revisited gillnet action to clarify items for each FMP at August 2023 meeting. - Council scheduled to take Final Action during this meeting/Review codified text	Would prohibit use of all trawl gear, trammel nets and purse seines in EEZ; limit the use of gillnets to surface gillnets with specifications for non-FMP species; require use of descending devices when fishing for reef fish in EEZs.
Framework Amendment 3 to the Puerto Rico FMP: Reclassification of the Rainbow Runner as a Pelagic Fish	- Council tasked staff to develop an amendment to address this issue at the August 2023 meeting. - Council will receive a presentation on the proposed action and structure of the amendment during this meeting	Rainbow runner is currently classified as reef fish in Puerto Rico FMP, but it is caught as a pelagic (water column).
Framework Amendment 4: Puerto Rico Queen Triggerfish Reference Points	- Council will receive a presentation on the proposed action and structure of the amendment during this meeting - IPT will develop amendment. Council will review Amendment at April 2024 meeting.	- Based on Queen triggerfish assessment (SEDAR 80) that was completed

¹Development of actions depends on CFMC priorities
Items in red: for this meeting

CFMC Status of Current Actions (as of December 2023)¹



FMP/Amendment/Other Action	Status	Additional info
Action: Modification of Red Hind Seasonal Closure in the St. Croix EEZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council will discuss White Paper at this meeting. - STX DAP meeting to be scheduled for information gathering 	Evaluate modifying the Lang Bank red hind area closure to allow fishing for pelagic species during the closure.
Amendment 3 to the PR, STX and STT/STJ FMPs: New Management Measures for Dolphin and Wahoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council chose preferred alternatives for Puerto Rico and revisited USVI alternatives. - Amendment being developed by IPT - Council to review draft amendment at April 2024 meeting 	Would establish recreational bag limits and size limits for all fishing for dolphin and wahoo stocks.
Action: Development of Federal Permit System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NMFS staff will guide discussion about permits /requirements, considerations, during this meeting. - Needs guidance from Council on scope of action. 	Revives action tabled in 2016. Would evaluate general permits, limited permits, or any other.
Queen Triggerfish Reference Points - USVI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SSC discussed at Nov 28, 2023 meeting - SSC will report on outcomes during this meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Queen triggerfish assessment (SEDAR 80) – USVI - Development of the stock assessments will be continue outside of the SEDAR process – SSC and SEFSC lead
Grammanik/Hind Bank Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council tasked staff to look into issues and address questions through discussion during this meeting. 	- The St. Thomas STFA brought concerns to the Council regarding Nassau grouper, Grammanik and Hind Bank connectivity, landings and area use, outreach and education, other.
Puerto Rico Bajo de Sico/Nassau Grouper Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council tasked staff to look into issues and address questions. - To be addressed during a future meeting. 	- Researchers/Fishers request changes to management in Bajo de Sico to address Nassau grouper recovery, access to fishing deepwater fishing grounds, enforcement, ESA listing

¹Development of actions depends on CFMC priorities

Items in red: for this meeting

Summary of Items to Address in 2024*:



FMP/Amendment/Other Action	Task	Additional info
2023 AM Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revisit ACLs for stocks that would fall under “Enhanced Reporting.” because of new management regime under island-based FMPs 2. Determine actions to be taken when pelagics ACT is exceeded <p>Council tasked staff/SSC/SERO to compile information for the SSC evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For stocks that may continue to exceed their ACLs due to enhanced reporting. - Pelagics – AM different than other managed species. No specific action defined for when ACT is exceeded. - Council may need to task SSC to address these.
Management of Corals, Sea Urchins, and Sea Cucumbers, other	Council to discuss a potential reclassification as ecosystem component species or other options	Stocks with harvest prohibitions have status as unknown.
Changes to Framework Actions under each FMP	Make changes to the list of actions that can be taken under a framework amendment	Changes needed to address routine actions, specific changes to reference points, gear types, other to streamline process
Queen Conch Rebuilding Plan	Evaluate status of the queen conch after end of rebuilding plan	Needs coordination between SERO/SEFSC and SSC

CFMC Status of Other Actions (as of December 2023)

FMP/Amendment/Other Action	Status	Additional info
Action: Trap Reduction Plan for USVI EEZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CFMC received update at December 2022 meeting. - Postponed until more information/interest 	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"> - Discussion paper was presented at December 2021 meeting. - Staff met with scientists, continue gathering info - Postponed until more information is collected (e.g diver vs acoustic surveys) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informational workshops with fishers and data requests pending. - Research in Abrir La Sierra - ongoing

Amendment 3 to the Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas/St. John Fishery Management Plans: New Management Measures for Dolphin and Wahoo

Preferred Alternatives as of August 2023

EEZ Island Management Area	Size Limits (minimum)	Recreational Bag Limits
St. Croix	Dolphin: 24 " fork length Wahoo: 32" fork length	Dolphin: 10 dolphin per person/day, not to exceed 32 dolphin per vessel/day, whichever is less.
St. Thomas/St. John		Wahoo: 2 wahoo per person per day, not to exceed 10 wahoo per vessel per day, whichever is less.
Puerto Rico	Dolphin: 24" fork length Wahoo: 32" fork length	Dolphin: 5 dolphinfish per person per day, not to exceed 15 dolphinfish per vessel per day, whichever is less. Wahoo: 5 wahoo per person per day, not to exceed 10 dolphinfish per vessel per day, whichever is less.