

**CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
268 MUÑOZ RIVERA AVENUE, SUITE 1108
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00918**

**SCOPING MEETING
ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS (ACLs) AND
ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES (AMs)
ST. CROIX, USVI
MAY 7, 2009**

SUMMARY MINUTES

The scoping meeting was held at the Florence Williams Public Library, in St. Croix, U.S.V.I., and was chaired by Mr. Virdin Brown, CFMC Vice Chairman.

Mr. Miguel Rolón gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached) on the proposed management measures for ACLs/AMs, and explaining the new requirements of the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Following are the comments offered by the attendees:

1. Aesha Duval – Office of the VI Delegate to Congress Donna Christiansen

- **A written statement was provided and read for the record. (Attached as part of the minutes.)**

2. Hans P. Larsen – Commercial Fisherman

- **Disagrees with the ACLs document**
- **The only thing that the Council has to do is to work with the fishermen**

3. Gonzalo Rivera – Activist, representing members of his family and friends

- **St. Croix has the refinery and the Cruzan Rum factory, as well as many other factors that are affecting the fisheries.**
- **What these regulations are doing is impoverishing the fishermen**
- **The fishermen need to be more involved in this process, and the process should be simplified to make it easier for the fishermen to understand. Too many scientific terms are used.**
- **St. Croix has already too many closures, they should be taken into account and be considered.**

4. Michon Fabio – Representing Senator Michael Thurland's Office

- **A written statement was provided and read for the record. (Attached as part of the minutes.)**

5. Gerson Martínez – Commercial Fisherman

- **A written statement was provided and read for the record. (Attached as part of the minutes.)**
- **The closures that are already established should be taken in consideration.**
- **The economy of the Island is going to suffer deeply, as well as the people of St. Croix.**

6. Joel Martínez – Commercial Fishermen

- **There are enough closures already.**

7. Edward Schuster – St. Croix Commercial Fisherman's Association

- **A written statement was provided and read for the record. (Attached as part of the minutes.)**

8. Thomas Daley – Commercial Fisherman

- **Handling the fishery in the wrong way in St. Croix will only collapse the fishery.**
- **St. Croix already has too many closures for such a small island.**
- **If Lang Bank is closed it will make the St. Croix fishery collapse.**
- **Just manage the closed areas that are already established.**
- **Suggests to take no action for five years, during which time the proper data should be collected.**

9. Robert Thomas – Commercial Fisherman

- **St. Croix fishermen do not have big boats or big nets to fish that can deplete the fishery.**
- **There are already enough and too many closed areas in St. Croix.**
- **The Council has to work with the fishermen more.**

10. José Sánchez – Commercial Fisherman

- **The St. Croix fisheries are healthy.**
- **There is no need for any more closures.**
- **The fishermen should get something in return if they are being taken away their only way to support their families.**
- **We do not import. We only take what we can eat.**
- **We don't target the same fishes. We have a multi fishery that is why we don't overfish.**
- **The Council should look at the real problems we have here, which are the longliners, the Japanese and foreign fishing who are the ones really hurting our fishery.**

11. Roberto Tapia – Commercial Fisherman

- **The Council cannot take a Commonwealth's statistics and use them in the Territory.**
- **St. Croix is different from Puerto Rico.**
- **Catch reports have always been provided for St. Croix.**

12. William Tobias – Concerned Citizen

- **We have good rules and regulations, but there is a severe lack of enforcement.**
- **A limited entry program and gear reduction should be good enough, together with the established closures.**
- **There is a need to assign funds for better data collection and enforcement.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

(A copy of the tapes recorded at this meeting is available upon request to the Caribbean Fishery Management Council's office).