

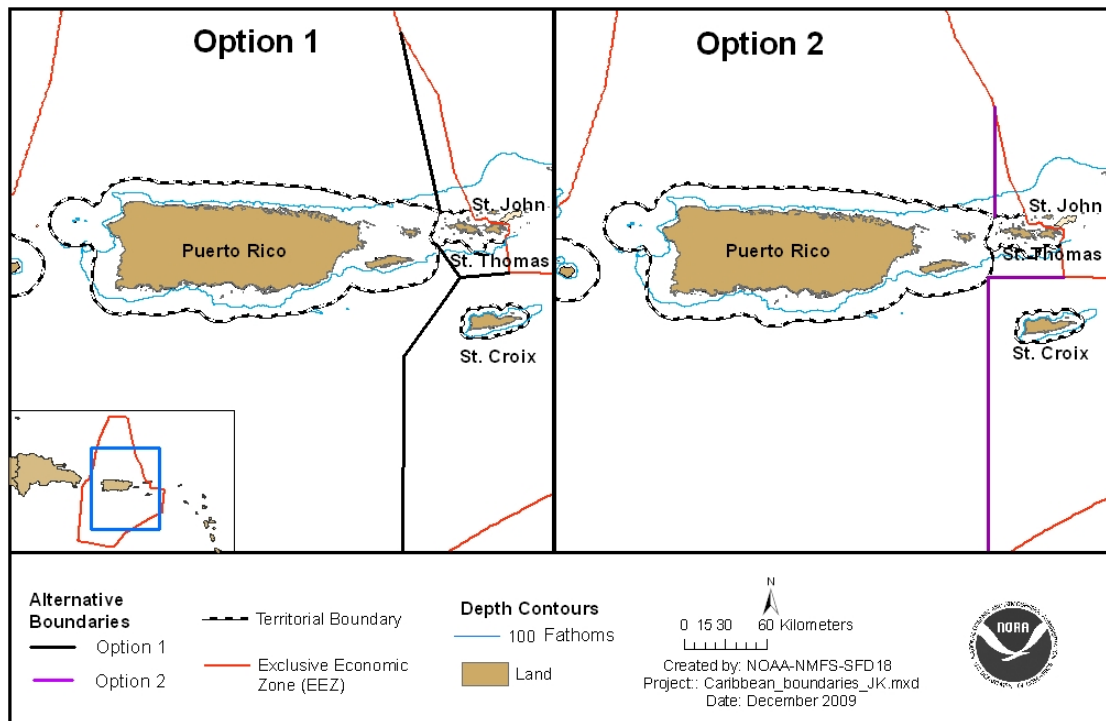
A White Paper:
Define the Division of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
Around U.S. Caribbean Islands

In order to facilitate enforcement of Annual Catch Limit (ACL) management in the U.S. EEZ each island (St. Thomas/St. John, St. Croix, and Puerto Rico) may need its own complement of an EEZ.

For example, if a fisher from one island is fishing for a resource in the EEZ, but the ACL has already been taken around that island, can he/she land the fish on a different island and have the landings marked against the island that he/she landed them?

If the answer is no (expected), how does the Council remedy the problem?

The obvious answer is the Council will need to divide the EEZ so that each island has its own EEZ portion. Various methods could be used to accomplish the EEZ division. Below, two methods are described, which should generate Council discussion to resolve this issue.



Action X. Division of the EEZ

Alternative 1. No Action. Do not separate the EEZ into island based sectors but keep as an undivided EEZ.

Alternative 2. Divide the EEZ into island based sectors.

Option 1. Use a mid-point or equidistant method for dividing the EEZ. (see Above Figure – left half).

Starting with the U.S. Virgin Islands, choose several points equidistant from sections of southern edge of the territorial boundary of St. Thomas/St. John and the northern edge of the territorial boundary of St. Croix to establish a line separating the two island masses. Draw the line from east, starting at the U.S. EEZ boundary, to west towards the Puerto Rico territorial sea boundary. Next, establish a several points equidistant from the southeastern edge of the Puerto Rico territorial boundary and the northwestern territorial boundary of St. Croix. Draw the line northeast to southwest. Terminate the line in the northeast where it intersects the previously

drawn line separating St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix. Terminate the line in the southwest upon reaching the 65⁰ 20' meridian. From that point extend the line due south to the edge of the US Caribbean EEZ. This described boundary represents the St. Croix EEZ and the southern portion of the St. Thomas/St. John EEZ.

At the northwestern portion of the Puerto Rico territorial boundary where it intersects with the northeastern portion of the St. Thomas/St. John territorial boundary, establish a line northward parallel with the extreme northeastern boundary of the EEZ and terminate the line where it intersects the edge of the US Caribbean EEZ. This described boundary represents the northern portion of the St. Thomas/St. John EEZ.

The remainder of the EEZ that is not part of the St. Thomas/St. John or St. Croix EEZ will define the Puerto Rico EEZ.

Option 2. Use a straight line approach for dividing the EEZ. (see Above Figure – right half).

From the east-west portion of the EEZ boundary south of St. Thomas/St. John extend a line westward to the Puerto Rico territorial boundary. From that point extend a line south to the southern edge of the U.S. Caribbean EEZ. This described boundary represents the St. Croix EEZ and the southern portion of the St. Thomas/St. John EEZ.

From the intersection of the northeastern Puerto Rico territorial boundary and the northwestern St. Thomas/St. John territorial boundary extend a line due north until it intersects with the U.S. Caribbean EEZ boundary. This described boundary represents the northern portion of the St. Thomas/St. John EEZ.

The remainder of the EEZ that is not part of the St. Thomas/St. John or St. Croix EEZ will define the Puerto Rico EEZ.