

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS  
ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS (ACLs) AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES (AMs)  
RINCON, PUERTO RICO  
JULY 22, 2010**

**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED**

The Public hearing was held at the Rincón of the Seas Hotel in Rincón, Puerto Rico, and was chaired by Mr. Eugenio Piñero, CFMC Member.

Ms. Graciela García-Moliner gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached) on the proposed management measures for ACLs/AMs. Following are the comments offered by the attendees:

**1. Nelson Crespo, Rincón Commercial Fishermen Union, Rincón, Puerto Rico**

Mr. Nelson Crespo provided a written statement (included) in which he provided the following comments:

Action 1(a)

Agree with the preferred option. Deep water snappers should be placed in a different group from the ones in unit 4 which are overfished.

Action 1(b)

Also agree with the reclassification.

Action 2(a)

In favor of the preferred alternative.

Action 2(b)

In favor of the preferred alternative for queen conch

Action 3(a)

In favor of the preferred alternative.

Action 3(b)

In favor to have a separate species management for commercial and recreational fishers

Action 3(c)

In agreement with the Council to divide the islands using the equidistant line method between islands

Action 4(a)

Although they don't capture these species, they agree with protecting species that are subject to overfishing. Therefore, they agree with the preferred action chosen by the Council.

Action 4(b)

Do not agree with the option chosen by the Council, and presented the following 8<sup>th</sup> alternative for this action:

To establish a bag limit (ACL) of zero (0) for recreational fishers for snappers, groupers and parrotfishes in the US Caribbean federal waters and for all species that are overfished or undergoing overfishing, until these species are removed from the overfished species list, and once they are removed establish a bag limit of no more than 5 species per boat for a period of five years or until stock assessment studies are conducted.

Action 5(a)

In favor of the preferred alternative (3).

Action 5(b)

In favor of the preferred alternative (2)

Action 6

They recommend alternative number 3.

**2. Julio Morales Forastieri – Commercial Fisherman, Mayaguez, PR**

Agrees with Mr. Nelson Crespo's statement.

**3. José Montañez Figueroa – Commercial Fisherman, Rincón, PR**

Agrees with Mr. Nelson Crespo's statement.

**4. Walter Cardona Castro – Sport Fisherman, Aguadilla, PR**

There is need for more orientation and education to recreational and sports fishermen

**5. Willys K. Julia – Sport Fisherman**

In agreement with the proposed measures.

**6. Victor Padilla Santiago – Commercial Fisherman, El Seco, Mayaguez, PR**

In agreement with Nelson Crespo's statement. He also mentioned that enforcement agents should treat the fishermen with more respect when they come aboard their vessels, not as if they were drug dealers.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

(Copies of written statements provided at the public hearings are included.)

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