



**NOAA
FISHERIES**



Caribbean Amendments and Actions Status April 2026

Maria López-Mercer, NMFS SERO
189th Caribbean Fishery Management Council Meeting
St. Croix, USVI
April 21-22, 2026

Caribbean Amendments and Actions Status

Years: 2025 (Dec) - 2026



Amendment/Action	Dec 2025 CFMC	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr CFMC	May - Jul	Aug CFMC	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec CFMC
Amendment 2 to all FMPs: Trawl, Net Gear, and <u>Descending Devices</u>	Effective since November 3, 2025, except Descending Device Requirement				Effective Descending Device Requirement						
Framework 3 to USVI FMPs: SEDAR 80 Queen Triggerfish	Final rule under development			Final Rule Published	Effective New ACLs Triggerfish						
Amendment 4 to Puerto Rico FMP: Rainbow Runner Reclassification as Pelagic	NOA and Proposed Rule under development					*NOA and PR Published & Comment Periods		TBD			

Caribbean Amendments and Actions Status

Years: 2025-2026



Amendment/ Action	Why?	Dec 2025 CFMC	Jan- Mar	Apr 2026 CFMC	May - Jul	Aug CFMC	Sep-Nov	Dec CFMC
Modification of Pelagic Accountability Measures (AM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undefined AM corrective action - Get Council input - Focus on AM trigger 	Discussed options	Working Group refined options	Review Options Paper				
SEDAR 91 Spiny Lobster St. Croix St. Thomas/St. John	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update Assessments - Revise ACLs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussed SSC recomms. - Council selected p^* - Provided options for ACL buffers 	Development of Draft Framework Action	Council discusses Action, selects preferred alts. *Final Action				
SEDAR 91 Spiny Lobster Puerto Rico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update Assessment - Revise ACL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pending SEDAR 91 updates SEFSC, SSC reviews 		1) SSC Meeting (Apr 8-10) Review & ABC recomm. (2) Council Review @ Mtg				
SEDAR 84 - Yellowtail PR, STT/STJ Stoplight Parrotfish STX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stock Assessments - Revise ACLs 	SSC/SEFSC updates		(1) SSC Meeting (Apr 8-10) Review & ABC recomm. (2) Council Review @ Mtg				

Caribbean Amendments and Actions Status

Years: 2025-2026



Amendment/Action	Why?	Dec 2025 CFMC	Jan-Mar	Apr 2026 CFMC	May - Jul	Aug CFMC	Sep-Nov	Dec CFMC
Review stocks – Need for conservation and management (Matrix) Priority 1 Aug 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximize mgt. efficiency - Seafood E.O. 14276 	Discussed	Working Group draft Decision Tree	Review Decision Tree and Provide Input				
Revision of AMs for Puerto Rico Spiny Lobster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address ACL overages - Reevaluate current AMs 	On hold until SEDAR 91 reviews		TBD				

TBD /Other
 Completed
 No action
 Council action/decision
 AP process
 IPT process
 Information gathering/Scoping

 Rule Phases
 Other NMFS action



Prioritized List of Actions to NMFS on EO 14276

- Revision of Incompatible Regulations between Territorial and Federal Waters
- Revision of Duplicative Regulations in Federal Waters
 - Puerto Rico West Coast Marine Managed Areas (i.e., Tourmaline, Abrir La Sierra)
- Exploration of Carry-over of Unused ACLs
- SEDAR 103 – US Caribbean Application of Alternative Assessment Methods
- Other (Council to provide input)

Important Reminders for Fishers

- ✓ Size limits for ALL harvest of dolphin and wahoo are in place.
- ✓ Recreational bag limits for dolphin and wahoo are in place.
- ✓ Prohibition on the use of nets (except for specific gillnet for certain species - See regs) is in place in federal waters.
- ✓ Descending device requirement for reef fish fishing is in place (since April 1, 2026).

Thanks to all fishers out there that are already using the devices!