

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, NOAA FISHERIES
CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
268 MUÑOZ RIVERA AVENUE, SUITE 1108
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00918-1920
NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETINGS

The Caribbean Fishery Management Council will hold scoping meetings to obtain input from fishers, the general public, and the local agencies representatives, on the document for Amendment 2 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Queen Conch Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and Amendment X to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (including the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Regulatory Impact Review, and Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis).

Among the management alternatives being considered by the CFMC are:

- To modify the fishery management units to reclassify species groups that are considered overfished, or undergoing overfishing.
- To establish annual catch limits (ACLs) for queen conch in the waters off St. Croix, U.S.V.I.
- To establish annual catch limits for certain parrotfishes, groupers and snappers.
- To establish annual catch limits for the recreational sector.
- The Accountability Measures alternatives may include:
 - Alternative 1.** No action. Do not establish Accountability Measures.
 - Alternative 2.** Implement accountability measures for exceeding an ACL based on: Sub-Alternative a) A single year of landings/catch. Sub-Alternative b) A 2-year average of landings/catch. Sub-Alternative c) A 3-year average of landings/catch.
 - Alternative 3.** Reduce the fishing season in the following year by a length determined to be appropriate to account for exceeding the ACL.
 - Alternative 4.** For queen conch exceedences in St. Croix, close the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to queen conch harvest.
 - Alternative 5.** Reduce the ACL in the subsequent fishing year by an amount equal to an overage in the previous year.
- Use alternative methods for reducing fishing mortality, including ACLs by fishing sectors.
- Require fishing permits in the EEZ.
- Account for uncertainty by reducing a percentage of the annual catch limit.

(For a complete summary of the alternatives to be considered please contact the CFMC Office at the telephone number or address below, or go to www.caribbeanfmc.com, to download the document.)

The scoping meetings will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., on the following dates and locations:

Puerto Rico:

- August 18, 2009, Mayagüez Resort and Casino, Rd. 104, Km. 0.3, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico
- August 19, 2009, DoubleTree by Hilton San Juan, De Diego Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico

U.S. Virgin Islands:

- August 18, 2009, Windward Passage, Holiday Inn Hotel, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.
- August 19, 2009, The Buccaneer Hotel, St. Croix, U.S.V.I.

The last day to receive comments will be August 28, 2009.

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or requests for sign language interpretation and/or other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 268 Muñoz Rivera Ave., Suite 1108, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918, tel. (787) 766-5926, at least five days prior to the meeting.

Miguel A. Rolón
Executive Director