## 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 PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Caribbean Fishery Management Council will hold public hearings to obtain input from fishers, the general public, and the local agencies representatives, on the draft Comprehensive Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment for the U.S. Caribbean, Amendment 6 to the Reef Fish Fishery Management Plan of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Amendment 5 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Spiny Lobster Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Amendment 3 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Queen Conch Resources of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Amendment 3 to the Fishery Management Plan for Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (Draft Environmental Impact Statement dated: June 20, 2011)

Among the management alternatives being considered by the CFMC are:

- To establish annual catch limits (ACLs) for reef fish (other than snappers, groupers, and parrotfish).
- To establish ACLs for spiny lobster.
- To establish accountability measures (AMs) to prevent overfishing in both the commercial and recreational sectors.
- To revise management of aquarium trade species and conch resources.
- To establish recreational fishing bag limits for spiny lobster and reef fish.
- To establish exclusive economic zone sub-boundaries for purposes of applying AMs.
- To amend the framework of the spiny lobster and coral FMPs to adjust management measures as needed to constrain harvest to specified ACLs, and minimize to the extent practicable negative socioeconomic impacts.

(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 <a href="https://www.caribbeanfmc.com">www.caribbeanfmc.com</a>, to download the document.)

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

## **Puerto Rico:**

- -August 2, 2011, DoubleTree by Hilton San Juan, De Diego Avenue, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- -August 3, 2011, Holiday Inn Ponce and Tropical Casino, Ponce, Puerto Rico
- -August 4, 2011, Mayagüez Holiday Inn, 2701 Hostos Avenue, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico

## **U.S. Virgin Islands:**

- -August 3, 2011, The Buccaneer Hotel, St. Croix, U.S.V.I.
- -August 4, 2011, Windward Passage, Holiday Inn Hotel, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.

The last day to receive comments will be August 15, 2011.

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