

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS OF THE
CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL'S
SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE
AND THE ADVISORY PANEL**

The Caribbean Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Advisory Panel (AP) will hold public meetings to discuss the items included in the following agenda:

March 14, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- Call to order
- Roll Call
- Monitoring of ACLs

1. SSC Review of fishery monitoring programs
<http://www.mragamericas.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/MRAG-EDF-Guiding-Principles-for-Monitoring-Programs-FINAL.pdf>
 - a. How to apply this to ACL monitoring
 - b. Timeliness (e.g. 60 days for data submission)
 - c. Minimum data to be collected
 - d. Commercial and recreational landings
 - e. Guidance that can or should be used
 - f. What is optimal
 - g. Recommendations from the SSC on how to monitor ACLs

Presentations: Bob Trumble, MRAG, SEFSC, territorial representatives - status of current fishery monitoring programs, i.e. Trip ticket monitoring of catches and port sampling.

Kojis' Questions related to status of current sampling:

- What is the status of the implementation of the new trip ticket in the USVI and PR?
- What is the status of the trip ticket data for 2011 in the VI and PR?
- Are trip ticket reports being compared to port samples to ascertain accuracy of reporting? If so, what is the result?
- Is port sampling being carried out in a stratified random sampling program so it can be used to determine catches of FMU species/species units?
- Is it mandatory in the VI and PR for fishers to submit catches to port sampling when port samplers make a request?
- How much money is available for monitoring in each jurisdiction?
- Are the territories planning to implement compatible ACLs for territorial waters?

Attachments:

- Virgin Islands Daily News article with fishermen's remarks about ACLs.

Other information:

- The CFMC will send all the newspaper articles, etc. that they have received from various people related to ACLs.
2. Establish Research Needs Sub-committee to address priority research needs for the next 5 years.

Information: Graciela or Bill will pull out sections from recent SEDARs outlining Research Needs and forward these to the SSC's

3. Deep Water Queen Conch Assessment

Presentation: Deepwater Queen Conch Assessment by Reni Garcia.

JOINT MEETING SSC and AP

March 15, 2012 – 9:00 am – 12 noon

4. Review of SEDAR 26 Complete Assessment Reports for queen and silk snappers and red tail parrotfish
(http://www.sefsc.noaa.gov/sedar/Sedar_Workshops.jsp?WorkshopNum=26)

Presentation: Overview of SEDAR 26 conclusions and supporting documentation for 1) queen snapper, 2) silk snapper and 3) red parrotfish - Dr. Todd Gedamke.

5. Discussion of options paper on parrotfish size and trip limits

Presentation by Dr. Bill Arnold of SERO will present options and background and rationale for options for commercial trip and size limits for parrotfish.

Other information:

- Graciela sent the SSC a white paper on this topic.
 - STFA has a couple of power point presentations on their CRP Study of Fish Trap Escape Vents on their website: <http://stfavi.org/Reports.html>
 - Graciela will send a copy of relevant part of an options paper that discussed trap vents.
6. Data needs and recommendations on study design to determine status of parrotfish populations on St. Croix.

Attachments and websites:

The non-profit Earthjustice filed a lawsuit January 30, 2012 "in federal district court seeking greater protections from fishing for threatened coral reefs in the Caribbean. The lawsuit

asserts that the NMFS ignored science showing that parrotfish and other grazing fish play a key role in promoting the health of coral reefs; the government's authorization of targeted fishing for parrotfish poses a risk to elkhorn and staghorn corals, protected under the Endangered Species Act."

- Press release website with access to actual lawsuit:
<http://earthjustice.org/news/press/2012/lawsuit-aims-to-protect-endangered-caribbean-corals-from-overfishing>
- Mumby et al. 2007. Thresholds and the resilience of Caribbean coral reefs. *Nature*. 450:98-101.
- *Graciela emailed the SSC the signed Biological Opinion that is the focus of the above lawsuit.*

SSC meeting continues 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

7. Review information needs for SEDAR 30 (2012) including recommendations on how to gather information on species designated for assessment: blue tang, queen triggerfish.

Discussion of information needs before SEDAR 30? For example, local life history information on blue tang and queen triggerfish.

-Old business
-New business
Next meeting
-Adjourn

The SSC will meet on March 14, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The AP will meet on March 15, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., concurrently with the SSC during the morning session, and then will meet separately during the afternoon session to discuss the three presentations given during the morning.

The meetings will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Tartak St., Isla Verde, Carolina, Puerto Rico. The meetings are open to the public, and will be conducted in the English language. However, simultaneous translation will be provided (English-Spanish) for the AP. Fishers and other interested persons are invited to attend