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FISHERIES

Accountability Measure Implementation Puerto Rico Spiny Lobster Stock



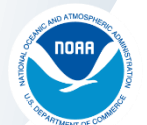
SSC Meeting

August 1-2, 2022

Isla Verde, Puerto Rico

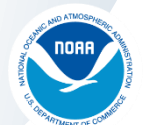
ACL Monitoring under the Spiny Lobster FMP (regulations as of 8/2/2022)

- The trigger for the spiny lobster accountability measure (AM) compares the most recent 3-year average landings to the annual catch limit (ACL).
 - Puerto Rico available landings = 2017-2019
 - USVI available landings = 2018-2020
- The AM is not applied if the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) determines data collection or monitoring efforts improved.
- If NMFS determines that the ACL overage resulted from increased catch rather than from improved data collection or monitoring, the AM would be applied.
 - The length of the fishing season would be reduced by the amount necessary to prevent landings from exceeding the ACL.
 - The required fishing season reduction would be applied starting from September 30 and moving earlier toward the beginning of the fishing year (January 1).



ACL Monitoring under the Spiny Lobster FMP (regulations as of 8/2/2022)

- Based on 2018-2020 landings for the USVI, **no AMs were applied.**
- Based on the 2017-2019 landings for Puerto Rico, the spiny lobster stock **exceeded its ACL by 103,086 lb** (ACL = 327,920 lb; average landings = 431,006 lb) and the fishing season in Federal waters is **closed from July 12 - September 30, 2022.**



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Next steps

- Proposed rule for Spiny Lobster Amendment with public comment period.
- SEFSC Caribbean Branch developing updated OFL and ABC projections based on SEDAR 57 assessment model.
- SEFSC Data Branch working with Puerto Rico DNER to get commercial landings from 2020 and later.

Questions?

