

**CARIBBEAN FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
270 MUÑOZ RIVERA AVE., SUITE 401  
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00918**

**COMMENTS PROVIDED AT  
PUBLIC HEARINGS ON  
AMENDMENTS TO THE U.S. CARIBBEAN REEF FISH, SPINY LOBSTER AND CORALS  
AND REEF ASSOCIATED PLANTS AND INVERTEBRATES FISHERY MANAGEMENT  
PLANS: TIMING AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES-BASED CLOSURES**

**AUGUST 15, 2016  
DOUBLETREE HOTEL  
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**

The Caribbean Fishery Management Council held a public hearing at the Doubletree Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on August 15, 2016, on Amendments to the U.S. Caribbean Reef Fish, Spiny Lobster and Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates Fishery Management Plans: Timing and Accountability Measures-Based Closures.

The public hearing was chaired by Mr. Carlos Farchette, Council Chair, and was attended by 17 persons. (Attendance sheets attached.)

Ms. Helena Antoun gave a presentation prepared by Dr. Graciela García-Moliner (attached) on alternatives related to Timing of Accountability Measure-Based Seasonal Closures.

Following are the comments provided:

1. Héctor López Pelet – Asociación de Pescadores Palmas Altas, Barceloneta, PR
  - The closures should be by species and during the months when the captures are less for each species
  - The process should be revised every two years, minimum
2. Victor García – President, Asociación de Pescadores El Tinglar, Luquillo, PR
  - The ACLs need to be revised every year
  - There should be more flexibility and these closures need to be revised on an annual basis.
  - The closures should be during the months when the captures are less
  - Every species is different. Therefore, closures should be done by species
3. Edgardo Agosto – Asociación de Pescadores El Tinglar, Luquillo, PR
  - The revision to the ACLs and the process should be done annually since the fisheries change every year.
  - The closures should be made by species during the months when the captures are less
  - The data must be revised.
4. Carlos Esquilin – Recreational Fisher – Asociación de Pescadores El Tinglar, Luquillo, PR
  - Supports the comments made by the President of Asociación de Pescadores El Tinglar, Sr. Victor Garcia.
5. Raimundo Espinosa – Independent
  - The closures should be done by individual species, during the seasons when captures are less in each one of them.

- The data must be revised and improved every two years if it cannot be done annually
  - Fishers and persons who are cooperating in the process and provide critical information and assistance should be provided some payment in order to remunerate them for their work and time.
  - Data should be collected electronically
6. Tommy Forte – Commercial Fisher
- The process should be revised every two years, minimum
  - The closures should be done by individual species, during the seasons when captures are less in each one of them.
7. Roberto Silva – Unión de Pescadores Marina Puerto del Rey, Humacao, PR
- It is wrong to penalize the fishermen when decisions made are based in poor data.
  - Does not agree with the measures proposed, but if he had to choose one would be to revise this process every two years.
  - The closures should be done by individual species, during the seasons when captures are less in each one of them.