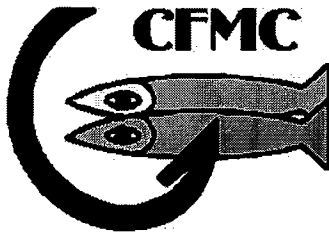


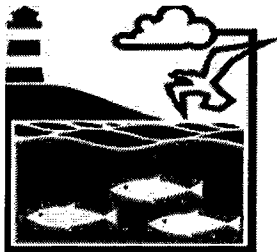
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**PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT
AMENDMENT 4 TO THE
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR THE SPINY LOBSTER FISHERY OF
PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
AND AMENDMENT 8 TO THE SPINY LOBSTER
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE
GULF OF MEXICO AND SOUTH ATLANTIC
(Including the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Regulatory Impact Review,
and Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis)**

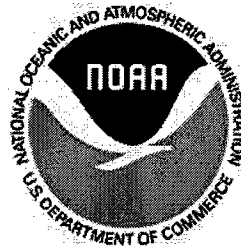
June 2008



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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

ABC	acceptable biological catch
ACOE	Army Corps of Engineers
ADCNR, MRD	Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division
AFS	American Fisheries Society
ALK	Age Length Key
APA	Administrative Procedure Act
AP	advisory panel
ASA	American Soybean Association
ASAP	Age Structured Assessment Program
ASMFC	Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
ASPIC	Stock Production Model
ATCA	Atlantic Tuna Convention Act
B	Biomass
B _{CURRENT}	current biomass of stock
B _{MSY}	Biomass at MSY
BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
BRD	bycatch reduction device
CFMC	Caribbean Fishery Management Council
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COE	Corps of Engineers (Same as ACOE)
ComFIN Council	Commercial Fisheries Information Network Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
CPUE	catch per unit effort
CL	Carapace Length
CSL	Caribbean Spiny Lobster
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DEIS	draft environmental impact statement
DO	dissolved oxygen
DOC	U. S. Department of Commerce
DOI	Department of Interior
DPS	distinct population segment
DQA	Data Quality Act
EA	environmental assessment
EEC	European Economic Community
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EFP	exempted fishing permit
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ELMR	Estuarine Living Marine Resources
E.O.	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPIRB	Emergency Position Indication Radio Beacon
ESA	Endangered Species Act

F	instantaneous fishing mortality rate
FACA	Federal Advisory Committee Act
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (United Nations)
FCZ	fishery conservation zone (is now called EEZ)
FDACS	Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FDCA	Federal Drug and Cosmetic Act
FIFRA	Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
FKNMS	Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
FL	fork length
FMP	fishery management plan
FMRI	Florida Marine Research Institute
F _{MSY}	Fishing Mortality Rate Yielding MSY
FMU	fishery management unit
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FWRI	Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
GC	general counsel
GCSE	General Counsel Southeast Region
GLM	general linear model
HAPC	Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
HMS	Highly Migratory Species
HPUE	Harvest per unit effort
HSI	Habitat Suitability Index
ICCAT	International Commission on Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
IFQ	Individual Fishing Quotas
IPT	Inter-Disciplinary Project Team
IRFA	initial regulatory flexibility analysis
ITQ	individual transferable quota
LE	Law Enforcement
LEAP	Law Enforcement Advisory Panel
M	instantaneous natural mortality rate
MARFIN	Marine Fisheries Initiative
MDMR	Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
MFMT	Maximum Fishing Mortality Threshold
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MMS	Minerals Management Service
MP	million pounds
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MRAG	Marine Resources Assessment Group Americas Corporation
MRFSS	Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey
MSAP	Mackerel Stock Assessment Panel
MSFCMA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act)
MSST	Minimum Stock Size Threshold
MSY	maximum sustainable yield
MT	million metric tons

MYPR	maximum yield per recruit
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGO	non-governmental organization
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NMSA	National Marine Sanctuaries Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA Fisheries	Same as NMFS
NOS	National Ocean Service
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OIE	Office of International Epizootics
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OCSLA	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
OSP	Optimum Sustainable Population Level
OY	optimum yield
PBR	potential biological removal level
PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
ppm	parts per million (e.g., oxygen)
ppt	parts per thousand (salinity)
RA	Regional Administrator of NMFS
RDSAP	Red Drum Stock Assessment Panel
RecFIN	Recreational Fisheries Information Network
RFA	Regulatory Flexibility Act
RFSAP	Reef Fish Stock Assessment Panel
RIR	regulatory impact review
RSW	running sea water system
SAFMC	South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
SAP	stock assessment panel
SARP	Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
SAV	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
SBA	Small Business Administration
SEAMAP	Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program
SEDAR	Southeast Data Assessment Review (stock assessment)
SEFSC	Southeast Fisheries Science Center of NMFS
SEIS	supplemental environmental impact statement
SEP	Socioeconomic Panel
SERO	Southeast Regional Office (NMFS)
SFA	Sustainable Fisheries Act
SMZ	special management zone
SOPPs	Statement of Organization Practices and Procedures
SPL	saltwater products license (FL)
SPR	spawning potential ratio
SSB and SS	spawning stock biomass
SSB/R	spawning stock biomass per recruit
SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee
TAC	total allowable catch
TED	turtle excluder device

TEWG	turtle expert working group
TL	Tail Length
TOC	total organic carbon
TSV	Taura Syndrome Virus
TW	Tail Weight
USCG	United States Coast Guard
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VPA	virtual population analysis
WSSV	white spot syndrome virus
YPR	yield per recruit
Z	instantaneous total mortality rate

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS) COVER SHEET

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Name of Action

Amendment 4 to the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and Amendment 8 to the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.

Type of Action

Administrative
 Draft

Legislative
 Final

Abstract

The United States is a major importer of spiny lobster, importing over 88,000 tons (over 194 million lbs) over the past 10 years, worth an estimated \$2.27 billion dollars. The United States imports over 90% of the spiny lobster harvested in South and Central America and the Caribbean countries. The major exporters to the United States are the Bahamas, Brazil, Honduras and Nicaragua. All of these exporting countries have some form of minimum size requirement, but they are not standardized and enforcement is severely lacking. Therefore, NOAA Fisheries Service in coordination with the Caribbean, South Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils considering minimum conservation standards on imports to curtail the flow of undersized lobster harvested in foreign countries. Eliminating the primary market for undersized lobster is expected reduce the harvest of undersized animals and increase the spawning stock biomass and long-term potential yield within the pan-Caribbean spiny lobster fishery.

FISHERY IMPACT STATEMENT – SOCIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

This integrated document contains all elements of the Plan Amendment, Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS), Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA), Regulatory Impact Review (RIR), and Social Impact Assessment (SIA)/Fishery Impact Statement (FIS). A table of contents for the SIA/FIS is provided separately to aid reviewers in referencing corresponding sections of the Amendment.

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INTRODUCTION

Mandates to conduct Social Impact Assessments come from both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). NEPA requires federal agencies to consider the interactions of natural and human environments by using a “...systematic, interdisciplinary approach which will ensure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences...in planning and decision-making” [NEPA section 102 (2) (a)]. Under the Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ, 1986) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, a clarification of the terms “human environment” expanded the interpretation to include the relationship of people with their natural and physical environment (40 CFR 1508.14). Moreover, agencies need to address the aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health effects which may be direct, indirect or cumulative (Interorganizational Committee on Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment, 1994).

Recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act require FMPs address the impacts of any management measures on the participants in the affected fishery and those participants in other fisheries that may be affected directly or indirectly through the inclusion of a fishery impact statement [Magnuson-Stevens Act section 303 (a) (9)]. Most recently, with the addition of National Standard 8, FMPs must now consider the impacts upon fishing communities to the extent practicable to assure their sustained participation and minimize adverse economic impacts upon those communities [Magnuson-Stevens Act section 301 (a) (8)]. Consideration of social impacts is a growing concern as fisheries experience increased participation and/or declines in stocks. With an increasing need for management action, the consequences of such changes need to be examined to minimize the negative impacts experienced by the populations concerned to the extent practicable.

DATA LIMITATIONS AND METHODS

Social impacts are generally the consequences to human populations that follow from some type of public or private action. Those consequences may include alterations to “...the ways in which people live, work or play, relate to one another, organize to

meet their needs and generally cope as members of a society...” (Interorganizational Committee on Guidelines and Principles for Social Impact Assessment, 1994:1). In addition, included under this interpretation are cultural impacts that may involve changes in values and beliefs, which affect the way people identify themselves within their occupation, communities and society in general. Social impacts analyses help determine the consequences of policy action in advance by comparing the status quo with the projected impacts. Therefore, it is important that as much information as possible concerning a fishery and its participants be gathered for an assessment.

It is important to identify any foreseeable adverse effects on the human environment. With quantitative data often lacking, qualitative data can be used to provide a rough estimate of some of the impacts based on the best available science. In addition, when there is a body of empirical findings available from the social science literature, it needs to be summarized and referenced in the analyses.

SUMMARY OF SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This section will be completed when preferred alternatives are selected.