IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME
Panulirus argus

SPECIES NAME(S)
Caribbean spiny lobster

STOCK IDENTIFICATION
The complete stock structure of the Caribbean spiny lobster is not fully understood. Silberman et al. (1994) concluded that there is single genetic stock throughout its entire distribution area, however, a recent review of oceanographic and genetic available data indicates that Brazilian populations are characterized by a considerable degree of self-recruitment, and are assessed independently of the Caribbean populations (Andrade, 2015). Larval connectivity in the Caribbean has been described by Kough et al. (2013): larval exchanges transcend international boundaries, nonetheless, self-recruitment of lobsters dominates larval recruitment in the Bahamas, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela, while the Cayman Islands, Colombia, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, and Puerto Rico lobster populations depend largely on larval subsidies from outside their borders.

This profile considers the Caribbean lobster meta-population, and includes assessments conducted at national level, when available. The assessment unit and supposed stock along the Northern Brazilian coast is considered separately in the Northern SW Atlantic profile.

RELATED LINKS:
- Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSFMC)
- US Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)
- US Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GFMFC)
- Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths
- There have been improvements in knowledge about larval dispersal and populations connectivity.
- There have been improvements at regional level, such as the establishment of recent working groups on Fisheries Data and Statistics and on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.
- Stocks in 2014 were considered in better condition.

SCORES

Management Quality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 6 ≥ 8</td>
<td>≥ 6 &gt; 10</td>
<td>≥ 6</td>
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Stock Health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<tr>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>&gt; 7.6</td>
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FIPS
No related FIPs

MSC
No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN
- Start or join an existing fishery improvement project to address sustainability issues in this fishery. For advice on starting a FIP, see SFP’s Seafish Industry Guide to FIPs at http://www.sustainablefishingpublications/2014/04/30/the-seafish-industry-guide-to-fips.
- Communicate to fishery managers that there are sustainability issues in this fishery that may be affecting the sale of products, and request that they comprehensively evaluate and address such issues.