

regional economy or if it represents an important component of bycatch. Seven finfish species were selected for inclusion under this criterion, including two new pelagic species (dolphin and wahoo) (Table 2.2.4). Each of the species added under Criterion D provides substantial value to the St. Croix fishery. After careful consideration, certain pelagic species (dolphin and wahoo) were included for federal management under this criterion. The Council recognized the economic importance of these stocks within the region and decided to include them for management under the St. Croix FMP, even though, given their migratory nature, they are exposed to harvest pressure across a wide area of the Atlantic Ocean.

Criterion E of **Preferred Alternative 2** allows the Council discretion to add those species they felt were in need of conservation or management. All sea cucumbers and sea urchins that occur in the St. Croix EEZ would fall under this category (Table 2.2.5). These groups were added to the St. Croix FMP by Council motion at their 153rd regular meeting in August 2015, because as slow-moving benthic invertebrates, they are commercially exploited for consumption through export to Asian markets and are highly vulnerable to overharvest.

In summary, **Preferred Alternative 2** would result in the following list of species to be included in the St. Croix FMP: queen conch, spiny lobster, all species of sea cucumbers, sea urchins, and coral occurring in St. Croix EEZ waters, and 43 species of finfish (Table 2.2.6).

Table 2.2.6. Species included in the St. Croix FMP based on Criteria A-E of Preferred Alternative 2. The Council proposed these species for management at their 153rd Regular Meeting (August 2015). Species marked with an asterisk would be new to federal management.

Family or Class	#	Species Name	Common Name	Criterion
Strombidae - True conchs	1	<i>Lobatus gigas</i>	Queen conch	A
Palinuridae - Spiny lobster	2	<i>Panulirus argus</i>	Caribbean spiny lobster	A
Lutjanidae - Snappers	3	<i>Apsilus dentatus</i>	Black snapper	A
	4	<i>Lutjanus buccanella</i>	Blackfin snapper	A
	5	<i>Lutjanus vivanus</i>	Silk snapper	A
	6	<i>Rhomboplites aurorubens</i>	Vermilion snapper	A
	7	<i>Lutjanus synagris</i>	Lane snapper	A
	8	<i>Lutjanus analis</i>	Mutton snapper	A
	9	<i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i>	Yellowtail snapper	A
	10	<i>Etelis oculatus</i>	Queen snapper	D
	11	<i>Lutjanus griseus</i>	Gray snapper	D
	12	<i>Lutjanus apodus</i>	Schoolmaster	D
Serranidae - Groupers	13	<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>	Nassau Grouper	A
	14	<i>Epinephelus itajara</i>	Goliath grouper	A
	15	<i>Epinephelus guttatus</i>	Red hind	A
	16	<i>Mycteroperca bonaci</i>	Black grouper	A
	17	<i>Epinephelus morio</i>	Red grouper	A
	18	<i>Mycteroperca tigris</i>	Tiger grouper	A
	19	<i>Mycteroperca venenosa</i>	Yellowfin grouper	A

Family or Class	#	Species Name	Common Name	Criterion
	20	<i>Cephalopholis fulva</i>	Coney	C
	21	<i>Cephalopholis cruentata</i>	Graysby	C
	22	<i>Epinephelus adscensionis</i>	Rock hind	C
	23	<i>Hyporthodus mystacinus</i>	Misty grouper	C
Scaridae - Parrotfishes	24	<i>Scarus coeruleus</i>	Blue parrotfish	A
	25	<i>Scarus coelestinus</i>	Midnight parrotfish	A
	26	<i>Scarus guacamaia</i>	Rainbow parrotfish	A
	27	<i>Scarus vetula</i>	Queen parrotfish	A
	28	<i>Scarus taeniopterus</i>	Princess parrotfish	A
	29	<i>Sparisoma chrysopterygum</i>	Redtail parrotfish	A
	30	<i>Sparisoma viride</i>	Stoplight parrotfish	A
	31	<i>Sparisoma aurofrenatum</i>	Redband parrotfish	A
	32	<i>Sparisoma rubripinne</i>	Redfin parrotfish	A
	33	<i>Scarus iseri</i>	Striped parrotfish	A
Acanthuridae - Surgeonfishes	34	<i>Acanthurus coeruleus</i>	Blue tang	C
	35	<i>Acanthurus bahianus</i>	Ocean surgeonfish	C
	36	<i>Acanthurus chirurgus</i>	Doctorfish	C
Pomacanthidae - Angelfishes	37	<i>Holacanthus ciliaris</i>	Queen angelfish	C
	38	<i>Pomacanthus arcuatus</i>	Gray angelfish	C
	39	<i>Pomacanthus paru</i>	French angelfish	C
Haemulidae - Grunts	40	<i>Haemulon sciurus</i>	Bluestriped grunt	C
	41	<i>Haemulon plumieri</i>	White grunt	D
Holocentridae - Squirrelfish	42	<i>Holocentrus rufus</i>	Longspine squirrelfish	C
Balistidae - Triggerfish	43	<i>Balistes vetula</i>	Queen triggerfish	D
Coryphaenidae - Dolphinfish	44	<i>Coryphaena hippurus</i>	Dolphin*	D
Scombridae - Mackerels and Tunas	45	<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	Wahoo*	D
Class Holothuroidea - Sea Cucumbers	46	All (See Appendix E)	Sea cucumbers	E
Class Echinoidea ¹ - Sea Urchins	47	All (See Appendix E)	Sea urchins	E
All Corals	48	All (See Appendix E)	Corals	A

¹ Orders Arbacioida, Camarodonta, Cassiduloida, Cidaroida, Diadematoidea, Echinolampadoidea, Echinoneoida, Echinothurioida, Pedinoidea, Salenioida, and Spatangoida.

Comparison of Action 2 Alternatives and Summary of Effects

Alternative 1 (No Action) would continue management of those stocks that are included under the U.S. Caribbean-wide FMPs, without alteration. When compared to **Alternative 1, Preferred Alternative 2** would identify species in need of conservation and management using an expert-based analysis of available data and information applied within an ordered set of evaluation criteria. The outcome of this ordered selection process would result in a change in the number of stocks subject to federal management in St. Croix EEZ waters relative to **Alternative 1**. Although two reef fish stocks would be newly included in the federal management regime, 40 reef fish stocks would be simultaneously removed from management, resulting in an overall