



Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for US Caribbean Species

Which US Caribbean fish species have ACLs?

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2007, required Regional Fishery Management Councils to develop ACLs for each of their regionally managed fisheries. Species that are considered to be currently overfished or undergoing overfishing within the US Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are:

- Snapper Unit 1: silk, black, vermilion, blackfin, and wenchmen
- Snapper Unit 2: queen and cardinal
- Snapper Unit 3: mutton, lane, grey, dog, schoolmaster and mahogany
- Snapper Unit 4: yellowtail
- Grouper Unit 1: Nassau
- Grouper Unit 4: red, tiger, yellowfin, black
- parrotfish: blue, midnight, princess, queen, rainbow, redfin, redband, stoplight, redband and striped
- Queen conch

Separate ACLs may be established for recreational and commercial fisheries, but the combined yearly catch of both fishing sectors must not go over the total ACL established for a species.

ACL values for overfishing species within the US Caribbean EEZ Region

Table 1. Puerto Rico EEZ

Fishery Managed Unit	Maximum Annual Commercial Catch (lbs)	Maximum Annual Recreational Catch (lbs)
Snapper Unit 1	284,685	95,526
Snapper Unit 2	145,916	34,810
Snapper Unit 3	345,775	83,158
Snapper Unit 4	373,295	28,509
Groupers*	177,513	77,213
Parrotfish**	52,737	15,263
Queen Conch	0	0

Table 2. St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John EEZ

Fishery Managed Unit	St. Croix Maximum Annual Commercial and Recreational Catch (lbs)	St. Thomas/St. John Maximum Annual Commercial and Recreational Catch (lbs)
Snappers	102,946	133,775
Groupers*	30,435	51,849
Parrotfish**	240,000	42,500
Queen Conch	50,000	0

Table 1 and Table 2:

* Except NO fishing for Nassau and Goliath groupers.

** Except NO fishing for midnight, blue and rainbow parrotfish

For more information on ACLs, AMs and the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council you may call:
The Caribbean Fishery Management Council
 (787) 766- 5926
Fish and Wildlife Bureau
Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, PR
 (787)999-2200 ext. 2613
The Division of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Planning and Natural Resources, USVI
 (340) 775-6762