



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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NOAA Seeks Public Comment on the 2011 Caribbean Annual Catch Limit Amendment *Comment Period Ends Friday, November 25, 2011*

NOAA Fisheries Service announces the availability of an amendment developed by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council. This amendment to the fishery management plans for reef fish, spiny lobster, queen conch resources, and corals and reef associated plants and invertebrates in the U.S. Caribbean is designed to bring those fisheries into compliance with the 2007 revisions to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Actions in this amendment will:

- For species not designated as undergoing overfishing (rate of removal is too high), establish annual catch limits (amount of fish that can be taken without triggering accountability measures) and accountability measures (measures to prevent or address an overage of an annual catch limit) to prevent overfishing in both the commercial and recreational sectors.
- Revise management of aquarium trade species and conch resources.
- Establish recreational fishing bag limits.
- Establish exclusive economic zone sub-boundaries for purposes of applying accountability measures.
- Adjust management measures as needed to constrain harvest to specified annual catch limits.
- Minimize to the extent practicable negative socioeconomic impacts.

Request for Comments

Comments on this amendment identified as NOAA-NMFS-2011-0017 must be received no later than **November 25, 2011**, in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the **Addresses** section below for information on where and how to submit comments. Additional opportunity to provide comments on this amendment and proposed rule will be available when the Final Environmental Impact Statement is published.

Addresses

Electronic copies of the amendment may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office Web site

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/CaribbeanReefFish.htm> under the **Items of Interest** heading, and the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>.

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Electronic submissions: Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>, click on "submit a comment," then enter NOAA-NMFS-2011-0017 in the keyword search and click on "search." To view posted comments during the comment period, enter NOAA-NMFS-2011-0017 in the keyword search and click on "search." All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only. Comments received through means not specified in this bulletin or the proposed rule may not be considered.
- Mail: Miguel Lugo or Maria Lopez
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If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail: sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov.