NOAA Seeks Public Comment on the Proposed Rule for the 2011 Caribbean Annual Catch Limit Amendment

Comment Period Ends November 22, 2011

NOAA Fisheries Service seeks public comment on the proposed rule for the 2011 Caribbean Annual Catch Limit Amendment. 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 not 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.
- Some of the species addressed in this document include grunts, wrasses, boxfish, aquarium trade species and spiny lobster.
- 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.

Request for Comments
Comments on this proposed rule identified as NOAA-NMFS-2011-0017 must be received no later than November 22, 2011, in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the Addresses section below for information on where and how to submit comments.

Addresses

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 Britni Tokotch
  NOAA Fisheries Service
  Southeast Regional Office
  Sustainable Fisheries Division
  263 13th Avenue South
  St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
  Phone: 727/824-5305

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.