



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Seasonal Area Restrictions on Fishing in Caribbean Federal Waters Begin December 1, 2013

NOAA Fisheries reminds fishers that commercial and recreational fishing for, or possession of, red hind is prohibited from 12:01 a.m., local time, December 1 through the last day of February each year. During this time, red hind cannot be harvested from, or possessed in, the area west of 67° 10' W longitude. The area is located off the west coast of Puerto Rico.

Also, during this time, fishing for any species is prohibited in federal waters for the following red hind spawning aggregation areas:

- Lang Bank red hind spawning aggregation area, east of St. Croix, bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following coordinates:
 - A 17°50.2' N 64°27.9' W
 - B 17°50.1' N 64°26.1' W
 - C 17°49.2' N 64°25.8' W
 - D 17°48.6' N 64°25.8' W
 - E 17°48.1' N 64°26.1' W
 - F 17°47.5' N 64°26.9' W
 - A 17°50.2' N 64°27.9' W
- Tourmaline Bank
 - A 18°11.2' N 67°22.4' W
 - B 18°11.2' N 67°19.2' W
 - C 18°08.2' N 67°19.2' W
 - D 18°08.2' N 67°22.4' W
 - A 18°11.2' N 67°22.4' W
- Abrir La Sierra Bank
 - A 18°06.5' N 67°26.9' W
 - B 18°06.5' N 67°23.9' W
 - C 18°03.5' N 67°23.9' W
 - D 18°03.5' N 67°26.9' W
 - A 18°06.5' N 67°26.9' W

Additionally, fishing for any species and anchoring activities by fishing vessels within the Hind Bank Marine Conservation District is prohibited year round:

- Hind Bank Marine Conservation District, south of St. Thomas, is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following coordinates:
 - A 18°13.2' N 65°06.0' W
 - B 18°13.2' N 64°59.0' W
 - C 18°11.8' N 64°59.0' W
 - D 18°10.7' N 65°06.0' W
 - A 18°13.2' N 65°06.0' W

These restrictions were developed to provide further protection for red hind spawning aggregations and large snappers and groupers, and to better protect the essential fish habitat where these species reside.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

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