



Caribbean Fishery Bulletin

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Reduced Fishing Season Lengths for the Recreational Harvest of Wrasses in Federal Waters around Puerto Rico for the 2017 Fishing Year

WHAT/WHEN:

- Recreational harvest of wrasses, including hogfish, puddingwife, and Spanish hogfish, in federal waters of Puerto Rico, **will close on April 19, 2017**. Recreational harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2018.

WHY THIS CLOSURE IS HAPPENING:

- The recreational annual catch limit for wrasses is 5,050 lb. Based on the average of the three most recent years of available recreational landings data, from the 2013-2015 fishing years, NOAA Fisheries has determined that the recreational annual catch limit for wrasses has been exceeded.
- As a result, accountability measures are applied, reducing the length of the 2017 recreational fishing season for wrasses; recreational harvest of this species group will close in federal waters of Puerto Rico at the date and time specified above.
- This closure is necessary to protect the recreational wrasses fishery by limiting landings to the recreational annual catch limit.

DURING THE CLOSURE:

- All recreational harvest of federally managed wrasse species is closed, and the recreational bag and possession limits for this species group in or from the Puerto Rico exclusive economic zone is zero.

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