

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 50 CFR part 622 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 622--FISHERIES OF THE CARIBBEAN, GULF OF MEXICO, AND SOUTH ATLANTIC

1. The authority citation for part 622 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.

2. In § 622.12, paragraph (a) is revised and paragraph (b) is reserved to read as follows:

§ 622.12 Annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) for Caribbean island management areas/Caribbean EEZ.

(a) If landings from a Caribbean island management area, as specified in Appendix E to this part, except for landings of queen conch (see § 622.491(b)), or landings from the Caribbean EEZ for tilefish and aquarium trade species, are estimated by the SRD to have exceeded the applicable ACL, as specified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section for Puerto Rico management area species or species groups, paragraph (a)(2) of this section for St. Croix management area species or species groups, paragraph (a)(3) of this section for St. Thomas/St. John management area species or species groups, or paragraph (a)(4) of this section for the Caribbean EEZ, the AA will file a notification with the Office of the Federal Register, at or near the beginning of the

following fishing year, to reduce the length of the fishing season for the applicable species or species groups that year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the applicable ACL. If NMFS determines the ACL for a particular species or species group was exceeded because of enhanced data collection and monitoring efforts instead of an increase in total catch of the species or species group, NMFS will not reduce the length of the fishing season for the applicable species or species group the following fishing year. Landings will be evaluated relative to the applicable ACL based on a moving multi-year average of landings, as described in the FMP. NMFS will annually determine the overfishing status and the applicable ACL, as described in the FMP, for the species and species groups listed in the tables in paragraphs (a)(1)(i)(A), (a)(1)(ii)(A), (a)(2)(i)(A), (a)(3)(i)(A), and (a)(4)(i)(A), and NMFS will annually announce the overfishing status and which of these ACLs are applicable on the following Web site at

[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/caribbean/index.](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/caribbean/index.html)

[html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/caribbean/index.html) and through fishery bulletins. With the exceptions of Caribbean queen conch in Puerto Rico and St. Thomas/St. John management areas, goliath grouper, Nassau grouper, midnight parrotfish, blue parrotfish, and rainbow parrotfish, ACLs are based on the combined Caribbean EEZ and territorial landings for

Comment [SS1]: The Caribbean Branch home page.

each management area. The ACLs specified in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), and (a)(4) of this section are given in round weight.

(1) Puerto Rico--(i) Commercial ACLs. (A) The ACLs in the following table apply to commercial landings of Puerto Rico management area species or species groups whose overfishing status determines its ACL on an annual basis. If the species or species group is not subject to overfishing or the overfishing status is unknown, the ACL in column A applies. If the species or species group is subject to overfishing, the ACL in column B applies.

Species or Species Group	Column A: ACL if Not Subject to Overfishing or Overfishing Status Unknown	Column B: ACL if Subject to Overfishing
Snapper Unit 1	301,431 lb (136,727 kg)	284,685 lb (129,131 kg)
Snapper Unit 2	154,499 lb (70,080 kg)	145,916 lb (66,186 kg)
Snapper Unit 3	366,115 lb (166,067 kg)	345,775 lb (156,841 kg)
Snapper Unit 4	395,254 lb (179,284 kg)	373,295 lb (169,324 kg)
Grouper	187,955 lb (85,255 kg)	177,513 lb (80,519 kg)
Boxfish	86,115 lb (39,061 kg)	81,331 lb (36,891 kg)
Goatfish	17,565 lb (7,967 kg)	16,589 lb (7,525 kg)
Grunts	182,396 lb (82,733 kg)	171,923 lb (77,983 kg)
Wrasses	54,147 lb (24,561 kg)	51,139 lb (23,196 kg)
Jacks	86,059 lb (39,036 kg)	81,278 lb (36,867 kg)

Scups & Porgies	24,739 lb (11,221 kg)	23,365 lb (10,598 kg)
Squirreelfish	16,663 lb (7,558 kg)	15,737 lb (7,138 kg)
Triggerfish & Filefish	58,475 lb (26,524 kg)	55,226 lb (25,050 kg)
Spiny Lobster	327,920 lb (148,742 kg)	309,702 lb (140,478 kg)

(B) The ACLs in the following table apply to commercial landings of Puerto Rico management area species or species groups without regard to the overfishing status.

Species or Species Group	ACL
Parrotfish	52,737 lb (23,921 kg)
Angelfish	8,984 lb (4,075 kg)
Surgeonfish	7,179 lb (3,256 kg)
Queen Conch (EEZ only)	0 lb (0 kg)

(ii) Recreational ACLs. (A) The ACLs in the following table apply to recreational landings of Puerto Rico management area species or species groups whose overfishing status determines its ACL on an annual basis. If the species or species group is not subject to overfishing or the overfishing status is unknown, the ACL in column A applies. If the species or species group is subject to overfishing, the ACL in column B applies.

Species or Species Group	Column A: ACLs if Not Subject to Overfishing or Overfishing Status Unknown	Column B: ACLs if Subject to Overfishing
Snapper Unit 1	101,146 lb (45,879 kg)	95,526 lb (43,330 kg)

Snapper Unit 2	36,858 lb (16,719 kg)	34,810 lb (15,790 kg)
Snapper Unit 3	88,050 lb (39,939 kg)	83,158 lb (37,720 kg)
Snapper Unit 4	30,186 lb (13,692 kg)	28,509 lb (12,931 kg)
Grouper	81,755 lb (37,083 kg)	77,213 lb (35,023 kg)
Boxfish	4,616 lb (2,094 kg)	4,360 lb (1,978 kg)
Goatfish	362 lb (164 kg)	342 lb (155 kg)
Grunts	5,028 lb (2,281 kg)	4,749 lb (2,154 kg)
Wrasses	5,050 lb (2,291 kg)	4,769 lb (2,163 kg)
Jacks	51,001 lb (23,134 kg)	48,168 lb (21,849 kg)
Scups & Porgies	2,577 lb (1,169 kg)	2,434 lb (1,104 kg)
Squirrelfish	3,891 lb (1,765 kg)	3,675 lb (1,667 kg)
Triggerfish & Filefish	21,929 lb (9,947 kg)	20,710 lb (9,394 kg)

(B) The ACLs in the following table apply to recreational landings of Puerto Rico management area species or species groups without regard to the overfishing status.

Species or Species Group	ACL
Parrotfish	15,263 lb (6,923 kg)
Angelfish	4,492 lb (2,038 kg)
Surgeonfish	3,590 lb (1,628 kg)
Queen Conch (EEZ only)	0 lb (0 kg)

(2) St. Croix--(i) ACLs. (A) The ACLs in the following table apply to landings of St. Croix management area species or species groups whose overfishing status determines its ACL on an annual basis. If the species or species group is not subject to overfishing or the overfishing status is unknown, the ACL in column A applies. If the species or species group is subject to

overfishing, the ACL in column B applies.

Species or Species Group	Column A: ACL if Not Subject to Overfishing or Overfishing Status Unknown	Column B: ACL if Subject to Overfishing
Snapper	109,002 lb (49,442 kg)	102,946 lb (46,696 kg)
Grouper	32,225 lb (14,617 kg)	30,435 lb (13,805 kg)
Boxfish	8,433 lb (3,825 kg)	7,965 lb (3,613 kg)
Goatfish	3,766 lb (1,708 kg)	3,557 lb (1,613 kg)
Grunts	36,881 lb (16,729 kg)	34,832 lb (15,800 kg)
Wrasses	7 lb (3 kg)	7 (3 kg)
Jacks	15,489 lb (7,076 kg)	14,629 lb (6,636 kg)
Scups & Porgies	4,638 lb (2,104 kg)	4,380 lb (1,987 kg)
Squirrelfish	121 lb (55 kg)	114 lb (52 kg)
Triggerfish & Filefish	24,980 lb (11,331 kg)	23,593 lb (10,702 kg)
Spiny Lobster	107,307 lb (48,674 kg)	101,346 lb (45,970 kg)

(B) The ACLs in the following table apply to landings of St. Croix management area species or species groups without regard to the overfishing status.

Species or Species Group	ACL
Parrotfish	240,000 lb (108,862 kg)
Angelfish	305 lb (138 kg)
Surgeonfish	33,603 lb (15,242 kg)
Queen Conch	50,000 lb (22,680 kg)

(ii) [Reserved]

(3) St. Thomas/St. John. -- (i) ACLs. (A) The ACLs in the

following table apply to landings of St. Thomas/St. John management area species or species groups whose overfishing status determines its ACL on an annual basis. If the species or species group is not subject to overfishing or the overfishing status is unknown, the ACL in column A applies. If the species or species group is subject to overfishing, the ACL in column B applies.

Species or Species Group	Column A: ACL if Not Subject to Overfishing or Overfishing Status Unknown	Column B: ACL if Subject to Overfishing
Snapper	141,644 lb (64,249 kg)	133,775 lb (60,679 kg)
Grouper	54,899 lb (24,902 kg)	51,849 lb (23,518 kg)
Boxfish	27,880 lb (12,646 kg)	26,331 lb (11,944 kg)
Goatfish	320 lb (145 kg)	302 lb (137 kg)
Grunts	37,617 lb (17,063 kg)	35,527 lb (16,115 kg)
Wrasses	585 lb (265 kg)	553 lb (251 kg)
Jacks	52,907 lb (23,998 kg)	49,967 lb (22,665 kg)
Scups & Porgies	21,819 lb (9,897 kg)	20,607 lb (9,347 kg)
Squirrelfish	4,241 lb (1,924 kg)	4,005 lb (1,817 kg)
Triggerfish & Filefish	74,447 lb (33,769 kg)	70,311 lb (31,893 kg)
Spiny Lobster	104,199 lb (47,264 kg)	98,410 lb (44,638 kg)

(B) The ACLs in the following table apply to landings of St. Thomas/St. John management area species or species groups without regard to the overfishing status.

Species or	ACL
------------	-----

Species Group	
Parrotfish	42,500 lb (19,278 kg)
Angelfish	7,897 lb (3,582 kg)
Surgeonfish	29,249 lb (13,267 kg)
Queen Conch (EEZ only)	0 lb (0 kg)

(ii) [Reserved]

(4) Caribbean EEZ--(i) ACLs. (A) The ACLs in the following table apply to landings of species or species groups throughout the Caribbean EEZ whose overfishing status determines its ACL on an annual basis. If the species or species group is not subject to overfishing or the overfishing status is unknown, the ACL in column A applies. If the species or species group is subject to overfishing, the ACL in column B applies.

Species or Species Group	Column A: ACL if Not Subject to Overfishing or Overfishing Status Unknown	Column B: ACL if Subject to Overfishing
Tilefish	14,642 lb (6,641 kg)	13,829 lb (6,273 kg)

(B) The ACLs in the following table apply to landings of species or species groups throughout the Caribbean EEZ without regard to the overfishing status.

Species or Species Group	ACL
Aquarium Trade Species	8,155 lb (3,699 kg)

(ii) [Reserved]

(b) [Reserved]

3. In § 622.492, the first sentence of paragraph (a) is

revised to read as follows:

§ 622.492 Minimum size limit.

(a) The minimum size limit for Caribbean queen conch is 9 inches (22.9 cm) in length, that is, from the tip of the spire to the distal end of the shell, or 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) in lip width at its widest point. * * *

* * * * *

Comment [SS2]: This para (b) is just for Federal Register formatting purposes, same with the (ii) paragraphs reserved above.

Comment [SS3]: This revision in § 622.492(a) is to clarify the intent of the Council/regulations with respect to the measuring of queen conch. This revision is not part of the amendment but will be included within the proposed and final rules.

Comment [SS4]: This word is currently "and" and we are changing it to "or" as a clarification.