



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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## NOAA Seeks Public Comment on the 2010 Caribbean Annual Catch Limit Amendment *Comment Period Ends Friday, November 25, 2011*

NOAA Fisheries Service seeks public comment on an amendment developed by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council. This amendment to the Fisheries Management Plans for reef fish and queen conch resources 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:

- Amend the composition of the fishery management units for snapper and grouper.
- For species designated as undergoing overfishing (rate of removal is too high), and for the fishery management units within which those species reside, 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 end and prevent further overfishing in both the commercial and recreational sectors.
- Prohibit harvest of three species of parrotfish (midnight, blue, rainbow).
- 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-2011-0028 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-2011-0028 in the keyword search and click on "search." To view posted comments during the comment period, enter NOAA-NMFS-2011-0028 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: Maria Lopez  
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