



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Commercial Harvest of Triggerfish and Filefish in Puerto Rico Federal Waters will close on October 16, 2016, at 12:01 a.m., Local Time

The commercial harvest of federally managed triggerfish and filefish will be closed in federal waters around Puerto Rico **at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on October 16, 2016**. The 2017 fishing season will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2017. During the closure, triggerfish and filefish caught in federal waters may not be purchased or sold. Species included in the triggerfish and filefish fishery management unit include ocean (*Canthidermis sufflamen*), queen (*Balistes vetula*), and sargassum triggerfish (*Xanthichthys ringens*); scrawled (*Aluterus scriptus*) and whitespotted filefish (*Cantherhines macrocerus*); and black durgon (*Melichthys niger*).

NOAA Fisheries has determined that the annual catch limit for commercial triggerfish and filefish in the federal waters around Puerto Rico was exceeded, triggering accountability measures to reduce the length of the season in the 2016 fishing year by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the catch limit again.

The U.S. Caribbean federal waters around Puerto Rico extend from the nine nautical mile seaward boundary of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico out to 200 nautical miles offshore.

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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