



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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## Commercial and Recreational Harvest of Spiny Lobster in Federal Waters off Puerto Rico will Close on December 10, 2016

### Commercial and Recreational Closure

NOAA Fisheries reminds fishers and the general public that the 2016 fishing season for all harvest (commercial and recreational) of spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) in federal waters around Puerto Rico will close at **12:01 a.m. (local time) on December 10, 2016**. The fishing season will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2017.

During the closure, spiny lobster in or from Puerto Rico federal waters may not be harvested, possessed, purchased, or sold and the bag and possession limits for the recreational harvest are zero.

NOAA Fisheries determined that the annual catch limit for spiny lobster in federal waters around Puerto Rico was exceeded based on average landings during the 2012-2014 fishing years. Therefore, NOAA Fisheries is applying accountability measures to reduce the length of the 2016 fishing season for this species by the amount necessary to ensure landings do not exceed the annual catch limit again.

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.

NOAA Fisheries Southeast is pleased to announce the introduction of our **Text Message Alert Program**. The program will allow you to sign up to receive important fishery related alerts via text message. Text alerts you may receive include immediate fishery openings and closures, and any significant changes to fishing regulations that happen quickly.

### How to opt-in

Sign up for related alerts for one or more of the following groups. Standard message & data rates may apply. You may opt-out at any time.

- **Gulf of Mexico Recreational Fisheries:** Text GULFRECFISH to 888777
- **Gulf of Mexico Commercial Fisheries:** Text GULFCOMMFISH to 888777
- **South Atlantic Recreational Fisheries:** Text SATLRECFISH to 888777
- **South Atlantic Commercial Fisheries:** Text SATLCOMMFISH to 888777
- **Caribbean Fisheries:** Text CARIBFISH to 888777