



Caribbean Fishery Bulletin

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Final Rule Modifies the Timing of Accountability Measure-Based Closures in U.S. Caribbean Federal Waters

KEY MESSAGE:

NOAA Fisheries announces a final rule modifying the date for implementation of accountability measure-based closures for U.S. Caribbean reef fish, spiny lobster, and coral resources managed by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council.

- The purpose of this rule is to minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse socio-economic impacts of accountability measure-based closures, while protecting the fishery resource.

WHEN THE RULE WILL TAKE EFFECT:

- The rule will take effect on June 8, 2017.

WHAT THIS RULE DOES:

- If the annual catch limit is exceeded, resulting in an accountability measure application, the rule will shift the date for implementing an accountability measure-based fishery closure from December 31st to September 30th, extending backward toward the beginning of the year (January 1).
- If the length of the required fishing season reduction exceeds the period of January 1 through September 30, any additional fishing season reduction required will be applied from October 1 forward, toward the end of the fishing year (December 31).
- The amendment also establishes a maximum time period of two years from implementation of the amendment, and no longer than every two years thereafter, for the Caribbean Fishery Management Council to revisit the approach or the date selected.
- This final rule results from Amendments to the U.S. Caribbean Reef Fish, Spiny Lobster, and Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates Fishery Management Plans recommended to NOAA Fisheries by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council.

FORMAL FEDERAL REGISTER NUMBER: FR 82 21475, published May 9, 2017.

This bulletin serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide, complying with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

Where can I find more information on the Timing of Accountability Measure-Based Closures Amendment?

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- The Timing of Accountability Measure-Based Closures Amendment may be found online at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site at:
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/caribbean/generic/timing_am_closures/index.html