



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
(727) 824-5305; FAX (727) 824-5308
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

F/SER28:MdML

DEC 20 2011

Mr. Carlos Farchette, Chair
Caribbean Fishery Management Council
268 Muñoz Rivera Ave., Suite 1108
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1920

Dear Mr. Farchette:

This letter advises you that the National Marine Fisheries Service approved Amendment 2 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Queen Conch Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and Amendment 5 to the Reef Fish Fishery FMP of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (2010 Caribbean Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment; RIN 0648-AY55) on December 19, 2011.

The primary purpose of the 2010 Caribbean ACL Amendment is to establish ACLs and accountability measures (AMs), as necessary, to prevent overfishing of queen conch and all snapper, grouper, and parrotfish units or complexes in the Reef Fish Fishery FMP. Additional goals of the 2010 Caribbean ACL Amendment include:

- Modify the stock complexes for snapper and grouper.
- Allocate ACLs among the three U.S. Caribbean Island groups.
- Define the sub-boundaries of the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone for application of AMs.
- Establish separate ACLs for the recreational and commercial sectors of Puerto Rico.
- Prohibit fishing for or possession of midnight, blue, and rainbow parrotfish.
- Establish recreational bag limits for snapper, grouper, and parrotfish.
- Specify framework provisions.

The final rule implementing the 2010 Caribbean ACL Amendment is under review.

Sincerely,

Miles M. Croom

for Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

