



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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November 21, 2016

FB16-077

## **Commercial Harvest of Snapper Unit 2 (Queen and Cardinal Snappers) in Puerto Rico Federal Waters will close on November 26, 2016**

### *Commercial Fishing Closure*

NOAA Fisheries reminds fishers and the general public that the 2016 fishing season for the commercial harvest of the Snapper Unit 2 species group, including queen (*Etelis oculatus*) and cardinal (*Pristipomoides macropthalmus*) snappers, will close at **12:01 a.m. (local time) on November 26, 2016**. The 2017 fishing season will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2017. During the closure, queen and cardinal snappers caught in federal waters off Puerto Rico may not be purchased or sold.

NOAA Fisheries determined that the annual catch limit for the Snapper Unit 2 species group 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 season in the 2016 fishing year for this species group 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.