



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joseph Kimmel, or Joe.Kimmel@noaa.gov
727/551-5752, FAX 727/824-5308
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

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SEASONAL PROHIBITION OF THE POSSESSION OF MUTTON AND LANE SNAPPER IN CARIBBEAN FEDERAL WATERS AT 12:01 A.M., LOCAL TIME, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2006

NOAA Fisheries Service reminds the public there is a seasonal prohibition on the possession of mutton and lane snapper in Caribbean federal waters from 12:01 a.m., local time, April 1, 2006, through midnight, local time, on June 30, 2006. Caribbean federal waters are those waters extending to 200 nautical miles offshore from the nine-mile seaward boundary of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the three-mile seaward boundary of the territory of the U. S. Virgin Islands.

This action complies with regulations implemented under Amendment 3 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U. S. Virgin Islands to address required provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and is necessary to protect these resources. The Caribbean Fishery Management Council, in cooperation with NOAA Fisheries Service, developed the amendment.

The amendment also established other seasonal closures for various species. The following species may not be possessed during the time periods identified below:

1. Red, black, tiger, yellowfin, and yellowedge grouper: February 1 through April 30.
2. Black, blackfin, vermilion, and silk snapper: October 1 through December 31.

3. Red hind off the west coast of Puerto Rico (defined as those waters in the U. S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone west of 67° 10' W longitude): December 1 through the end of February the following year.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitat through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of the nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, 61 countries and the European Commission to develop a global network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.