



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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NOAA Seeks Public Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the 2011 Caribbean Annual Catch Limit Amendment *Comment Period Ends Monday August 29, 2011*

NOAA Fisheries Service is seeking public comment on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the 2011 Caribbean Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment. A DEIS is a draft analysis of potential significant impacts that proposed management actions can have on the natural and social environment. The analysis compares a series of alternatives for each action to evaluate the effects on the environment. The Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of the DEIS for the 2011 Caribbean ACL Amendment on **July 15, 2011** (76 FR 41792).

This amendment to the Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) for reef fish, corals and reef associated plants and invertebrates, spiny lobster and conch resources in the U.S. Caribbean is designed to bring those fisheries into compliance with the 2007 revisions to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. These alternatives will establish ACLs and accountability measures (AMs) to prevent overfishing in both the commercial and recreational sectors, revise management of aquarium trade species and conch resources, establish recreational fishing bag limits, establish exclusive economic zone sub-boundaries for purposes of applying AMs, adjust management measures as needed to constrain harvest to specified ACLs, and minimize to the extent practicable negative socioeconomic impacts.

Request for Comments

Comments on this DEIS must be received no later than **August 29, 2011**, in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the **Addresses** section for information on where and how to submit comments. Additional opportunity to provide comments on this amendment and proposed rule will be available when the Final Environmental Impact Statement is published.

Addresses

Electronic copies of the DEIS may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office Web site

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/CaribbeanReefFish.htm> under the **Items of Interest** heading, and the e-Rule Making Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>.

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Electronic submissions: Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>, click on "submit a comment," then enter NOAA-NMFS-2011-0017 in the keyword search and click on "search." To view posted comments during the comment period, enter NOAA-NMFS-2011-0017 in the keyword search and click on "search." All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only. Comments received through means not specified in this bulletin or the proposed rule may not be considered.

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