



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Seasonal Area Restrictions on Fishing in Caribbean Federal Waters Begin at 12:01 a.m., Local Time, December 1, 2012

NOAA Fisheries reminds the public that commercial and recreational fishing for, or possession of, red hind is prohibited from 12:01 a.m., local time, December 1 through the last day of February each year in or from the area off the west coast of Puerto Rico (defined as those waters in the U.S. Caribbean federal waters west of 67° 10' W longitude).

Also, during this time, fishing for any species is prohibited in federal waters for the following red hind spawning aggregation areas:

- Lang Bank red hind spawning aggregation area, east of St. Croix, bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following coordinates:
 - A 17°50.2' N 64°27.9' W
 - B 17°50.1' N 64°26.1' W
 - C 17°49.2' N 64°25.8' W
 - D 17°48.6' N 64°25.8' W
 - E 17°48.1' N 64°26.1' W
 - F 17°47.5' N 64°26.9' W
 - A 17°50.2' N 64°27.9' W
- Tourmaline Bank
 - A 18°11.2' N 67°22.4' W
 - B 18°11.2' N 67°19.2' W
 - C 18°08.2' N 67°19.2' W
 - D 18°08.2' N 67°22.4' W
 - A 18°11.2' N 67°22.4' W
- Abrir La Sierra Bank
 - A 18°06.5' N 67°26.9' W
 - B 18°06.5' N 67°23.9' W
 - C 18°03.5' N 67°23.9' W
 - D 18°03.5' N 67°26.9' W
 - A 18°06.5' N 67°26.9' W

Additionally, fishing for any species and anchoring activities by fishing vessels within the Hind Bank Marine Conservation District (MCD) is prohibited year round:

- Hind Bank MCD, south of St. Thomas, is bounded by rhumb lines connecting, in order, the following coordinates:
 - A 18°13.2' N 65°06.0' W
 - B 18°13.2' N 64°59.0' W
 - C 18°11.8' N 64°59.0' W
 - D 18°10.7' N 65°06.0' W
 - A 18°13.2' N 65°06.0' W

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, developed the amendment to regulate fishing mortality.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

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