



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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NOAA Fisheries Announces a Final Rule to Establish Minimum Size Limits for Harvest of Parrotfish From Federal Waters off St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands *Small Entity Compliance Guide*

NOAA Fisheries approved Regulatory Amendment 4 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (Regulatory Amendment 4). Regulatory Amendment 4 establishes minimum size limits for parrotfish harvest in federal waters off St. Croix. The final rule implementing this amendment published in the *Federal Register* on **July 30, 2013** (78 FR 45894), with an effective date of August 29, 2013.

The final rule for Regulatory Amendment 4 includes:

- A commercial and recreational minimum size limit of 8 inches fork length (the distance from the snout of the fish to the fork in the tail) for redband parrotfish (*Sparisoma aurofrenatum*) in federal waters off St. Croix.
- A commercial and recreational minimum size limit of 9 inches fork length for all other allowable parrotfish species in federal waters off St. Croix:
 - Redfin parrotfish, *Sparisoma rubripinne*
 - Redtail parrotfish, *Sparisoma chrysopteron*
 - Stoplight parrotfish, *Sparisoma viride*
 - Princess parrotfish, *Scarus taeniopterus*
 - Queen parrotfish, *Scarus vetula*
 - Striped parrotfish, *Scarus iserti*
- No minimum size limits for parrotfish harvest in federal waters off St. Thomas/St. John or Puerto Rico.

Please note that harvest of midnight (*Scarus coelestinus*), rainbow (*Scarus guacamaia*), and blue (*Scarus coeruleus*) parrotfish remains prohibited.

This bulletin serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide, complying with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

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*.

Electronic copies of the amendment and final rule may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Web site: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/caribbean/reef_fish/reg_am4/index.html or the Council Web site: <http://www.caribbeanfmc.com/>.

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