



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS Announces Public Hearings for a Proposed Rule for Amendment 4 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan: U.S. Caribbean Management Measures

On March 16, 2012, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a proposed rule (77 FR 15701) for a fishery management plan (FMP) amendment modifying the regulations governing the federal small-scale highly migratory species (HMS) fisheries in the U.S. Caribbean, and announced that public hearings would be scheduled in a future notice. The purpose of this amendment is to enact HMS management measures that better correspond with the traditional operation of the small-scale HMS fishing fleet in the U.S. Caribbean Region and to provide NMFS with an improved capability to monitor and sustainably manage those fisheries.

The comment period for this proposed rule is open until June 14, 2012. Public hearings will be held at the following times, dates, and locations:

Date	Time	Meeting Locations	Address
April 10, 2012	6:00-9:00 p.m.	Buccaneer Hotel	5007 Estate Shoys Christiansted, VI 00820
April 11, 2012	8:00 a.m.	Buccaneer Hotel	5007 Estate Shoys Christiansted, VI 00820
April 12, 2012	6:00-9:00 p.m.	Frenchman's Reef Marriot	Frenchman's Reef Marriott 5 Estate Bakkeroe, St. Thomas, USVI 00801
May 8, 2012	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Ateneo Puertorriqueno	Biblioteca del Ateneo Puertorriqueno, Avenida Constitucion, Parada 2, Viejo San Juan, San Juan PR 00901
May 9, 2012	2:00-5:00 p.m.	Servicio de Extension Agricola	2440 Avenida Las Americas, Ste. 208, Centro Gubernamental, Ponce, PR, 00717-2111
May 10, 2012	6:00-9:00 p.m.	Universidad de Puerto Rico	University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus, Physics Building, Room 310, Mayaguez, PR, 00680

Written comments, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2012-0053, may be submitted electronically via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>, or sent by fax or mail to the contact information included below. All comments received are a part of the public record and generally will 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. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter

N/A in the required fields, if you wish to remain anonymous). You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about the fishery. Official notice of Federal actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information on this proposed rule and draft environmental assessment (EA), contact Gregory Fairclough, Randy Blankinship, or Rick Pearson at 727-824-5399, or Delisse Ortiz at 301-427-8503. Copies of the proposed rule and draft (EA) are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-427-8503, fax: 301-713-1917). The information is also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

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Emily Menaske

for Carrie D. Selberg
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

MAR 28 2012

Date