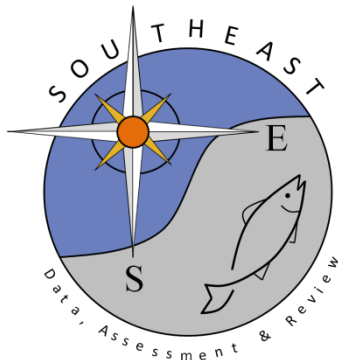


A summary of commercial fishing reporting compliance for Puerto Rico
and the U.S. Virgin Islands for calendar years 2013 and 2014

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A SUMMARY OF COMMERCIAL FISHING
REPORTING COMPLIANCE
FOR PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2013 AND 2014

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This report provides summary tables from commercial fishery reporting data housed within the Caribbean Commercial Landings (CCL) data set for the calendar years 2014 and 2015 by island for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). These data come from 5 different log report sources:

- (1) The Puerto Rico Trip Ticket report
- (2) The Puerto Rico 'No Fishing for Month' report
- (3) The USVI Trap Fishing report for St. Thomas and St. John (includes 'No fishing for Month' report)
- (4) The USVI report for Hook & Line, Nets, and Diving gear for St. Thomas and St. John (includes a 'No Fishing for Month' report)
- (5) The USVI Fishing report for St. Croix – all gears (includes a 'No Fishing for Month' report)

The reports were developed with the idea of customizing the most common species landed to each island. For the USVI, species are also listed under each gear heading along with write in fields for any species landed which are not listed under the gear heading. Gear headings include those mentioned above along with check boxes for more specific gears. In Puerto Rico, species are listed by species group: Highly Migratory Species, Shallow Water Reef Fish, Deep-Water Snappers and Groupers, Bait and Inshore Species, and Marine Invertebrates. Puerto Rico has write-in fields for the gear for each species caught, and also write-in fields for any species landed but not listed.

It is up to the permit holders to submit this catch report information to their respective agencies in Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John, and St. Croix. Compliance report requirements are admittedly very loose. If the permit holder did not fish in a given month, then a 'No Fishing for Month' report should be filed. If they fished, they are required to report all trips; however, 1 trip reported in the month is sufficient for the compliance report to show them in compliance. Additionally, there is no 2 ticket system as on the U.S. mainland from which to determine compliance. Dockside trip interview program surveys (TIP) by port agents are of some use; however, they are insufficient to determine complete reporting compliance. Submissions are due 60 days after the trip occurs; however, data entry is sometimes delayed, usually for reasons of insufficient number of data entry personnel, but also sometimes for slow response of the entry system due to inadequate communication speeds. This latter problem appears to have been resolved; however, the former remains intermittent. All 2013 and 2014 reports received within the time limits have been entered, so the summaries are limited to those years and do not include months in 2015.

Despite the efforts of the several agencies to address compliance with the reporting regulations, many active permit holders fail to report for all months of the year, and some permit holders may fail to report at all. These are presumed inactive for the purpose of this report. In the summaries that follow, the numbers of submissions or non-submissions from permit holders which have reported at least once in a year are featured. This shows that the reporters acknowledge the reporting requirements. Actual non-compliance with trip reporting may be substantially higher than shown here.

Tables 1 (Puerto Rico) and 2 (USVI): Complete Compliance for all Reporters (including 'Did Not Fish' reports).

Puerto Rico For Calendar Years 2013 and 2014						
ISLAND	2013 compliant	2014 compliant	2013 reporters	2014 reporters	2013 % overall compliant among trip and DNF reporters	2014 % overall compliant among trip and DNF reporters
PUERTO RICO	171	181	1,103	1,150	15.5%	15.7%

Gives the percentage of fishers reporting at all during fishing year who are 100% in compliance for the year.

USVI For Calendar Years 2013 and 2014						
ISLAND	2013 compliant	2014 compliant	2013 reporters	2014 reporters	2013 % overall compliant among trip and DNF reporters	2014 % overall compliant among trip and DNF reporters
ST. CROIX	34	18	134	112	25.4%	16.1%
ST. JOHN	0	1	7	7	0.0%	14.3%
ST. THOMAS	34	39	95	102	35.8%	38.2%
Grand Total	68	58	236	221	28.8%	26.2%

* Gives the percentage of fishers reporting at all during fishing year who are 100% in compliance for the year.

Tables 3 (Puerto Rico) and 4 (USVI): Complete Compliance for all Trip Reporters.

Puerto Rico For Calendar Years 2013 and 2014						
ISLAND	2013 compliant trip reporters	2014 compliant trip reporters	2013 trip reporters	2014 trip reporters	2013 % overall compliant among trip reporters	2014 % overall compliant among trip reporters
PUERTO RICO	170	166	1,035	1,088	16.4%	15.3%

Gives the percentage of fishers reporting trips for the year who are 100% in compliance for the year.

USVI For Calendar Years 2013 and 2014						
ISLAND	2013 compliant trip reporters	2014 compliant trip reporters	2013 trip reporters	2014 trip reporters	2013 % overall compliant among trip reporters	2014 % overall compliant among trip reporters
ST. CROIX	27	15	86	67	31.4%	22.4%
ST. JOHN	0	0	6	5	0.0%	0.0%
ST. THOMAS	25	29	69	76	36.2%	38.2%
Grand Total	52	44	161	148	32.3%	29.7%

Gives the percentage of fishers reporting trips for the year who are 100% in compliance for the year.

Tables 5 (Puerto Rico) and 6 (USVI): Number of Trips Reported

Puerto Rico For Calendar Years 2013 and 2014		
ISLAND	2013 Total Trips Reported	2014 Total Trips Reported
PUERTO RICO	42,795	44,364

Shows the total trips reported by calendar year.

USVI For Calendar Years 2013 and 2014		
ISLAND	2013 Total Trips Reported	2014 Total Trips Reported
ST. CROIX	3694	3587
ST. JOHN	74	69
ST. THOMAS	2092	2430
Grand Total	5,860	6,086

Shows the total trips reported by calendar year.

Tables 7 (Puerto Rico) and 8 (USVI): Potential Missing Trips

Puerto Rico For Calendar Years 2013 and 2014		
ISLAND	2013 POTENTIAL MISSING TRIPS	2014 POTENTIAL MISSING TRIPS
PUERTO RICO	25,673	24,496

Projects potential missing trips as the total of (avg number of trips/month for each fisher * the missing months for each fisher) in the reporting year.

USVI For Calendar Years 2013 and 2014		
ISLAND	2013 POTENTIAL MISSING TRIPS	2014 POTENTIAL MISSING TRIPS
ST. CROIX	854	1,155
ST. JOHN	26	32
ST. THOMAS	431	461
Grand Total	1,311	1,648

Projects potential missing trips as the total of (avg number of trips/month for each fisher * the missing months for each fisher) in the reporting year.

Tables 9 (Puerto Rico) and 10 (USVI): Months Not Reported 2013

ISLAND	Months not reported 2013	Reporters 2013	Reporters 2013 * 12 months per year	2013 % MONTHS NOT REPORTED BY REPORTERS
PUERTO RICO	5,910	1,103	13,236	44.7%

Shows total missing months compared to all months for permit holders reporting at all for 2013 calendar year.

USVI For Calendar Year 2013				
ISLAND	Months not reported 2013	Reporters 2013	Reporters 2013 * 12 months per year	2013 % MONTHS NOT REPORTED BY REPORTERS
ST. CROIX	456	134	1608	28.4%
ST. JOHN	22	7	84	26.2%
ST. THOMAS	256	95	1140	22.5%
Grand Total	734	236	2,832	25.9%

Shows total missing months compared to all months for permit holders reporting at all for 2013 calendar year.

Tables 11 (Puerto Rico) and 12 (USVI): Months Not Reported 2014

ISLAND	Months not reported 2014	Reporters 2014	Reporters 2014 * 12 months per year	2014 % MONTHS NOT REPORTED BY REPORTERS
PUERTO RICO	5,872	1,150	13,800	42.6%

Shows total missing months compared to all months for permit holders reporting at all for 2014 calendar year.

USVI For Calendar Year 2014				
ISLAND	Months not reported 2014	Reporters 2014	Reporters 2014 * 12 months per year	2014 % MONTHS NOT REPORTED BY REPORTERS
ST. CROIX	451	112	1344	33.6%
ST. JOHN	26	7	84	31.0%
ST. THOMAS	272	102	1224	22.2%
Grand Total	749	221	2,652	28.2%

Shows total missing months compared to all months for permit holders reporting at all for 2014 calendar year.

Conclusions: Compliance needs to be better enforced. A system needs to be in place to notify permit holders as they approach the 60 day limit, possibly after 45 days, when they have not reported for the previous month. The compliance report is inadequate, especially in the absence of a 2-ticket system (logs and trip tickets). One suggestion would be to change the 'No Fishing Report' to a 'Days in Port' calendar based report so activity or inactivity could be shown for all days.