the Regional Administrator will close
the Caribbean EEZ to the harvest and
possession of queen conch, in the area
east of 64°34' W. longitude which in-
cludes Lang Bank, east of St. Croix,
U.S. Virgin Islands, by filing a notifi-
cation of closure with the Office of the
Federal Register. During the closure,
no person may fish for or possess on
board a fishing vessel, a Caribbean
queen conch, in or from the Caribbean
EEZ, in the area east of 64°34' W. lon-
gitude which includes Lang Bank, east
of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

[78 FR 22952, Apr. 17, 2013, as amended at 78
FR 56173, Sept. 12, 2013]

§ 622.492 Minimum size limit.
(a) The minimum size limit for Carib-
bean queen conch is 9 inches (22.9 cm)
in length, that is, from the tip of the
spire to the distal end of the shell, and
3/8 inch (9.5 mm) in lip width at its
widest point. A queen conch with a
length of at least 9 inches (22.9 cm) or
a lip width of at least 3/8 inch (9.5 mm)
is not undersized.
(b) A Caribbean queen conch not in
compliance with its size limit, as speci-
fied in this section, in or from the Car-
ibbean EEZ, may not be possessed,
sold, or purchased and must be released
immediately with a minimum of harm.
The operator of a vessel that fishes in
the EEZ is responsible for ensuring
that Caribbean queen conch on board
are in compliance with the size limit
specified in this section.

§ 622.493 Landing Caribbean queen
conch intact.
(a) A Caribbean queen conch in or
from the Caribbean EEZ must be main-
tained with meat and shell intact.
(b) The operator of a vessel that
fishes in the EEZ is responsible for en-
suring that Caribbean queen conch on
that vessel in the EEZ are maintained
intact and, if taken from the EEZ, are
maintained intact through offloading
ashore, as specified in this section.

§ 622.494 Bag limit.
(a) Applicability. Section 622.11(a) pro-
vides the general applicability for bag
and possession limits. However, §622.11(a)(1) notwithstanding, the bag
limit of paragraph (b) of this section
does not apply to a person who has a
valid commercial fishing license issued
by Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Is-
lands.
(b) Bag limit. The bag limit for queen
conch in or from the Caribbean EEZ is
3 per person or, if more than 4 persons
are aboard, 12 per boat.

§ 622.495 Commercial trip limit.
Commercial trip limits are limits on
the amount of the applicable species
that may be possessed on board or
landed, purchased, or sold from a vessel
per day. A person who fishes in the
EEZ may not combine a trip limit
specified in this section with any trip
or possession limit applicable to state
waters. A species subject to a trip limit
specified in this section taken in the
EEZ may not be transferred at sea, re-
gardless of where such transfer takes
place, and such species may not be
transferred in the EEZ.
(a) Applicability. The trip limit of
paragraph (b) of this section applies to
a vessel that has at least one person on
board with a valid commercial fishing
license issued by Puerto Rico or the
U.S. Virgin Islands. If no person on
board the vessel has a valid commer-
cial fishing license issued by Puerto
Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands, the bag
limit specified in §622.494(b) applies.
(b) Trip limit. The trip limit for queen
conch in or from the Caribbean EEZ is
200 queen conch per day.

(78 FR 22952, Apr. 17, 2013, as amended at 78
FR 56173, Sept. 12, 2013)

§ 622.496 Annual catch limits (ACLs),
annual catch targets (ACTs), and
accountability measures (AMs).
See §622.12 for applicable ACLs and
AMs.

§ 622.497 Adjustment of management
measures.
In accordance with the framework
procedure of the Fishery Management
Plan for Queen Conch Resources of
Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Is-
lands, the RA may establish or modify
the following items:
(a) Quotas, trip limits, bag limits,
size limits, closed seasons or areas,
gear restrictions, fishing year, MSY,
OY, TAC, MFMT, MSST, OFL, ABC
control rules, ACLs, AMs, ACTs, and
actions to minimize the interaction of