



NOAA
FISHERIES

Marine Mammal Protection Act Import Provisions Comparability Finding Application Final Report

Grenada

Published March 2026¹

Summary

On September 2, 2025, NMFS issued a notice of comparability finding determination for all fisheries on the List of Foreign Fisheries for harvesting nations that export fish and fish products to the United States. NMFS found that Grenada did not demonstrate that its export and exempt fisheries were comparable in effectiveness to the U.S. regulatory program because it did not prohibit the intentional mortality or serious injury of marine mammals during commercial fishing operations. NMFS enacted import prohibitions for all of Grenada's fisheries on January 1, 2026.

Grenada submitted a new application for comparability findings for the denied fisheries. NMFS reviewed Grenada's application and supporting documents and determined that Grenada's exempt and export fisheries are now comparable in effectiveness to the U.S. regulatory program.* Grenada enacted new regulations on December 5, 2025 (*Fisheries (Marine Mammals) Regulations 2025*), which prohibit the intentional killing or serious injury of marine mammals and also implemented a new marine mammal management program. Grenada issues fishing licenses, monitors vessels, and requires marine mammal bycatch reporting. None of the species Grenada indicated as interacting with its export fishery are 16 U.S.C. § 1387(f)(3) species/stocks.

**Indicates a change from a previously issued comparability finding determination*

Comparability Finding Determinations

- Comparability Finding Determinations Published September 2, 2025 - Grenada was denied Comparability Findings for all of its fisheries
- New Comparability Finding Determination Published March 16, 2025 - Grenada was granted Comparability Findings for all of its fisheries

¹ This replaces Grenada's Comparability Finding issued on September 2, 2025.

Comparability Finding Analysis

- 1. Does the nation have a prohibition on the intentional killing or serious injury of marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations? OR Does the nation have procedures to reliably certify that fish and fish products were not caught in association with the intentional killing or serious injury of marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing operations?**

Response: Yes. Grenada passed the *Fisheries (Marine Mammals) Regulations 2025* on December 5, 2025. Article 3 of the *Fisheries (Marine Mammals) Regulations 2025* prohibits intentionally taking, harassing, or otherwise causing serious injury to marine mammals. Take is defined as “to hunt, capture or kill, or attempt to hunt, capture, or kill the marine mammal.”

- 2. Does the nation have a Marine Mammal Bycatch Reduction Program? A bycatch reduction program, for purposes of compliance with the import provisions, is defined as having the following components:**

- a. The ability to control/monitor its fishing operations that may take marine mammals (e.g., authorizations, permits, licenses, and/or registrations for vessels)**

Response: Part IV of Grenada’s Fisheries Regulations 1987 cover local fishing license procedures and conditions and Part III pertains to Foreign Fishing licenses. The regulation also notes the information required for applying for a fishing license.

- b. A program to monitor its fisheries for incidences of marine mammal mortality and serious injury in the course of commercial fishing operations**

Response: Grenada has one export fishery (ID 1257²) that is monitored using fishermen interviews and vessel logbooks with 5-10% percent coverage. Grenada provided NMFS the data collection form used at the sites where fish are landed, which includes a section for “marine species nei.” Grenada also provided landing data which dated back to 1978. This consolidated form had an entry for “porpoises” which had no records of landings for the past thirty years, noting however that some recent years are flagged as “incomplete.”

The *Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2025*, issued on November 28, 2025, added a new section to the Fisheries Act, Chapter 108 (the “principal Act”), which states that “The Chief Fisheries Officer shall establish, plan, and manage an observer and monitoring programme for the purpose of collecting and reporting reliable and accurate information for scientific, management and compliance purposes under this Act.”

- c. A requirement to report all marine mammal mortality and serious injury in the course of commercial fishing operations**

Response: Yes. Article 6 of Grenada’s *Fisheries (Marine Mammals) Regulations 2025* requires the reporting of incidental catch and interactions with marine mammals. The regulations require the use of

² The Fishery ID number is NOAA’s internal reference number from our IAICRS database and has no other independent meaning

a marine mammal interaction reporting form (Schedule II) that includes reporting fields for the marine species, condition of the marine mammal, and nature of the interaction.

- d. Prioritization of fisheries for mitigation of unsustainable marine mammal bycatch as described in 16 U.S.C. § 1387(f)(3) (in particular those over the bycatch limit, of small population size, or declining rapidly, based on available financial resources) in response to reported bycatch occurring in fishing operations. Prioritization of fisheries should be similar to U.S. take reduction teams and development of take reduction plans and including an evaluation of whether the nation has provided a bycatch limit and whether that bycatch limit is exceeded for any 16 U.S.C. § 1387(f)(3) stock(s), and whether any mitigation is effective or reconsidered if not effective.**

Response: Marine mammal monitoring programs are still being developed for Grenada's export fishery, although no marine mammals have been reported in landings data for thirty years.

Grenada noted that as part of its efforts to strengthen its fisheries management and conservation measures, it is currently receiving technical assistance from FAO and plans to develop a research program to determine the bycatch levels in its export fishery.

Grenada included a marine mammal management plan in its new application, which is mandated under Article 9 of Grenada's *Fisheries (Marine Mammals) Regulations 2025*. The management plan includes, but is not limited to: hiring and training observers, promoting or mandating gear modification, and conducting fisher training workshops on safe release and disentanglement. The plan is to be revisited every 2 years.

Grenada additionally indicated a need for assistance in developing its monitoring and mitigation programs in its application. This suggests Grenada may have financial constraints, but is working towards improving its marine mammal bycatch reduction program based on available financial resources.

3. Does the nation ban the use of large-scale high seas drift gillnet gear or other gear prohibited for use by U.S. fishermen?

Response: Yes. Article 8 of Grenada's *Fisheries (Marine Mammals) Regulations 2025* prohibits the use of large-scale driftnets and other harmful gear that causes "significant mortality or serious injury to marine mammals."

4. Does the nation implement marine mammal bycatch reduction measures in fisheries regulated under a regional fishery management organization (RFMO), which are required for U.S. fishermen by that RFMO?

Response: Grenada and the United States are both contracting parties to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). ICCAT does not have any binding marine mammal bycatch reduction measures. Grenada has received several ICCAT compliance letters due to reporting issues and overharvest of certain fish species. One of the listed objectives of Grenada's work with FAO is to support Grenada coming into compliance with ICCAT reporting obligations.

5. In cases where a U.S. Take Reduction Team has implemented marine mammal bycatch reduction measures for transboundary stocks shared with the United States, are the

nation's measures similar or comparable in effectiveness? (Include in the response if the nation has provided a bycatch limit and if the bycatch limit is exceeded for any 16 U.S.C. § 1387(f)(3) stocks, either in one fishery or cumulatively over a number of fisheries)

Response: The United States has developed and implemented the Atlantic Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan (PLTRP) to address mortality and serious injury of the Western North Atlantic stock of short-finned pilot whales incidental to the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery. Based on existing data, the United States manages the Western North Atlantic stock separately from the northern Gulf of Mexico and the Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands stocks.

For purposes of this comparability finding, the United States and Grenada do not share a transboundary stock of short-finned pilot whales subject to a take reduction plan (TRP). Instead, Grenada's export fisheries may interact with the Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands short-finned pilot whale stock, which is not managed under a U.S. TRP.

Furthermore, short-finned pilot whales are not endangered and are not considered to be of small population size, or declining rapidly as described in 16 U.S.C. § (1387(f)(3)); however, Grenada is still developing its monitoring program so the extent of bycatch of any marine mammals in Grenada's fisheries is not known.

6. For marine mammal stocks that are not transboundary but are considered at high risk of extinction, does the nation implement mitigation/risk reduction measures comparable to what is or would be required in the United States? (Include in the response if the nation has provided a bycatch limit and if the bycatch limit is exceeded for any 16 U.S.C. § 1387(f)(3) stocks, either in one fishery or cumulatively over a number of fisheries)

Response: Not applicable. Grenada's fisheries do not interact with marine mammals at a high risk of extinction.

Additional Considerations

NMFS regulations at 50 CFR § 216.24(h)(7) require NMFS to also evaluate "additional considerations" when determining whether to issue a comparability finding for any harvesting nations. NMFS addresses each consideration below, as applicable.

1. U.S. implementation of its regulatory program for similar marine mammal stocks and similar fisheries (e.g., considering gear or target species), including transboundary stocks governed by regulations implementing a take reduction plan (50 CFR § 229.2), and any other relevant information received during consultations

Response: The last Stock Assessment Report for the Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Island Stocks of short-finned pilot whales was conducted in 2011. At that time, the population abundance, population trend, potential biological removal, and status of the stock were unknown. This stock is not included in the PLTRP.

2. The extent to which the harvesting nation has successfully implemented measures in the export fishery to reduce the incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals caused by the harvesting nation's export fisheries to levels below the bycatch limit

Response: Not relevant for additional consideration.

3. Whether the measures adopted by the harvesting nation for its export fishery have reduced or will likely reduce the cumulative incidental mortality and serious injury of each marine mammal stock below the bycatch limit, and the progress of the regulatory program toward achieving its objectives

Response: Not relevant for additional consideration.

4. Other relevant facts and circumstances, which may include the history and nature of interactions with marine mammals in this export fishery, whether the level of incidental mortality and serious injury resulting from the fishery or fisheries exceeds the bycatch limit for a marine mammal stock, the population size and trend of the marine mammal stock, and the population level impacts of the incidental mortality or serious injury of marine mammals in a harvesting nation's export fisheries and the conservation status of those marine mammal stocks where available

Response: See Response to Question 5 above.

5. The record of consultations under 50 CFR § 216.24(h)(5) of this section with the harvesting nation, results of these consultations, and actions taken by the harvesting nation and under any applicable intergovernmental agreement or regional fishery management organization to reduce the incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals in its export fisheries

Response: NMFS held a consultation with Grenada in May 2021. Grenada has had a history of unresponsiveness and late submissions, which it attributes to significant challenges with staff turnover.

6. Information gathered during onsite inspection by U.S. government officials of a fishery's operations

Response: Not relevant for additional consideration.

7. For export fisheries operating on the high seas under an applicable intergovernmental agreement or regional fishery management organization to which the United States is a party, the harvesting nation's record of implementation of, or compliance with, measures adopted by that regional fishery management organization or intergovernmental agreement for data collection, incidental mortality and serious injury mitigation or the conservation and management of marine mammals; whether the harvesting nation is a party or cooperating non-party to such intergovernmental agreement or regional fishery management organization; the record of United States implementation of such measures; and whether the United States has imposed additional measures on its fleet not required by an intergovernmental agreement or regional fishery management organization

Response: Grenada is a contracting party to ICCAT. While ICCAT does not have binding marine mammal bycatch reduction measures, Grenada has received several ICCAT compliance letters due to reporting issues and overharvest.

- 8. For export fisheries operating on the high seas under an applicable intergovernmental agreement or regional fisheries management organization to which the United States is not a party, the harvesting nation's implementation of and compliance with measures, adopted by that regional fisheries management organization or intergovernmental agreement, and any additional measures implemented by the harvesting nation for data collection, incidental mortality and serious injury mitigation or the conservation and management of marine mammals and the extent to which such measures are comparable in effectiveness to the U.S. regulatory program for similar fisheries**

Response: Not relevant for additional consideration.

Overall Summary for Additional Considerations

Grenada's export fishery is likely to interact with the transboundary Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Island Stock of short-finned pilot whales. However, the United States does not have current abundance or bycatch information on this stock, and it is not included in current U.S. TRPs.

Engagement History

NMFS held a consultation with Grenada in May 2021. In August 2022, NMFS was made aware that Grenada's fisheries ministry was undergoing a significant turnover/staff transition. Grenada was unresponsive to questions regarding its application for a long period of time during this transition. NMFS worked with the U.S. Embassy in Grenada to identify updated contacts but did not receive any responses from Grenada's fisheries officials. In early 2025, NMFS received a response from Grenada stating that it had undergone major staffing challenges, but that the Ministry is now in the process of recruiting the necessary staff. Since NMFS' publication of comparability findings in September 2025, engagement with Grenada has increased. Grenada resubmitted a new comparability finding application in December 2025.