

Outreach and Education Advisory Panel (OEAP)

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

179th CFMC Regular Hybrid Meeting

August 11 – 12, 2022

Marriott Courtyard Hotel Isla Verde, PR



08-11-12, 2022

Alida Ortiz OEAP



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5YSP Goal: Engage, educate, and inform a variety of audiences to improve public understanding and participation in the Council process.

Objective 20: Use a variety of communication tools that consider the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of target audiences in coordination with the Outreach and Education Advisory Panel (OEAP).

- Maintain the content and organization of the Council's website to enhance its utility to a variety of users.

Working group to update the CFMC webpage to present information in a more accessible and attractive way to the users.



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Objective 20: Continuation...

- Coordinate with management partners, commercial and recreational fishing organizations and fishers, nongovernmental organizations, and coastal businesses to expand the scope of Council communications across new and existing audiences.

Meeting with Liaisons and DAPs Chairs and with DAPs from each island to receive their ideas for better communication with stakeholders

Use local radio and tv to announce CFMC activities in PR and the USVI



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- **Objective 21:** Promote participation of a variety of stakeholders in the Council process.

Develop a newsletter or summary to highlight Council meeting outcomes and anticipated actions.

- Produce CFMC Meetings Highlights for the webpage.



CFMC Meetings Highlights

**177th CFMC Regular Hybrid Meeting
February 9, 2022**

Courtyard Marriott, Isla Verde, Carolina, Puerto Rico

Summary of the topics presented and discussed in the meeting and the Motions that were approved. For more information, please go to:
www.caribbeanfmc.com/meetings

Topics presented and discussed

A Special one-day CFMC Meeting - Workshop dedicated to the discussion of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Panel I—Marine Protected Areas

(MPAs): Legal, Scientific and Educational Aspects—Graciela García-Moliner, Chair

—Legal Aspects of Federal MPAs in Magnuson Stevens Act—Jocelyn D'Ambrosio, NOAA Office of General Counsel
Exec. Order 14008. Jocelyn presents all the conditions established in the MSA and the FMP that the Council develop. Specific the regulations established for protection of the species and the essential fish habitats within the area under management.

9:45 a.m. – 10: a.m.

—Inventory of U.S. Caribbean MPAs Diana Beltrán, URI
Presented a summary of Marine Protected Areas in the US Caribbean, literature research that she did for the Council. Emphasized recommendations for new and consequent studies in all the MPAs



Objective 22: Improve public and stakeholder understanding and awareness of fisheries management, current issues, and the Council process.

Continue support of the Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) workshops throughout the U.S. Caribbean.

Develop island-specific (Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John, St. Croix) outreach approaches and materials for recreational and commercial fishers.

- Collaborate with PR Dept. of Education and the New School Institute to develop Pilot Project on Marine Sciences curriculum integrated to all disciplines for Intermediate grades at the Alejandro Tapia Rivera school at La Parguera, Lajas, PR.



Objective 22 Continuation....

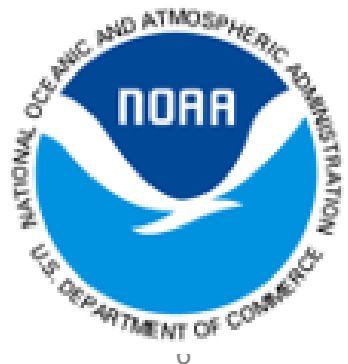
Partner with other outreach organizations (e.g., PEPCO, Sea Grant) and federal agencies (e.g., USCG, NPS, etc.) and commercial and recreational fishing, diving, and boating organizations to develop and distribute educational materials to fishers, other marine resource users (e.g., divers), and the general public.

- Placemats for St. Croix restaurants
- Collaborate with UPR-Sea Grant to produce signs for La Parguera Nature Reserve and Tres Palmas Marine Reserve with information on the marine resources in each one



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Specific areas of action for Outreach and Education in 2020-2025

- Basic concepts of **Ecosystem Based Management** and their application to the management measures. The objective is to help fishers and consumers in general to understand the components of the marine ecosystem, the importance of the **Fishery Ecosystem Plan** for the marine fishery ecosystem and their responsibility in keeping it healthy and sustainable.
- **Island Based Fishery Management Plans (IBFMP) for Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix.** The objective is for fishers and consumers to recognize the species being managed, their natural function in the marine ecosystem and the importance of management measures to keep the ecosystem healthy and the fishery resources sustainable.
- **Sustainable Fish and Seafood consumption** to educate consumers on the importance to consume these products and, at the same time be aware of the impact of removing those species from the ecosystem.
- **Marine Protected Areas in Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix.** Their importance as instruments for the protection of fishes spawning aggregation and the regulations applied to these areas from territorial and federal government agencies.



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Virtual Meetings and Webinars attended

- Several Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) meetings of the Steering Committee to review content of fishers' workshop in 2022. **The MREP Workshop August 26-28, 2022. La Parguera; Commercial, Recreational fishers and.... 40 participants from different areas of PR.**
- Zoom Meetings with personnel from The New School Institute (Montessori Schools), teachers and DE personnel to promote a marine science curriculum for the La Parguera Intermediate School, with emphasis in fisheries, and marine conservation.



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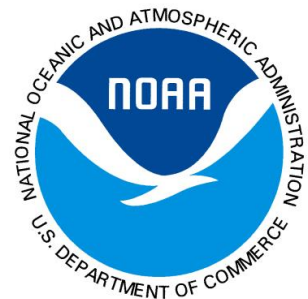


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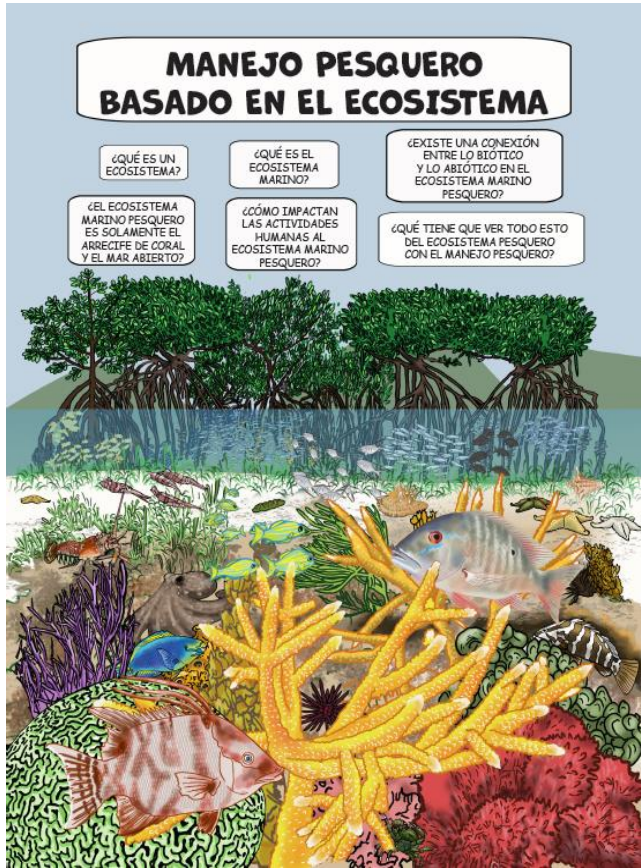
Virtual Meetings and Webinars attended

- NOAA Caribbean Steering Committee to discuss updates on MPAs and the soft coral tissue disease in the Caribbean. May 21 and July 16.
- Reef Fish Extension Spring 2022 Virtual Meeting May 24, 2022
- NOAA Citizen Science webinar
- NOAA webinar Integrating Climate Change into MPA Management

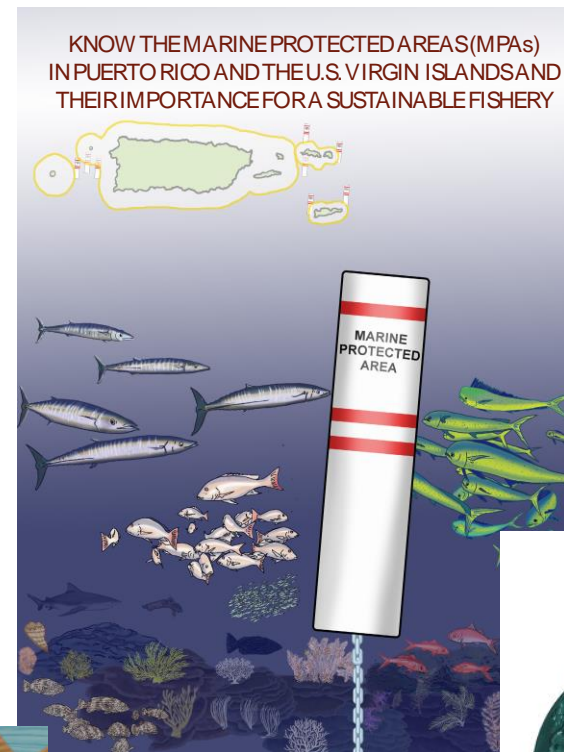
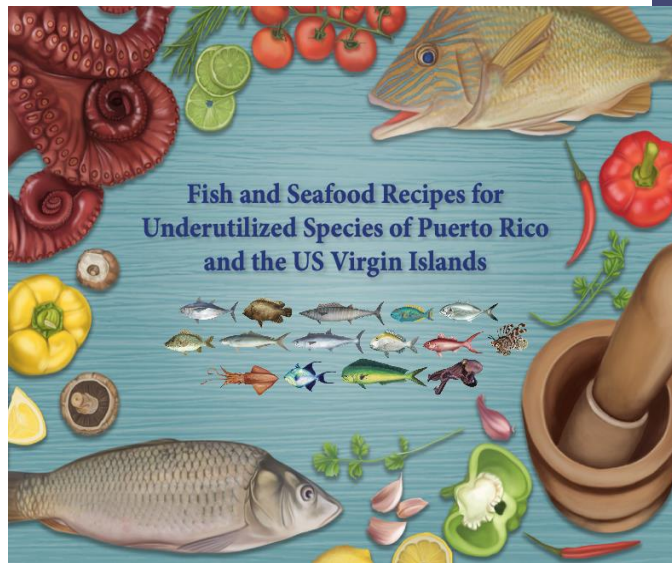
There were many other zoom meetings and calls to discuss O & E initiatives on forage fishes, spawning aggregations, life cycles of Nassau grouper, Mutton snapper and Queen conch.



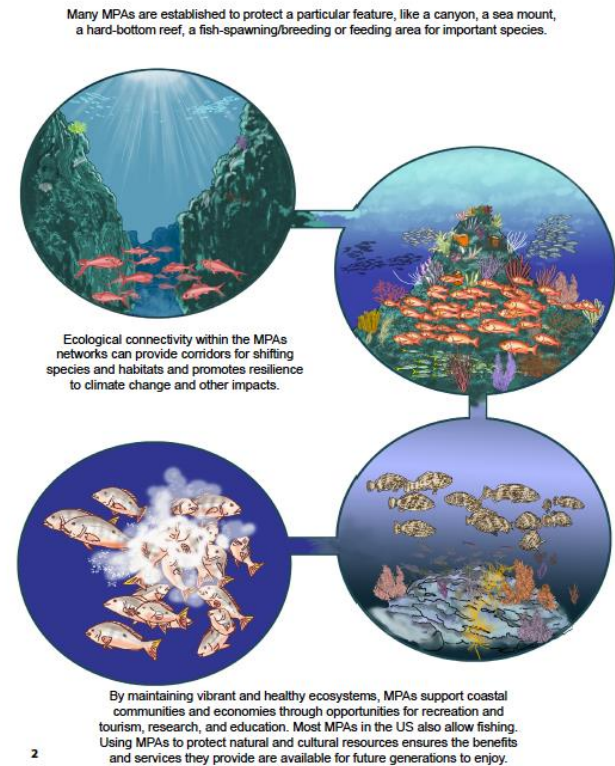
O & E Products



Sent for printing



1st drafts



Ongoing O&E projects

Illustrated Booklets on MPAs and Climate Change and US Caribbean Fisheries

IBFMP essential topics (Chap. 5) for PR, St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix: Fact sheets, stickers and infographics on each IBFMP

Integration of concepts on marine fisheries in the US Caribbean to the regular education curriculum.





O & E Initiatives proposed for 2023-2025



- **IBFMPs** – Fact sheets/Infographics for PR, St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix
 - - Graciela García Moliner, María López (NOAA) will collaborate.
- **MPAS – Fact sheets/Infographics, short videos** on MPAs in the region and their impact on fisheries, and their importance for fisheries sustainability.
- **Illustrated Booklets**
 - Climate Change impacts on fisheries 2022
- **Fisheries Education in PR and USVI**
 - Need for new fishers in our region.
 - Council support for the Escuela de Pesca Project in Cabo Rojo, PR

All products will have a QR code to the CFMC webpage for the documents and other items.

O & E Products...

- **2023 Calendar: Fishing Families**
 - 5 PR
 - 5 ST. Croix
 - - **St. Thomas/St. John**
- **Materials for snapper/grouper deep-water fishing**
- DAPs recommendations for materials on deep-water snapper/grouper fishing regulations.

Understanding Stock assessment...not only fishers, but all stakeholders

Understanding management terminology: Optimum Yield (OY), Allowable Limit (ACL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) and others.

Catch

- **Calendars 2024, 2025**



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Questions?

