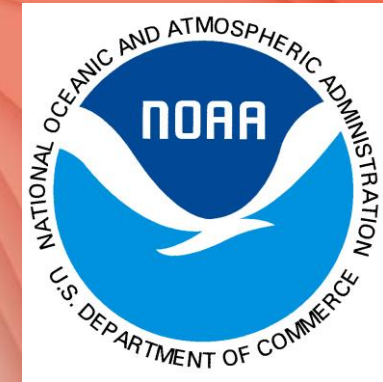


Outreach and Education  
Advisory Panel (OEAP)

Report to the Council

December 4 - 5, 2024  
Hybrid Meeting

Embassy Suites Hotel  
Isla Verde, Carolina, P.R.



# OUTREACH & EDUCATION PARTICIPATION IN EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EEJ) AND MARINE RESOURCES EDUCATION PROGRAM (MREP) FOCUS GROUPS

In September 2024, Wilson Santiago, Liaison from Puerto Rico and, Jannette Ramos García accompanied anthropologist Suzana Blake from NOAA to Vieques and Culebra to interview fishers for the EEJ project.

A total of 17 interviews were conducted across both islands.

The MREP workshop was held in Fajardo, Puerto Rico from August 22 to the 25th. We attended the workshops and took part in some of them.



# UPDATE OUTREACH & EDUCATION PRODUCTS

- Illustrated catalogue of the fish and invertebrate species included in the IBFMPs for Puerto Rico, St. Thomas/St. John, and St. Croix is in progress.



## ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS FOR 2024 - 2025




- Fish identification booklets for children based on IBFMPs.
- Integration of concepts on marine fisheries ecosystem in the US Caribbean to the regular education curriculum.
- Produce O&E materials to conduct workshops with fishers and their communities on the issues of climate change and the impacts on US Caribbean marine fisheries.
- Produce IBFM Facts Sheets.

# OUTREACH AND EDUCATION VIRTUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

During the meeting, several key updates were presented regarding IRA projects and efforts related to fisheries management and conservation in the USVI.



Also we discussed a general overview of the ongoing projects, including the Story Book initiative, and noted that a graphic designer is needed to help bring the project to completion

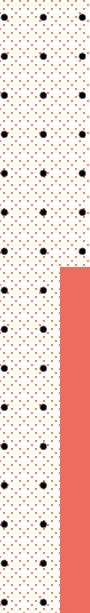
OUTREACH AND EDUCATION VIRTUAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 21, 2024  
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Our team brought to the committee's attention the need to produce materials with less written information and more visuals for our clientele.

While there are several outreach and education ongoing projects and initiatives supporting fisheries conservation in the USVI and in Puerto Rico, their success heavily depends on securing additional funding.

# FIVE YEARS STRATEGIC PLAN COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES THAT WE ARE FOLLOWING

- 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.



T H A N K   Y O U

Q U E S T I O N S ?

