

© **Outreach and Education
Advisory Panel (OEAP)**

Report to the Council

187th CFMC

Regular Meeting

August 12 – 13, 2025

Embassy Suites Hotel

Carolina, Puerto Rico



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OEAP Chair





OEAP ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS



MREP PR

Participation in the MREP Planning Unit Team (P.U.T.) meetings

As part of these effort, we organized a small expo on lesser used fish species during the June 2025 MREP meeting. The event was co-hosted by Chef Loraine Arroyo and myself.

Last year Chef Arroyo had completed the continuing education course on underutilized species for culinary professionals. This course was offered thanks to a collaboration between the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC), the Puerto Rico Sea Grant Program, and the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.



Summer Camp



We took a group of children from the annual summer camp organized by Protectores de Cuencas in Guánica, PR to Los Pozos beach in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico.

They traveled by boat, following all safety protocols. Once at the beach, they participated in educational talks about marine ecosystems, protected species, and the history that gives life to this coastal area.

On July 23, 2025 the Outreach and Education Advisory Panel (OEAP) met as scheduled. Prior to the meeting, members and fisheries liaisons and a were asked to submit a list of the needs identified within the fishing communities they represent.



That list was presented during the session and reflects a wide and diverse range of pressing concerns. The discussion also brought forward excellent ideas and clearly defined priorities that will help guide future actions.

The recommendations include educational materials, training sessions, and communication resources.

These will target commercial and recreational fishers, educators, youth, and coastal community members in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Distribution will take place through community organizations, regional workshops, school visits, CFMC events, and online platforms to ensure meaningful and widespread access.



2026 CALENDAR



The calendar will be a tribute to the hardworking fishing families united by love and saltwater.

To those who rise before dawn, who teach by example, and who have rooted their lives in the rhythm of the tides.

May these work also serve to honor what they give us each day: fresh food, coastal wisdom, and a dignified way of life built from the sea.

Projects in Progress



...in progress - Bajo la luna

Another project in progress is the book *Bajo la luna*, written by Tania Marrero Rodríguez and illustrated by Paco López Mujica.

This collection of stories invites children to explore the wonders beneath our seas and learn what we must do to protect marine life. It highlights the importance of respect and of learning to coexist with other species.

...a llena, hermosa sobre las aguas... casi a la orilla, se acercaron los residentes.
... todos esperando a que diera comienzo aquella importante reunión.
... con Los Meros meros; Cabrilla, Batata y Cherna (un trío de peces Mero).
... nadaban muy atentas. Varias colirrubias y chapines, todos agrupados esperando por el inicio.
... arena los Cangrejos fantasmas que levantaban sus palancas gritaban:
... cangrejos fantasmas - "Estamos listos acá en la arena".
... dentro de sus conchas a la espera estaban, Carrucho y Burgao.
... de lado en lado andaba Panuli; la Langosta, ansiosa de que comenzara todo.

De repente las aguas mar afuera se tornaron oscuras. Una sombra provocó
... asustados bajo el agua, no sabían lo que pasaba...
Las aguas de momento se abrieron y apareció Peli; un Pelicano pardo que al zambullirse
Peli - "Ea, ea, aquí Peli llamando a base, aquí Peli, ya presente represent

...in progress

Fish Catalog of Puerto Rico and the USVI

This comprehensive reference book, authored by Dr. Árida Ortiz Sotomayor, documents the rich diversity of fish species in the region and is now in its final stage of development...

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text

Island based fishery management plans species catalog.

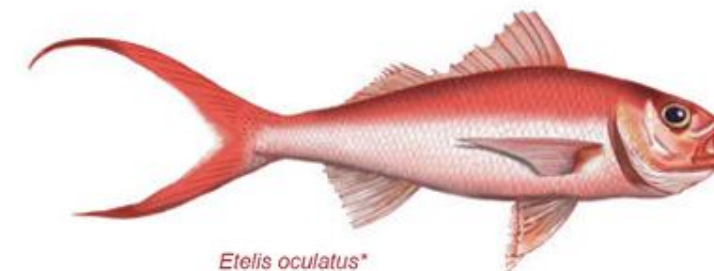
Planes de manejo pesquero basado en las islas catálogo de especies.



St. Thomas/St. John



*Balistes vetula**



*Etelis oculatus**



Puerto Rico



QUESTIONS?



THANKS!

