

Outreach and Education Advisory Panel (OEAP)

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

184th CFMC Regular Hybrid Meeting

April 23 - 24, 2023

The Marriott Courtyard, Isla

Verde, Carolina, Puerto Rico



4/23/24



4/19/2024

5YSP 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.



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Understanding Climate Change and its impact on the fishery ecosystem and the fisher's community in the U.S. Caribbean

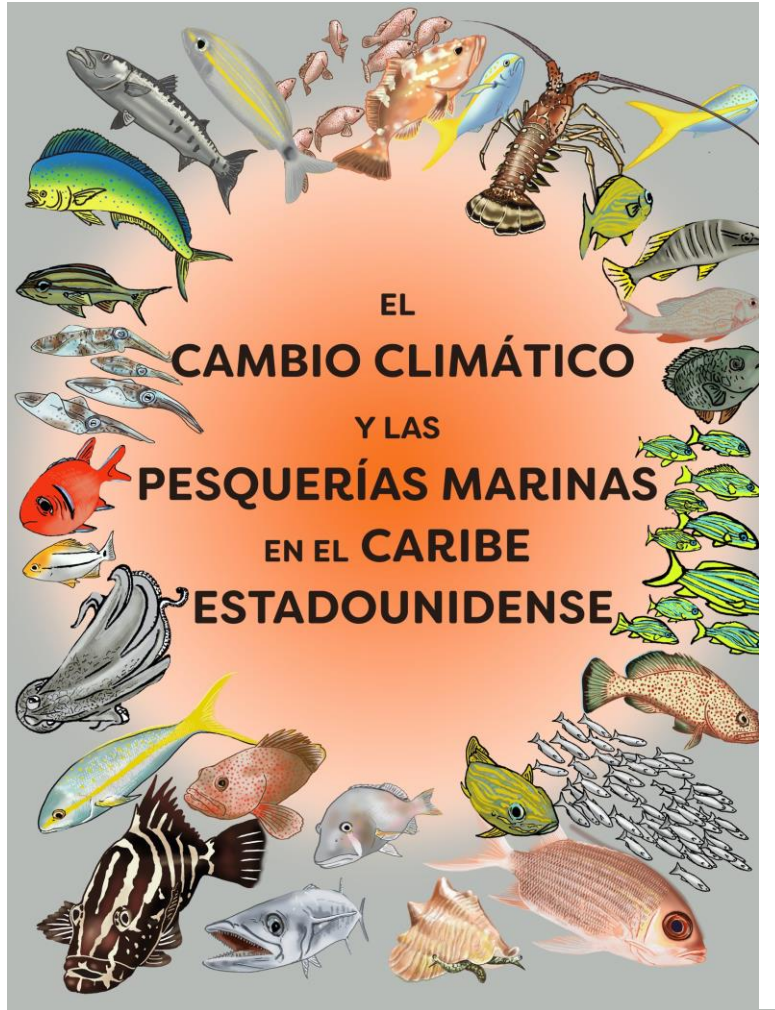
Development of outreach and education materials and training sessions for fishers and the fishers' community in the U.S. Caribbean to understand Climate Change and its impact on the fishery ecosystem. It complies with the CFMC 5 Years Strategic Plan Communication and Outreach Goal: Engage, educate, and inform a variety of audiences to improve public understanding and participation in the Council process, including understanding changes affecting fisheries (e.g., climate).

1) integrate fishers and their communities in initiatives to understand and apply the climate-related fisheries management planning actions proposed by the CFMC. Including them as an important social and economic component of the fisheries management actions complies with the **equity and environmental justice strategy followed by NOAA.**

2) enrich the fisher's ecological knowledge of the climate change impact on the marine fisheries ecosystem and stimulate their participation in the CFMC management initiatives.

Outreach products to be completed June 2024

Illustrated Booklet on Climate Change and Marine Fisheries in the US Caribbean



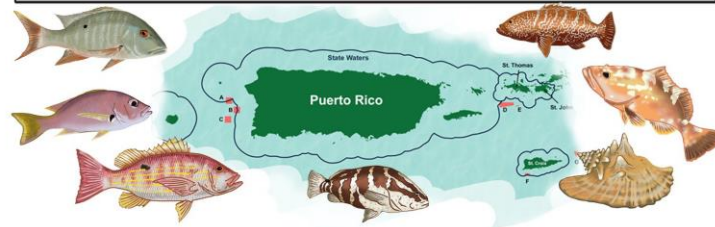
Introduction



Coasts provide essential services that contribute to individuals' well-being and support coastal communities' economic activities such as fisheries. These regions are especially susceptible to the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, more frequent and intense storms, altered precipitation patterns, and higher ocean temperatures.

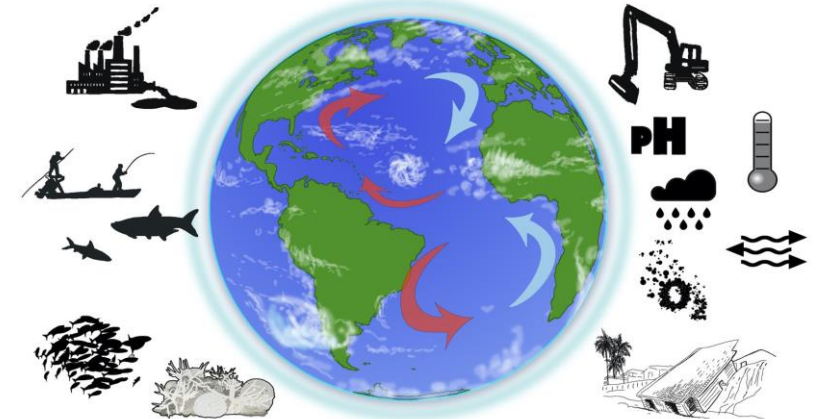


We must know about what is climate change and the impact that it will have on the species in the area where we fish. We must also know about our actions that may serve for adaptation as citizens as well as fishers to the changes experienced. The CFMC objective with this illustrated booklet is to familiarize the stakeholders-fishers, consumers, and communities- in easy-to-understand language and illustrations about the climate change issue, the impacts on the US Caribbean marine fisheries and the actions that we must take as citizens to confront the climate change results and keep a sustainable fisheries resource.



What does Climate Change means?

The first thing we must be very clear about is that the Earth is a complex system of interaction between rocks, water, air and life. For this, it is important to know basic concepts on the topic of climate change, such as: climate, weather, global warming, greenhouse effect, global indicators of climate change, changes in sea level, ocean acidification, extreme weather conditions (extreme weather), human activities that accelerate climate change and adaptation strategies to climate change.



Difference between Climate and Weather

Climate is the long-term, prevailing pattern of temperature, precipitation, and other weather variables at a given location, described by statistics, such as means and extremes. Weather is described in terms of variable conditions of the atmosphere such as temperature, humidity, wind velocity, precipitation, and barometric pressure at a given moment.

Climate

Global conditions due to geographical localization.



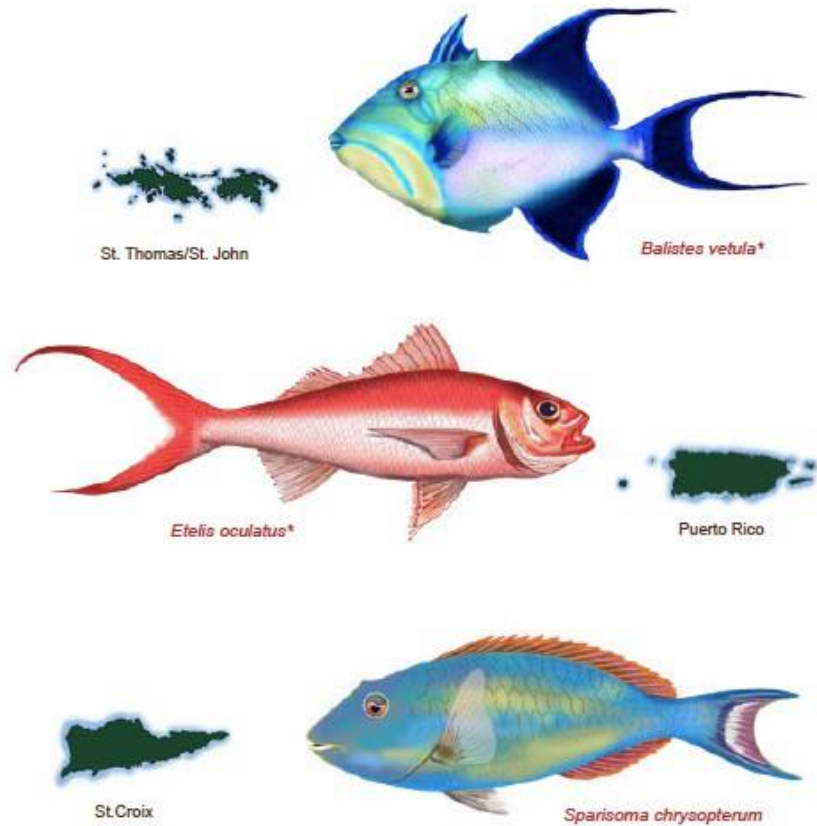
Weather

Atmospheric conditions at a given moment.



Island based fishery management plans species catalog.

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



Introducción

LUTJANIDAE - SNAPPERS



Apsilus dentatus
black snapper
pargo prieto

St. Thomas/St. John St. Croix Puerto Rico

Black and upper sides violet or dark brown turning lighter ventrally. Juveniles are mainly blue in color. Caudal fin forked. Maximum size—25.6 in (65cm). Depth—Adults: 320-984 ft (100-300 m); juveniles: 20-40 ft (6-12 m)

La parte trasera y la superior son de color violeta o marrón oscuro, tornándose más claro en la parte ventral. Los juveniles son principalmente de color azul. Aleta caudal bifurcada. Tamaño máximo: 25.6 pulgadas (65 cm). Profundidad—Adultos: 320-984 pies (100-300 m); juveniles: 20-40 pies (6-12 m)

Regulation Federal, Territorial St. Thomas/St. John District Closure—October 1–December 31. Federal Commercial—Annual catch limits apply. Recreational—5 fish/person/day or 15 fish/vessel/day (aggregate).

Medidas de Manejo Federal, Territorial St. Thomas/St. John Cieme—1 de octubre al 31 de diciembre. Federal Comercial: se aplican límites de captura anuales. Recreacional: 5 peces/persona/día o 15 peces/embarcación/día (agregado).



Lutjanus buccanella
blackfin snapper

St. Thomas/St. John St. Croix Puerto Rico

Juveniles are brilliant yellow below near dorsal fin, upper base of tail and both sides of tail and are bluish white to pale brown. Adults have a dark spot at base of pectoral fin and an orange or bronze iris and become dusky red in red and yellow areas as they age. Maximum size—30 in (76.2 cm). Depth—20–300 ft (6–91 m).

Los juveniles son color amarillo brillante bajo la aleta dorsal superior. En la base superior y los lados de la cola, son de color blanco azulado a castaño pálido. Los adultos se caracterizan por una mancha oscura en la base de la aleta pectoral e iris de color anaranjado a bronceado, y según envejecen las áreas rojas y amarillas se vuelven rojas oscuras. Tamaño máximo—30 pulgadas (76.2 cm). Profundidad—20–300 pies (6–91 m).

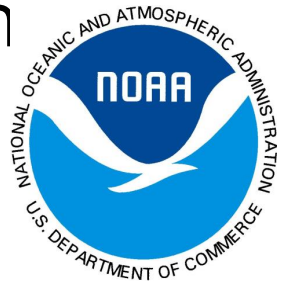
Regulation Federal, Commonwealth, Territorial St. Thomas/St. John District Closure—October 1–December 31. Federal Commercial—Annual catch limits apply. Recreational—5 fish/person/day or 15 fish/vessel/day (aggregate). Commonwealth Incidental catch limit is 5 fish/day or 10 fish/boat/day, whichever is less. Sale of incidental catch is prohibited.

Reglamento Federal, Estado Libre Asociado, Territorial Distrito de St. Thomas/ St. John Veda—1 de octubre–31 de diciembre. Federal Comercial—límites de captura anual aplican. Recreativo—5 peces/persona/día (agregado). Estado Libre Asociado Límite de captura incidental durante el periodo de veda es 5 peces/diario o 10 peces/embarcación, lo que sea menor. Venta de pesca incidental está prohibida.



Activities and Products for 2024-2025

- **Next OEAP Meeting: June 27, 9:00 am -5:00 pm San Juan, PR**
- 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.
- Fish identification booklets for children based on IBFMPs.
- Integration of concepts on marine fisheries ecosystem in the US Caribbean to the regular education curriculum.



O & E Products...

- **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 Catch Limit (ACL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC), and others.



12/1/23

Alida Ortiz



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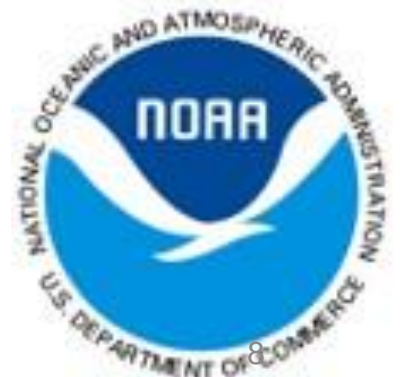
Cont...

- ▶ Produce Fact Sheet on Bajo de Sico and the fishery management regulations in the area.
- ▶ OEAP should offer a workshop on fishery management regulations for new DAP members similar to the PEPCO workshop



12/1/23

Alida Ortiz



Questions?

