

# Federal Fishery Management Plan for Puerto Rico

## Goals and Objectives

The overarching *goal* of the Puerto Rico Fishery Management Plan is to ensure the continued health of fishery resources occurring in Exclusive Economic Zone waters surrounding Puerto Rico within the context of the unique biological, ecological, economic and cultural characteristics of those resources and the communities' dependent upon them. To achieve that overarching goal, the following *objectives* are defined:

- 1) Achieve optimum yield in the utilization of federal fishery resources while minimizing impacts to non-target species;
- 2) Ensure the metrics upon which OY is based are derived from the best available scientific information and are updated to respond to changing ecological, biological, economic and social conditions;
- 3) Obtain data necessary to achieve the objectives of this plan, and adapt to technological and technical advances in methods of data collection, reporting and analysis;
- 4) Promote international cooperation in the management of pan-Caribbean stocks;
- 5) Minimize conflicts between resource users;
- 6) Establish resource access permits as necessary and appropriate to facilitate data collection, sustainability and long-term yield;
- 7) Provide flexibility in the management process which minimizes regulatory delay and allows for rapid adaptation to changing resource abundance, availability, health or preference, using the best available scientific and socioeconomic information;
- 8) Devise a regulatory framework that maximizes the efficiency and efficacy of enforcement efforts within and across jurisdictional

boundaries while promoting the safe conduct of fishing operations;

- 9) Promote awareness of laws and regulations governing marine resource management and the science and social obligations that support that management, and to ensure informed public input into the management process;
- 10) Ensure the socioeconomic health of the fishing communities dependent on federal fishery resources;
- 11) Protect spawning aggregations and the habitats supporting those aggregations to ensure the future health of the resource;
- 12) Map, define, and manage habitat upon which the resource depends, with particular emphasis on coral reef resources throughout the region;
- 13) Enhance and stabilize the spawning potential of managed species at levels sufficient to sustain adequate recruitment to replenish the population;
- 14) Ensure continued provision of ecosystems services derived from living marine resources, including adequate abundance of forage resources to ensure a healthy and diverse trophic web.