NOAA OFFICE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGUADILLA FIELD OFFICE
PUERTO RICO

LYNN RIOS
SPECIAL AGENT
CLOSED AREAS
OF THE WEST COAST OF PUERTO RICO
SPAWNING AGGREGATION AREAS

BAJO DE SICO AND BOUY GEAR
OR
CALA CON BOYA
INCIDENT

April 2016, deep water snapper fisherman from Rincon, PR was fishing with buoy gear / cala con boya inside the NE boundary of Bajo de Sico.

Boarded by state officers, and advised he cannot fish with this gear inside the closed area, because is prohibited.

He was asked to remove the fishing gear from water and release any catch.

He complies with instruction from state officers and removes the gear from the water and releasing the few fish on the line.

Boarding did not result in a case referral to NOAA OLE
REQUEST

Are fishermen using buoy gear in Bajo de Sico?

How are they using it?

Is buoy gear prohibited gear in Bajo de Sico?
SEASONAL AREA CLOSURES

No bottom longlines, pots, traps, gillnets, trammel nets allowed year-round

Bajo de Cico

Tourmaline

Abrir la Sierra
Deep Water Snapper Buoy Gear / Cala con Boya

Weight- Potala = 8 pounds, made out of 2 rebar with leader

Main line with hooks- 20 hooks - 18 inches apart and swivel

Spool or Yoyo with braded fishing line, attached to main line.

Two (2) sets of buoys, one to hold fishing line and second to hold yoyo
Palangre - arte de pesca que consiste en una línea larga de pesca con anzuelos encarnados con líneas separadas, el cual puede ser anclado o dejado a la deriva.

DEFINITION-Longline- fishing gear that consists of a long line with baited hooks on separate lines, which can be anchored or left to drift
ARTÍCULO 8 - LIMITACIONES GENERALES A LA PESCA

8.42. Se prohíbe anclar, usar redes, nasas, cajones, y palangres bénticos dentro de las áreas identificadas a continuación:

El Bajo de Cico o Las Esponjas (A) 18°15.7' N, 67°26.4' O; (B) 18°15.7' N, 67°23.2' O; (C) 18°12.7' N, 67°26.4' O; (D) 18°12.7' N, 67°26.4' O.
(iv) *Bajo de Sico closed area.*

(B) From October 1 through March 31, each year, no person may fish for or possess any Caribbean reef fish, as listed in Table 2 of Appendix A to part 622, in or from those parts of the Bajo de Sico closed area that are in the EEZ. The prohibition on possession does not apply to such Caribbean reef fish harvested and landed ashore prior to the closure.

(2) *Areas closed year-round to certain fishing gear.* Fishing with pots, traps, **bottom longlines**, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited year-round in the closed areas specified in paragraphs (a)(2)(i),(ii), (iii), and (iv) of this section.
INTERVIEW WITH FISHERMAN

They only fish inside Bajo de Sico if the currents allow.

They fish outside the Bajo de Sico platform.

They fish for deep water snappers from 125 to 200 fathoms.

They do not fish any shallower for fear of losing gear due to entanglements and sharks.

The gear does not drag through the bottom, it bounces.

380 other locations where fish for deep water snappers.

Good communication among fishers to share information on current, sea, and fishing conditions.
QUESTIONS ??

MUCHAS GRACIAS