



# PUERTO RICO LIAISON OFFICER

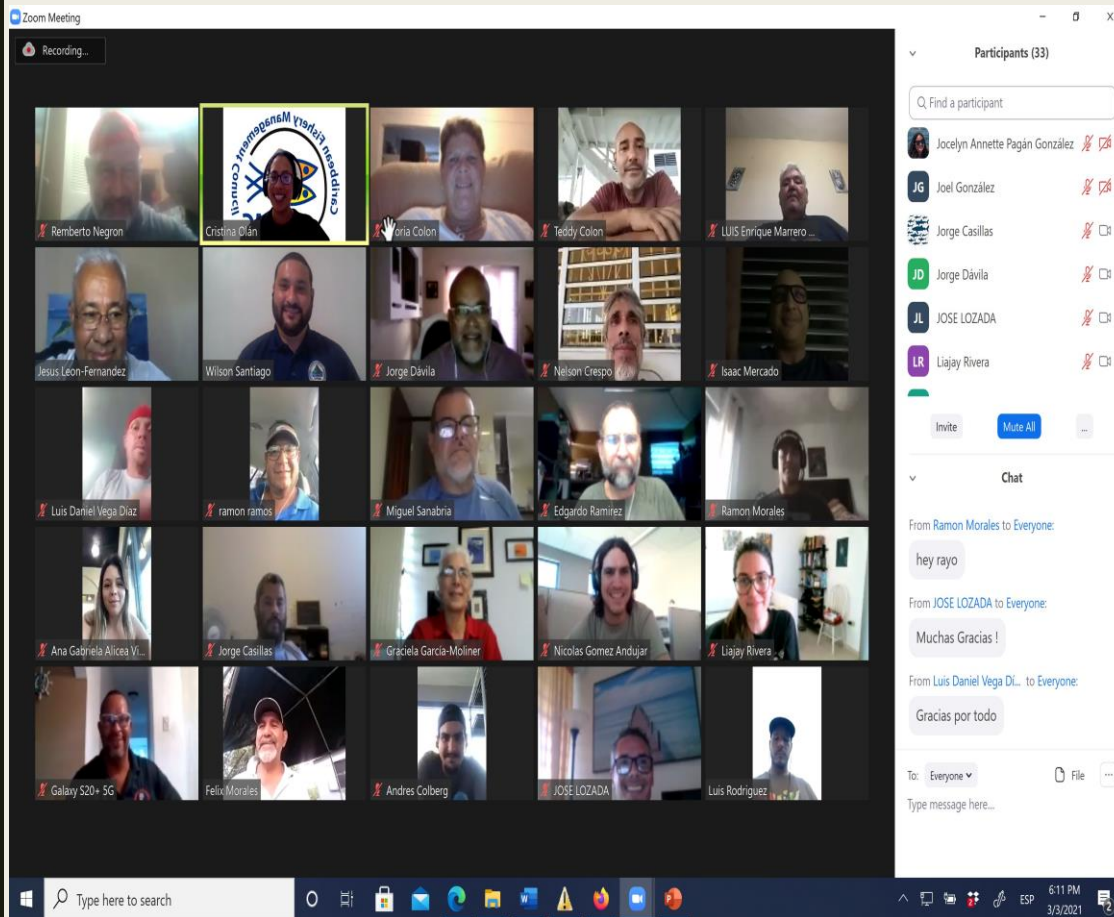
Wilson G. Santiago Soler  
CFMC 176th Regular Meeting  
December 7-8 2021



# 2021 Liaison Participation

- Give educational program for commercial fishers (PEPCO) virtual
- Support Cristina Olán with post at CFMC social media for the “Repaso de PEPCO”
- Participate in MREP committee meetings for 2022 fishers workshop in Puerto Rico
- Send weekly educational posts via WhatsApp
- Support fishers with issues and information of DNER State and Federal Closures
- Give educational materials for the fishers and fishing communities
- Start with the first 2 modules of the virtual recreational fishers educational program (PEPR)

# Educational Program for Commercial Fishers (PEPCO) in Puerto Rico



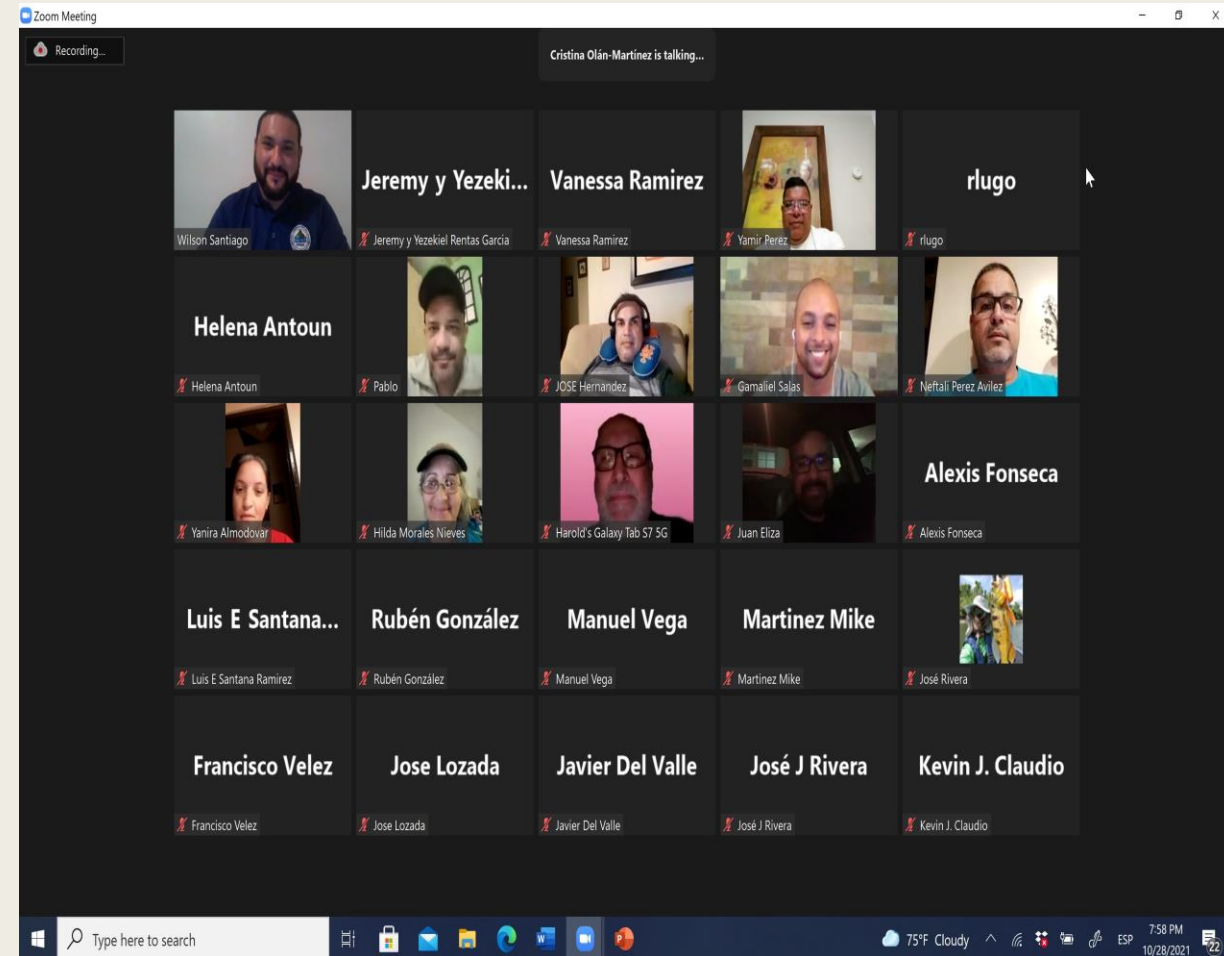
- From February 17 to March 17 we presented the PEPCO educational program to commercial fishers virtual Via Zoom
- We gave 5 different sessions every Wednesday with different topics and bring different experts in the topics
- We have a participation of 41 fishers that completed the 5 sessions
- For all the participants that completed the program we send via post mail educational materials and a certificate of completion. (Thanks to DNER, CFMC, Sea Grant and The Nature Conservancy)

# Educational Program for Recreational Salt Water Fishers

- In 2018, the program was developed by NOAA's CRCP (Coral Reef Conservation Program) fishery liaison (Helena Antoun) and DNER as a means of addressing adverse impacts to coral reefs from recreational fishing activities. Healthy fisheries = healthy reefs.
- The program was developed with the collaboration of recreational fishers and DRNA personnel.
- The DNER, CFMC and NOAA are collaborating together to bring the workshops to the fishers

# Educational Program for Recreational Salt Water Fishers

- 1st module was in August 19 with the topics of recreational federal and state laws and regulations, a total of 42 participants connected.
- 2nd module was in October 28 with the topic of regulated marine species in federal and state waters, a total of 22 participants connected.
- Coordinating the next modules starting between January and February 2022.
- Thanks to Helena Antoun and Cristina Olán for their support in the workshops.

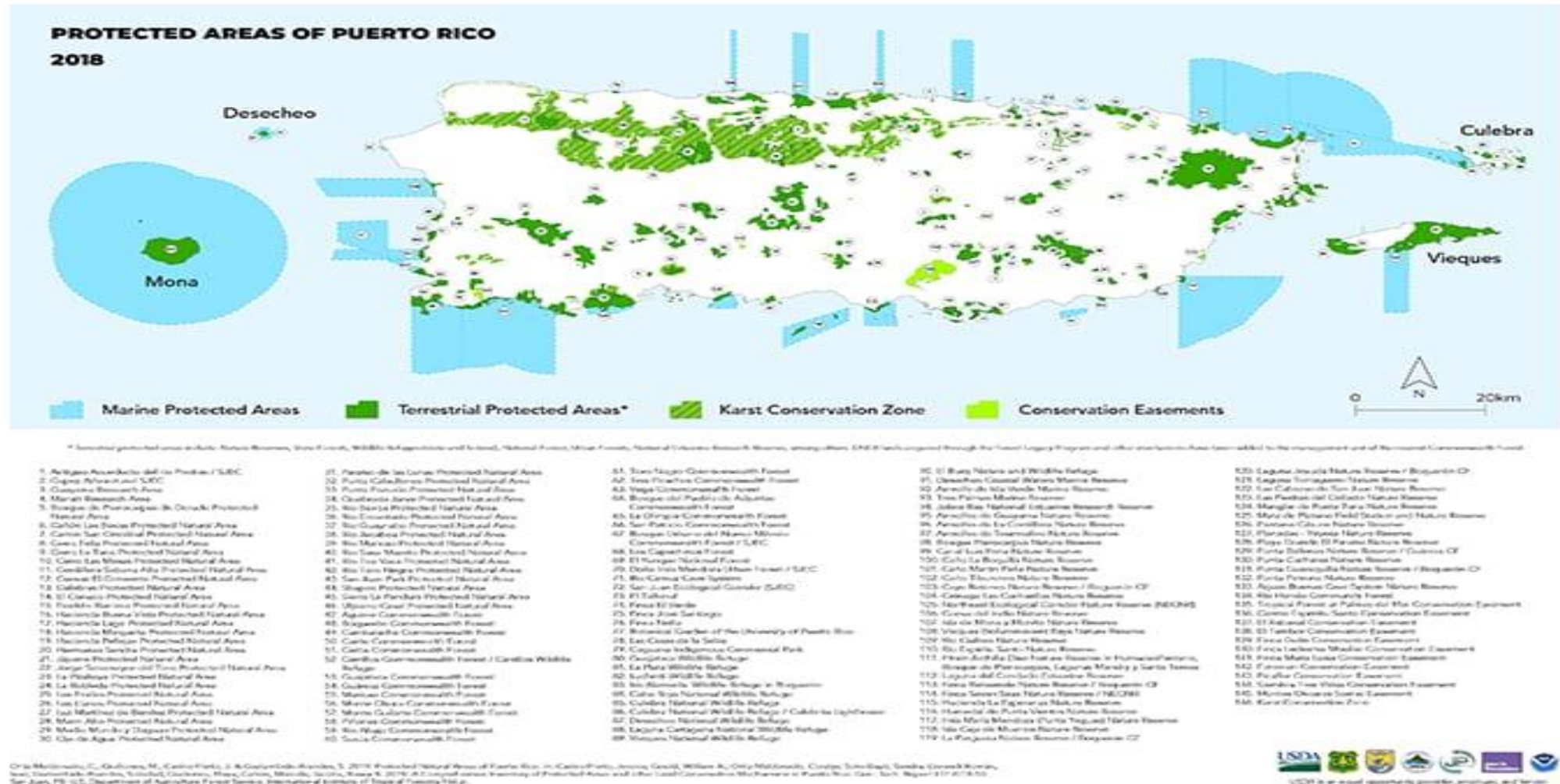


# Puerto Rico Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) State Jurisdiction

- A total of 44 MPA's are managed by the DNER in Puerto Rico.
- DNER has an interactive map of all marine protected areas at this site:  
[drna.pr.gov/explora/anp](http://drna.pr.gov/explora/anp)
- In this site we can find managements plans, designations, investigations, permissions and other documents regarding all the protected areas in Puerto Rico. DNER is updating this website continuously, for more information about the managements plans of marine protected areas I recommend the Council to invite Ms. Coralís Ortiz and Ms. Clarimar Díaz from the office of Zona Costanera in the DNER.



# Puerto Rico State and Federal MPA's



Credit: usda.gov

1. Reserva Marina Tres Palmas (Rincón)	MR	2004	0.89	0.89
2. Reserva Marina Agua de Desecheo	MR	2000	7.4	7.4
3. Reserva Natural Isla de Mona y Monito	NR	1997	1512.7	81
4. Reserva Natural Arrecifes de Torumaline	NR	1998	74.6	0
5. Reserva Natural Caño La Boquilla	NR	2002	105.8	0
6. Reserva Natural Laguna de Joyuda	NR			
7. Reserva Natural Finca Belvedere	NR	2003	40	0
8. Refugio Iris Alameda Boquerón				
9. Bosque Estatal de Boquerón	NR	1998	172.7	0
10. Reserva Natural La Parguera	NR	1998	324	0
11. Reserva Natural Punta Cuchara (Ponce)	NR	2007	13.8	0
12. Reserva Natural Caja de Muertos	NR	1980	55.1	0.39
13. Reserva Natural Punta Petrona (Santa Isabel)	NR	1979	30.9	0
14. Reserva de Investigación Estuarina Bahía de Jobos (Guayama y Salinas)	ERNR	1981	9.8	0
15. Bosque Estatal de Aguirre (Salinas)				
16. Reserva Natural Arrecifes de Guayama	NR	1980	8.1	0
17. Reserva Natural Humedal Punta Viento (Patillas)	NR			
18. Reserva Natural Punta Tuna (Maunabo)				
19. Bosque Estatal de Ceiba				
20. Reserva Natural Bahía Bioluminiscente de Vieques	NR	1998	79.6	0
21. Área Natural Protegida Punta Soldado (Culebras)				
22. Reserva Natural Cana Luis Peña (Culebras)	NR	1999	6.3	6.3
23. Reserva Natural Arrecifes de la Cordillera (Fajardo)	NR	1980	99.9	0
24. Reserva Natural Corredor Ecológico del noreste (Entre Luquillo y Fajardo)	NR	2013	263.1	0
25. Reserva Natural Río Espíritu Santo ( Río Grande)	NR	1998	117.7	0
26. Bosque Estatal de Piñones (Entre Carolina y Loiza)				
27. Reserva Marina Arrecifes de Isla Verde (Carolina)	MR	2013	0.94	0.94
28. Reserva Natural Estuarina Laguna del Condado	ENR	2013	0.4	0.4
29. Reserva Natural Caño Martín Peña				
30. Reserva Natural Ciénaga Las Cucharillas (Cataño)				
31. Reserva Natural Pantano Cibuco (Vega Baja)	NR	1998	19.9	0
32. Reserva Natural Laguna Tortuguero ( Manatí y Vega Baja)				
33. Reserva Natural Cueva del Indio	NR	1998	15.5	0
34. Reserva Natural Caño Tiburones				
35. Reserva Natural Finca Nolla (Camuy)				
36. Punta Yeguas	NR	2001	262.4	0
37. Bosque Estatal de Guanica	NR	1985	14.2	0
38. Punta Guaniquilla	NR	2002	8.6	0
39. Cabeza de San Juan	NR	1998	266.9	0
40. Extensión Marina Playa Larga El Paraíso	NR			
41. Marina Reserva Natural Hacienda La Esperanza	NR			
42. Reserva Natural Finca Seven Seas				

Credit: Revista Marejada and DNER web site



# PR - MPA's with Management Plans

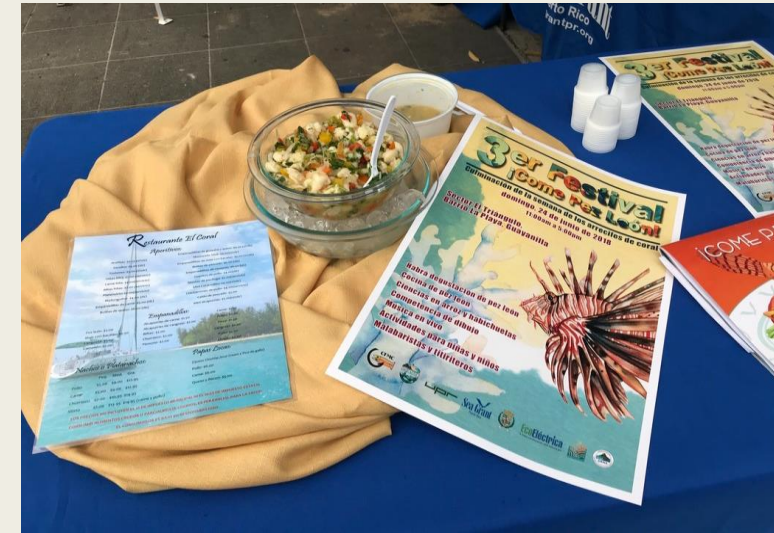
- Bosque Estatal de Piñones (Between Carolina and Loíza) – In Process
- Natural Reserve Laguna Tortuguero (Between Manatí and Vega Baja) – In Process
- Natural Reserve Bahia Bioluminiscente (Vieques) Approved by JP
- Natural Reserve Arrecife de la Cordillera (Fajardo) – Completed
- Natural Reserve Isla Caja de Muertos – Draft
- Natural Reserve Rio Espiritu Santo (Rio Grande) – In Process
- Natural Reserve Isla de Mona y Monito – Draft Completed, Final
- Natural Reserve of Pterocarpus (Humacao) - Completed, approved by JP
- Natural Reserve Caño de Tiburones (Arecibo) - Final Draft
- Natural Reserve Canal Luis Peña (Culebra) - Approved by JP
- Natural Reserve Finca Seven Seas (Fajardo) – Approved by JP

# PR - MPA's with Management Plans

- Natural Reserve Punta Tuna (Maunabo) – Completed
- Marine Reserve Tres Palmas (Rincón) – Approved by JP
- Natural Reserve Punta Viento (Patillas) – Approved by Administrative Order
- Natural Reserve Arrecifes de Isla Verde – Completed
- Natural Reserve Laguna del Condado – Approved by JP
- Natural Reserve Corredor Ecológico del Noreste – Approved by JP

# Reserva Marina Tres Palmas (Rincón)

## 3er Festival Come Pez León





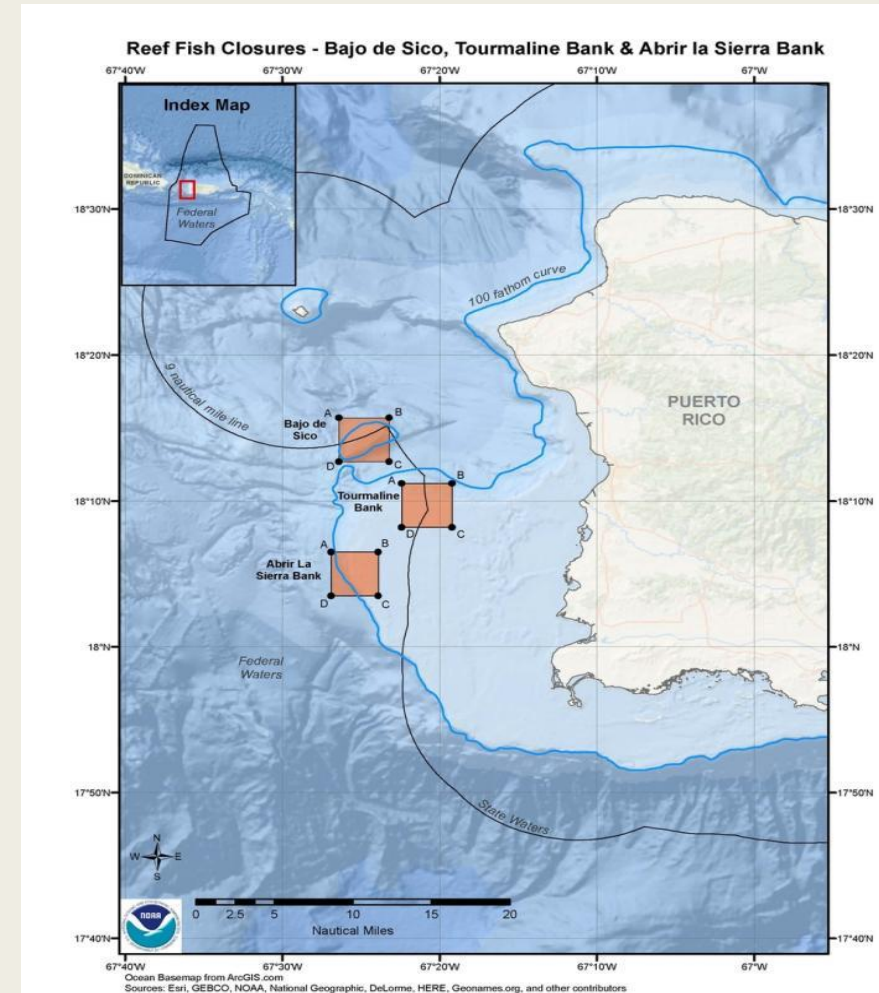
# PR – MPA's Areas



# Puerto Rico Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) Federal Jurisdiction

- In the EEZ, inside of the 9-200 nautical miles near Puerto Rico there are 3 marine protected areas: Bajo de Sico, Tourmaline Bank and Abrir La Sierra Bank. Each of these areas have management plans.

Puerto Rico Federal Jurisdiction MPA's	MPA's Type	Designated Year	Total Marine Area (Km2)	No Take Sone (Km2)
1. Tourmaline Bank	Parcial 3m	1993	31.4	31.4
2. Bajo de Sico	Parcial 6m	1996	31.4	31.4
3. Abril La Sierra	Parcial 3m	1996	29.5	29.5



# Puerto Rico's Fishers Issues

- The Issues with the commercial fishing license with the DNER has been resolved. Fishers has been receiving their fishing license and letters from the DNER.
- New fishers misinformation about fishing closures, statistics report (eReporting app), licenses and permits for state and federal waters in Puerto Rico
- Low enforcement to watch the closures and illegal commercial fishing in state and federal waters
- Fishers need support with different funding opportunities

# 2022 Liaison Next Step

- Coordinate in-person PEPCO workshops, 1 per month
- Continuing of the virtual PEPR workshops
- Continuing supporting CFMC social media
- Find more information about management plans of Puerto Rico MPA's at DNER offices
- Find out and support fishers in their issues, visiting fishing villages and fishers communities
- Visit fishing villages and fishing communities around the island giving educational materials



# Questions?

Contact Information:

787-344-0956

wilson.santiago.cfm@gmail.com