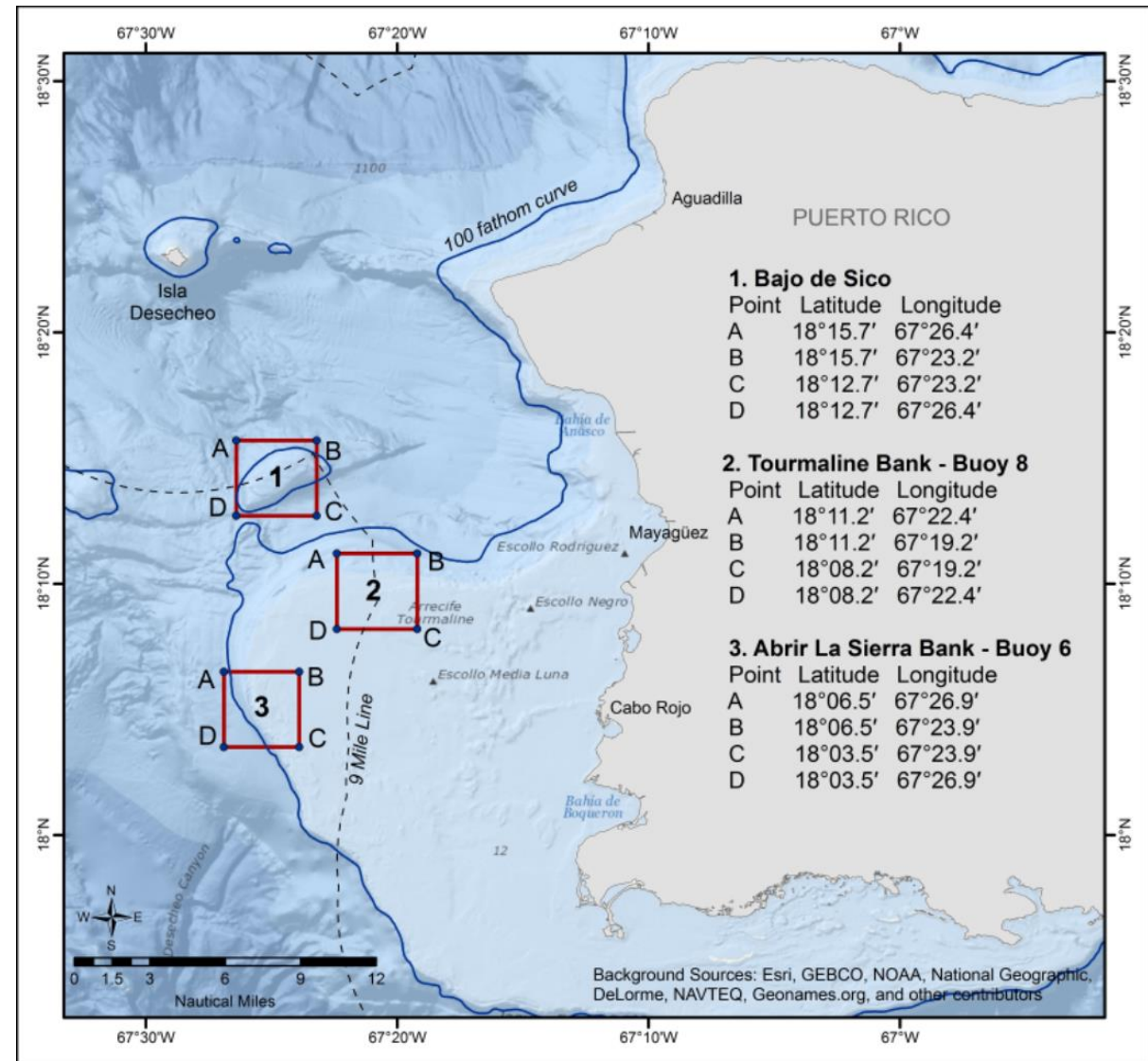


Fishery Industry Perspective PR-DAP

Nelson Crespo, PR-DAP Chair, Commercial Fisher

Tourmaline, Bajo de Sico & Abrir la Sierra



Bajo de Sico

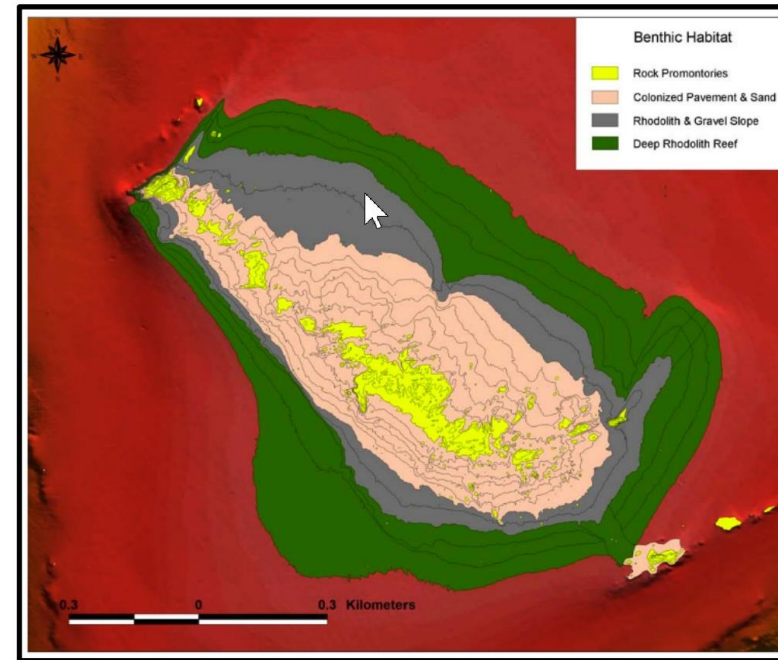


Figure 11. Benthic habitat map of Bajo de Sico up to a maximum depth of 50 m (García-Sais et al. 2007).

4.3 Condition and changes through time of marine ecosystems within BS

García-Sais et al. (2007) characterized the benthic ecosystems present at BS. No other study has been conducted since then. Thus the current state or any change through time is unknown in this Marine Managed Area.

Abrir la Sierra

2.3 Condition and changes through time of marine ecosystems in ALS

García-Sais et al. (2010) characterized the closure, and the description is presented below. The benthic ecosystems present at ALS have not been studied again, and thus there is no information available on its current condition.

N

Marine Managed Areas

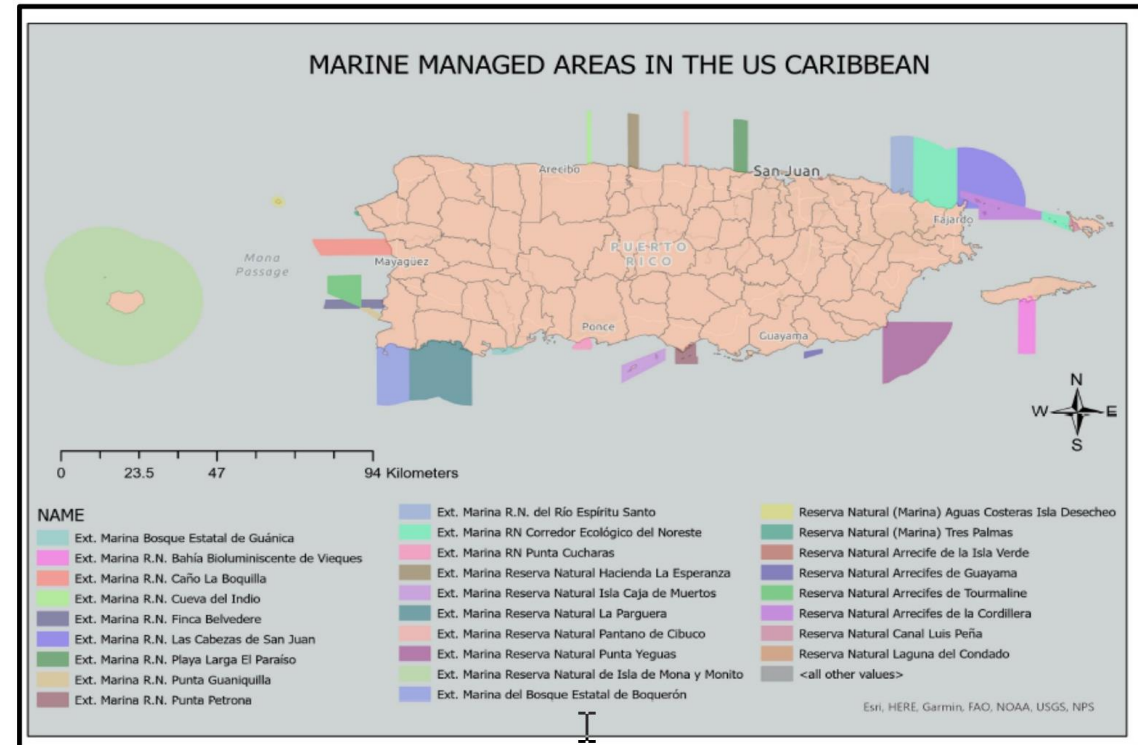


Figure 1. Puerto Rico Marine Managed Areas.

Protected Areas in the US Caribbean

Table 1. Percentage of protected areas in the US Caribbean, including no-take zones and the IUCN categories.

US CARIBBEAN	Area (km ²)	Number of Areas	US Caribbean Basin (%)	
<i>All protected areas (58 MMAs)</i>	<i>4446.25</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>2.1</i>	
Ia	125.03	8	0.06	
Unassigned	806.58	24	0.38	
IV	3264.65	22	1.55	
II	63	2	0.03	
III	51	1	0.02	
V	149	1	0.07	
<i>No Take areas (includes seasonal no-take)</i>	<i>1805.12</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>0.85</i>	
Puerto Rico	Area (km ²)	Number of Areas	Territorial Waters (%)	PR EEZ (%)
<i>Total Area MMAs : 44 Total</i>	<i>3995.23</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>29.72</i>	
Ia	48	6	0.36	
Unassigned	693.58	17	5.16	

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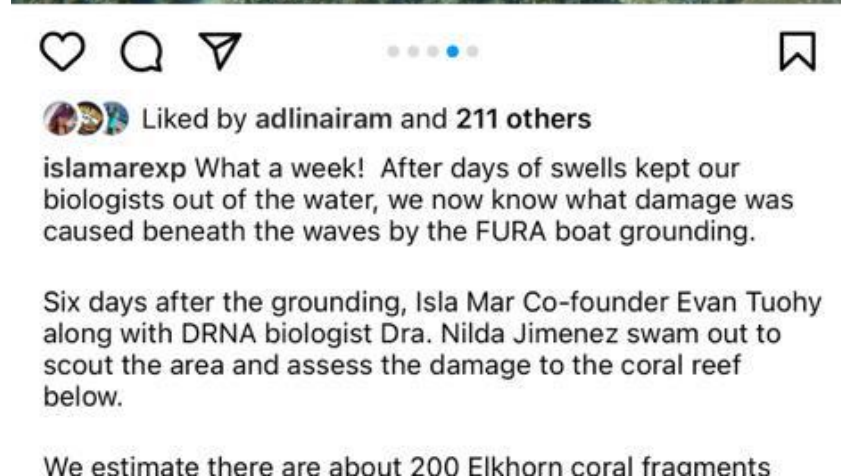
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Degradation of Coastal and Marine Habitats

1. Introduction

The oceans have degraded in the last decades as a result of human activities (Mora 2008). This decline is most notorious in coastal areas such coral reefs, where coral cover has decreased more than 50 % worldwide (Gardner 2003; De'ath *et al.* 2012; Jackson *et al.* 2014), and species commonly seen in the seventies are rarely observed today, especially commercial reef fishes (Steneck *et al.* 2009). Conservation efforts are urgently needed to reduce such loss, recover depleted populations and restore natural habitats.



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