

# What do fishery management stakeholders want? A preliminary study

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Caribbean Fishery Management Council Meeting  
Dec 4-5, San Juan, Puerto Rico

# Background of project

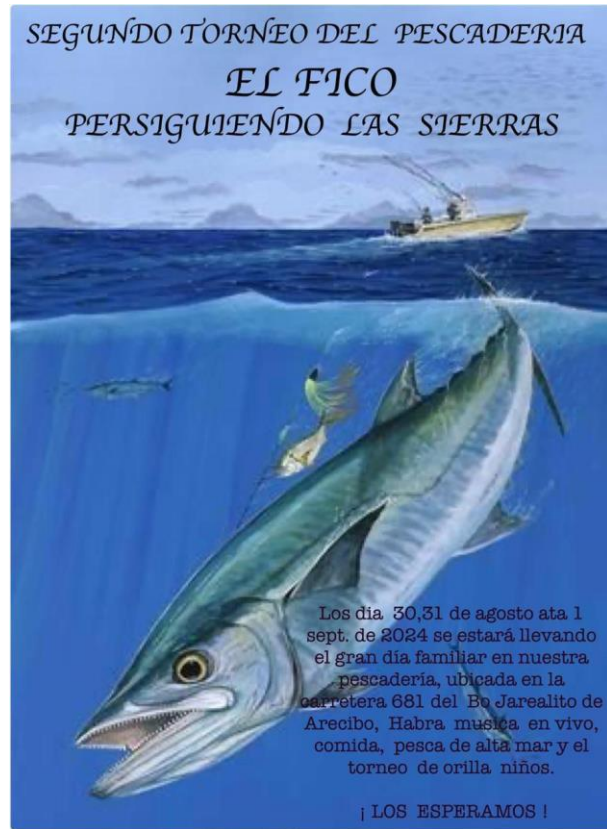
Research question:

What are the priorities of fishery stakeholders regarding fishery management?

Pilot project in Puerto Rico

37 participants, all in-person interviews

+ informal conversations with others



# Sectors

Commercial fishers: 19

Recreational fishers: 6

Charter: 7

Pescadería owners: 4

Other (yacht broker, scientist, dive shop worker, yacht club commodore, etc.): 5

Members of fish organizations (International Game Fish Association, Billfish Foundation): 2

(note: some people belong to more than one category)

# Locations

San Juan

Arecibo

Guanica/Playa  
Santa

Vieques

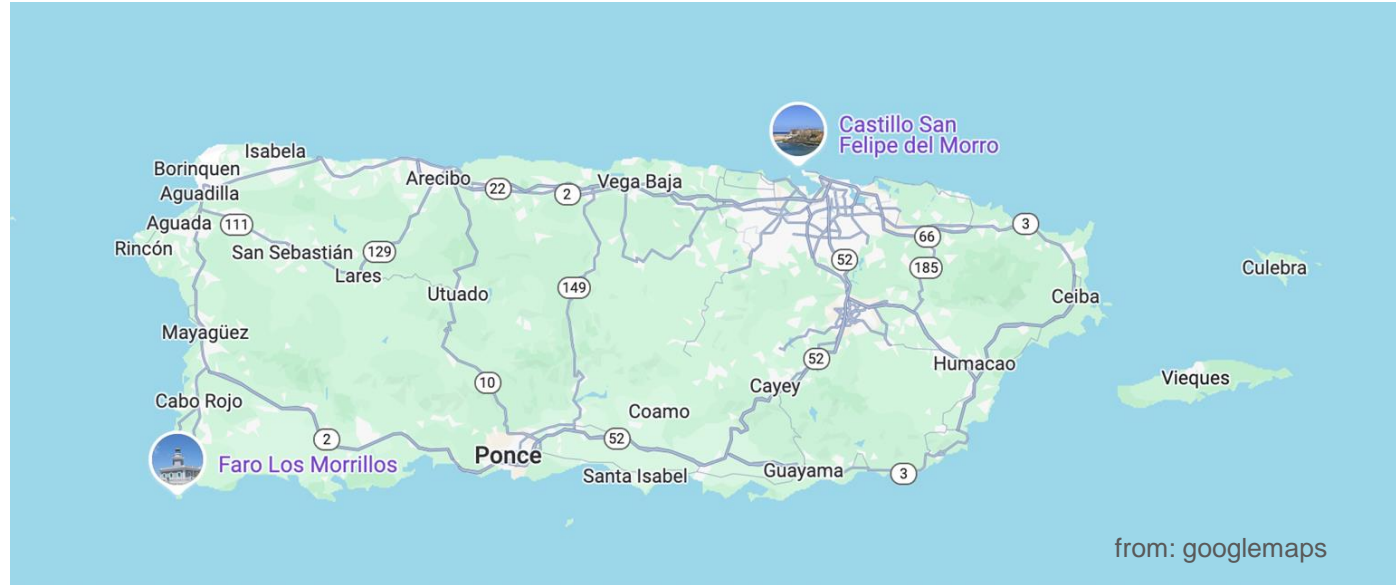
Rincon

Fajardo

Cataño

Salinas

Carolina



# Question topics

## Concerns about fisheries

- what's impacting them the most

- uncertainties for the future

## Desires for fishery management

- what has and hasn't been successful in the past

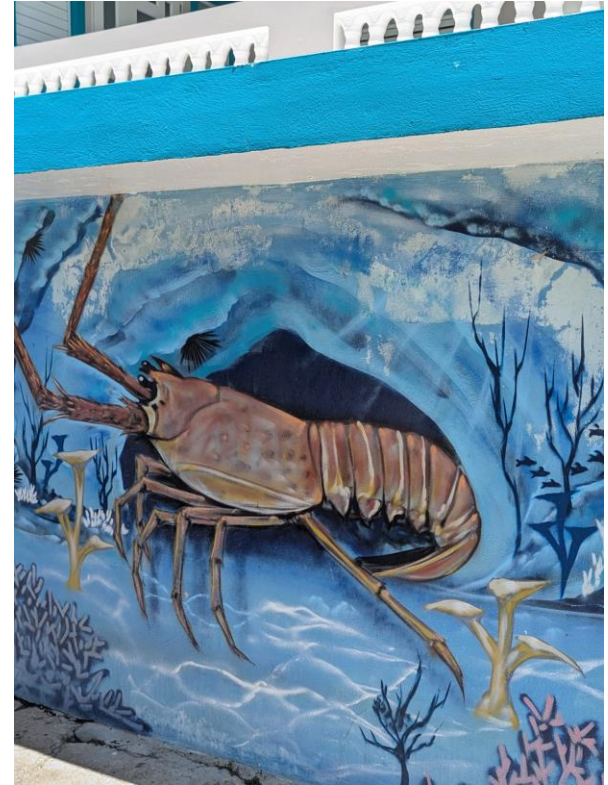
- what success would look like in the future

## Experience with fishery management organizations (CFMC, FACs, etc.)

## Changes

- in what they fish

- impact of climate change





# Preliminary findings



# Threats to fisheries

Longliners not from here (rec)

Sargassum (rec and commercial)

Pollution from rivers, dredging (commercial and rec)

Recreational fishers selling their fish, e.g., dorados (commercial)

FADS in DR (rec)

# Popular Past Management

Swordfish: catch and release (rec)

Seasonal closures, e.g., snapper (commercial and rec)

Informative workshops and meetings, e.g., HMS (commercial)



# Unpopular Past Management

Bag limit on mahi (rec)

Size limit on lobster (commercial)

Restrictions on catching bait fish (commercial)

Catch limits at tournaments (rec)

Limits on sábalo (commercial)

New restrictions without enough information (commercial)

Too many permits given e.g., queen snapper (commercial)

# What's important for fishery management?

Provide more information (commercial and rec)

Provide more enforcement (commercial and rec)

Require licenses for recreational fishers (commercial)

Host more localized information sessions/meetings (commercial and rec)

# What's important for fishery management?

Monitor commercial, not the small scale, but large ones (rec)

Learn more about the fish, such as tagging; keep detailed records about when and where fish are caught to track patterns (rec and commercial)

Try to work with other governments, like the Dominican Republic, for migratory fish, e.g., marlin (rec)

# Conclusions

Most fishers supported seasonal closures

Most commercial/charter fishers had little or no experience with organizations like the CFMC

Other sectors (e.g., dive shops) know little about fishery management

Villas/pescaderias should be the ones that provide information to people

Or yacht clubs for recreational fishers

Desire for more communication with DRNA/NOAA/CFMC

# Future research

Expanding to more sectors (e.g., more dives shops/tourism industry)

Expanding to USVI

Applying stakeholder priorities to Management Strategy Evaluation

# Thank you!

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