

COVID-19 Impact In Puerto Rico Commercial Fishers

PEPC-DRNA Interview
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OEAP meeting June 3-4 2020



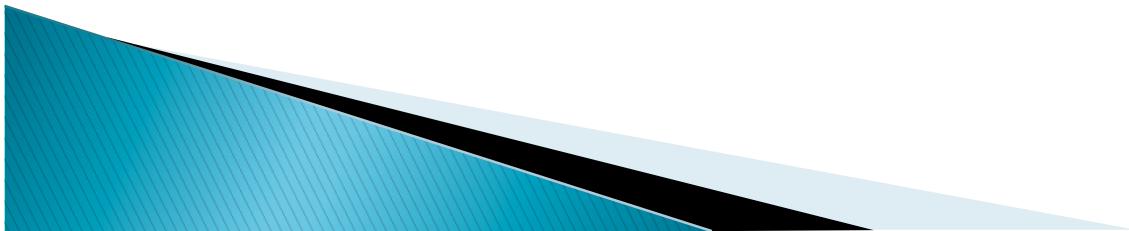
Interviews

- ▶ 19 commercial fishers
- ▶ 12 Fishing Villages
- ▶ 7 Fish houses

*Interview dates from March 15 – April 31.

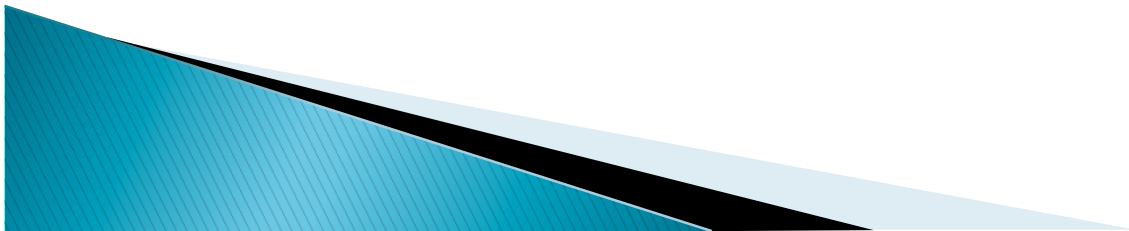
*Interviews were conducted by PEPC-DRNA port agents.

*There were no cases of COVID-19 known by any of the interviewees.



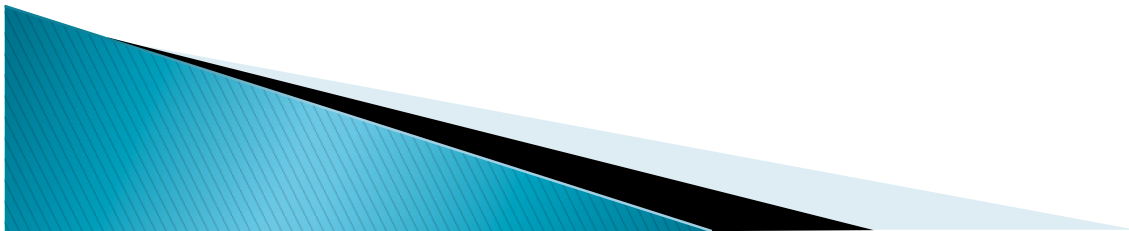
Factors that contributed to the economically loss by COVID-19 lockdown

- ▶ 100% of interviewees were affected economically
- ▶ Decrease in fish sales
- ▶ Distribution and approach problems to the clients
- ▶ Fear of clients to buy fish (They don't know the quality control protocols at the fish houses)



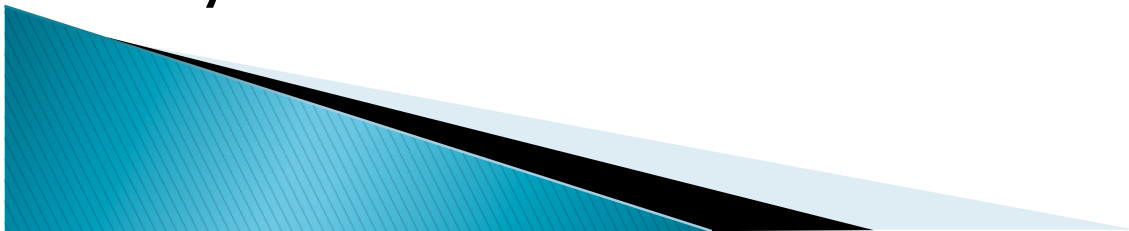
Difficulties going out

- ▶ Boat registration
- ▶ Expired Commercial Fishing License before lockdown
- ▶ Fear of Contagion (Adults)
- ▶ Bad Weather
- ▶ Miscommunications between law enforcements about the Executive Order lockdown



Changes on COVID-19 lockdown to Puerto Rico fisheries

- ▶ Fewer fishing trips at every fishing center interviewed.
- ▶ Fish houses order fishers to do fewer trips.
- ▶ The amount of catch/pound were almost the same as last year by these dates but with less fishing trips.
- ▶ Fish sale was down at the beginning of the lockdown, fish houses got good sales in the first days of holy week, not as same as other years.



Adaptation of operations at COVID-19 lockdown

- ▶ Fish houses shutdown
- ▶ Reduction in the price of the fish and seafood
- ▶ Fish houses order their fishers to do less trips
- ▶ Less fishing trips due to low demand and fear of contagion of COVID-19
- ▶ Different marketing strategies to get the attention of the clients



Marketing strategies

- ▶ Social Media (Facebook and Instagram)
- ▶ Orders by phone with delivery
- ▶ Sales around the community house by house

(like old times)

- ▶ Online App

