



EARTHQUAKES AND COVID 19 IMPACT IN FISHERIES AND RESTAURANTS IN SOME PUERTO RICAN AREAS

Jannette Ramos García
Puerto Rico Sea Grant Program



MUNICIPALITIES AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKES

Guayanilla

Peñuelas

Lajas

Guánica

Ponce

Cabo Rojo



- 4 Restaurants were closed for many weeks.
- 4 Fishermen weren't able to go fishing due to the aftershocks.
- 4 Those who were in need didn't have many restaurants who would buy their catch.
- 4 One fisherman got sick after diving during an aftershock and had to be hospitalized.

COVID 19

- 1 During the first two weeks, fishermen were not allowed to go fishing due to the lockdown. Once fishermen were allowed to go fishing again, it was Easter, and people went out to buy fish as it is a tradition during that week.
- 2 Reinventing oneself was important, so a young man from Cabo Rojo bought the fish from the fishermen and took orders by phone, used social media, and dedicated himself to delivering fresh fish to homes around the Island.
- 3 Other fishermen took notice, and this initiative spread to other parts of the Island.
- 4 Another initiative from the fishermen was to cook the fish at home and sell it as a meal with a bottle of water for a modest price, with 100% of the income going to the fisherman.

COVID 19

- We advised costumers about the different species that fishermen sold.
- We helped fishermen by calling customers on their behalf.
- The use of Facebook was crucial in giving exposure to those fishermen who were selling their catch.

Restaurants

- In Cabo Rojo two iconic restaurants closed for good due to the pandemic and the lockdown.