



Puerto Rico Fisheries Liaison Officer Report

190th Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) Regular Meeting

Wilson G. Santiago Soler | Fisheries Liaison Officer
August 11–12, 2026 • San Juan, Puerto Rico

Executive Summary & Core Initiatives

Educational Distribution

Delivered CFMC educational materials and guides to fishing communities across Puerto Rico.

Descending Device Workshops

Organized & executed 'Salvapeje' hands-on release workshops for commercial & recreational fishers.

Regulatory Assistance

Provided real-time support regarding PR state (DNER) and federal waters regulations.

Inter-Agency Support

Assisted NOAA Fisheries anthropologists with fisher interviews across north and east coasts.

Communications & Outreach

Maintained weekly WhatsApp broadcast list and hosted educational tables at major fishery events.

Committee Involvement

Actively participated in MREP Steering Committee and regional workshop planning.

Descending Device Workshops (“Salvapeje”)

COMPLETED WORKSHOPS

- Villa Pesquera La Parguera, Lajas
- Vieques Island
- Punta Santiago, Humacao
- Palo Seco Fishermen Association
- Villa Pesquera Canóvanas
- Guayama Nautical Club
- St. Thomas Fishermen’s Game Fishing Club (2 workshops)

UPCOMING WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

- Villa Pesquera La Hoare, San Juan
- Club Náutico San Juan
- Cangrejos Nautical Club

Guayama Nautical Club Kids Tournament & Educational Outreach

YOUTH & FAMILY OUTREACH

- Engaged young anglers and families at the Guayama Nautical Club Kids Tournament.
- Promoted sustainable recreational fishing practices and conservation ethics early.
- Integrated descending device awareness into recreational youth activities.

CFMC EDUCATIONAL TABLE

- Distributed specialized outreach publications from the CFMC
- Provided fishery management information and ecosystem guides to attendees.
- Displayed actual descending device samples.

Stakeholder Feedback: Interests & Concerns

CFMC Governance & Advisory Processes

Strong stakeholder interest in District Advisory Panels (DAP), Outreach & Education Advisory Panel (OEAP), Scientific & Statistical Committee (SSC), and CFMC decision-making procedures.

Puerto Rico State Fishing Regulations

High volume of inquiries regarding state fishing rules, commercial licensing processes, and state permits (attended in coordination with PEPCO).

Federal Marine Regulations

Ongoing questions regarding federal waters management measures, species-specific rules (e.g., Wahoo, Mahi-Mahi), and Descending Device mandates.

Strategic Action Items & Next Steps

1. Expand Workshops to North Area

Roll out 'Salvapeje' Descending Device workshops across northern fishing communities.

2. Collaborate with DAP Chair

Work closely with DAP Chair Nelson Crespo to develop a structured workshop series as presented to Council.

3. PEPCO Program Continuation

Maintain momentum and active presence in support of the PEPCO program.

4. MREP Caribbean Workshop Support

Continue supporting planning and recruitment for the upcoming MREP workshop cycle.

5. Informational Table Outreach

Participate with CFMC educational booths upon invitation across island fishery events.

THANK YOU / QUESTIONS?

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