

OEAP REPORT & STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

190TH CFMC HYBRID PUBLIC MEETING
AUGUST 11-12, 2026

MARRIOTT ISLA VERDE BEACH RESORT
CAROLINA, PUERTO RICO



JANNETTE RAMOS GARCÍA
OUTREACH AND EDUCATION
ADVISORY PANEL CHAIR



OEAP PANEL WORKING SESSION OVERVIEW

THE OUTREACH AND
EDUCATION ADVISORY
PANEL (OEAP) CONVENED
ITS REGULAR WORKING
SESSION ON JULY 24, 2026,
BRINGING TOGETHER
MEMBERS AND
COLLABORATORS BOTH IN-
PERSON AND VIRTUALLY.



TO EVALUATE AND
PRIORITIZE CRITICAL
FISHER CONCERNS,
REGULATORY ALIGNMENT
NEEDS, NEW COMMUNITY
EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES,
AND DIGITAL OUTREACH
TOOLS ACROSS PUERTO
RICO AND THE USVI.

INCIDENTAL CATCH AND RETENTION OF PROTECTED NASSAU GROUPER CHALLENGES WITH UNPERMITTED CHARTERS, COMMERCIAL FISHERS, AND MARKET DISTRIBUTION



01

**GROWING ALARM AMONG
COMMERCIAL FISHERS REGARDING
UNAUTHORIZED CHARTER BOAT
OPERATORS CONDUCTING ILLEGAL
FISHING ACTIVITIES.**

02

**DETECTION OF UNPERMITTED CHARTERS
TAKING TOURISTS ON FISHING TRIPS
TAKING NASSAU GROUPER A CRITICALLY
PROTECTED SPECIES UNDER STRICT
CLOSURE.**

03

**URGENT NEED TO STEP UP ENFORCEMENT,
INCREASE SURVEILLANCE, AND IMPLEMENT
TARGETED EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AIMED
AT RECREATIONAL CHARTER OPERATORS.**

INCIDENTAL CATCH AND RETENTION OF PROTECTED NASSAU GROUPER

CHALLENGES WITH UNPERMITTED CHARTERS, COMMERCIAL FISHERS, AND MARKET DISTRIBUTION

- Initiated steps with the Tourism Department to use their island-wide screens to educate on Nassau grouper fishing and combat illegal charters.



DESCENDING DEVICE LEGAL DISPARITY

URGENT REGULATORY HARMONIZATION

1

A significant discrepancy exists: descending devices are mandatory in federal waters, but are currently not required in state waters.

2

This gap creates confusion among fishers and hampers conservation efforts. Legal alignment is essential to ensure deep-water fish survival affected by barotrauma.





CFMC STRUCTURE & MODERN BOOKLET

1

IDENTIFIED KNOWLEDGE GAP

Many fishers and regional stakeholders lack clarity on how the CFMC functions, its legal scope, jurisdiction, and decision-making processes.

2

SOLUTION: MODERN INFORMATIONAL BOOKLET

Development of an engaging print and digital booklet breaking down CFMC organizational structure, public engagement channels, and its partnership with NOAA Fisheries.



DEEP-WATER LIONFISH MIGRATION

DEEP MIGRATION & LACK OF DATA

Commercial fishers consistently report invasive lionfish populations migrating into deeper marine zones.

There is a critical lack of scientific data on how deep-water lionfish impact the habitat, recruitment, and survival of deep-water snapper species.

Formally recommending a targeted scientific study to assess ecological and economic impacts on deep-water fisheries.



REVAMPING THE EAT LIONFISH FESTIVAL



**STRATEGIC RELOCATION TO
MAYAGÜEZ CITY**

**TARGETING COASTAL SECTORS WITH
KNOWN HIGH LIONFISH DENSITY TO
PROMOTE TARGETED REMOVAL AND
CONSUMPTION.**

WOMEN AS KEY FIGURES

**REFRAMING THE FESTIVAL TO FEATURE WOMEN AS
CENTRAL LEADERS ACROSS ALL COMPONENTS:
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, MARINE GASTRONOMY,
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, CULTURE, AND EVENT
HOSTING.**

DIGITAL NAVIGATION & REGULATORY TOOLS

Standardization & Outreach

- **GPS Chart Boundaries:** Standardizing regulatory boundaries directly into commercial GPS charts via NOAA API integration.
- **Communication Challenge:** Overcoming the challenge of translating complex fishery regulations into intuitive digital visuals.
- **Fish Rules App:** Active promotion of Fish Rules App as a primary tool for instant regulatory checks.



INTERAGENCY AGRICULTURE ALLIANCE

HIGH PRIORITY NEED TO DELIVER EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS TO FARMERS, AGRONOMISTS, STUDENTS, AND THE BROADER AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY, ON SUSTAINABLE LAND PRACTICES AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT.

DIRECT ACTION TAKEN: INITIATED DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PUERTORICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND HELD FRUITFUL MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY'S ASSISTANT.

FAVORABLE RESPONSE: THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE REVIEWED THE PROPOSAL AND EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT TO FINALIZE THE ALLIANCE..

+123-456-7890



**MARINE ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION BEGINS ON
LAND.**

**BY PARTNERING WITH FARMERS,
AGRONOMISTS, STUDENTS, AND THE
BROADER AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY, THE
CFMC CAN ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF
MARINE HABITAT DEGRADATION, SUCH AS
AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF FOSTERING A 'RIDGE-
TO-REEF' MANAGEMENT APPROACH THAT
PROTECTS PUERTO RICO'S FISHERIES,
COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS, AND
AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY
SIMULTANEOUSLY.**



IRA PROJECT: EXTREME EVENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN



Bienvenidos y
Bienvenidas

Taller Eventos
Extremos

Biblioteca Escolar

Aquí

Hoja de Asistencia
Taller: Eventos extremos Fecha: 4 de octubre de 2025 Lugar: Escuela Francisco Oller - Cataño

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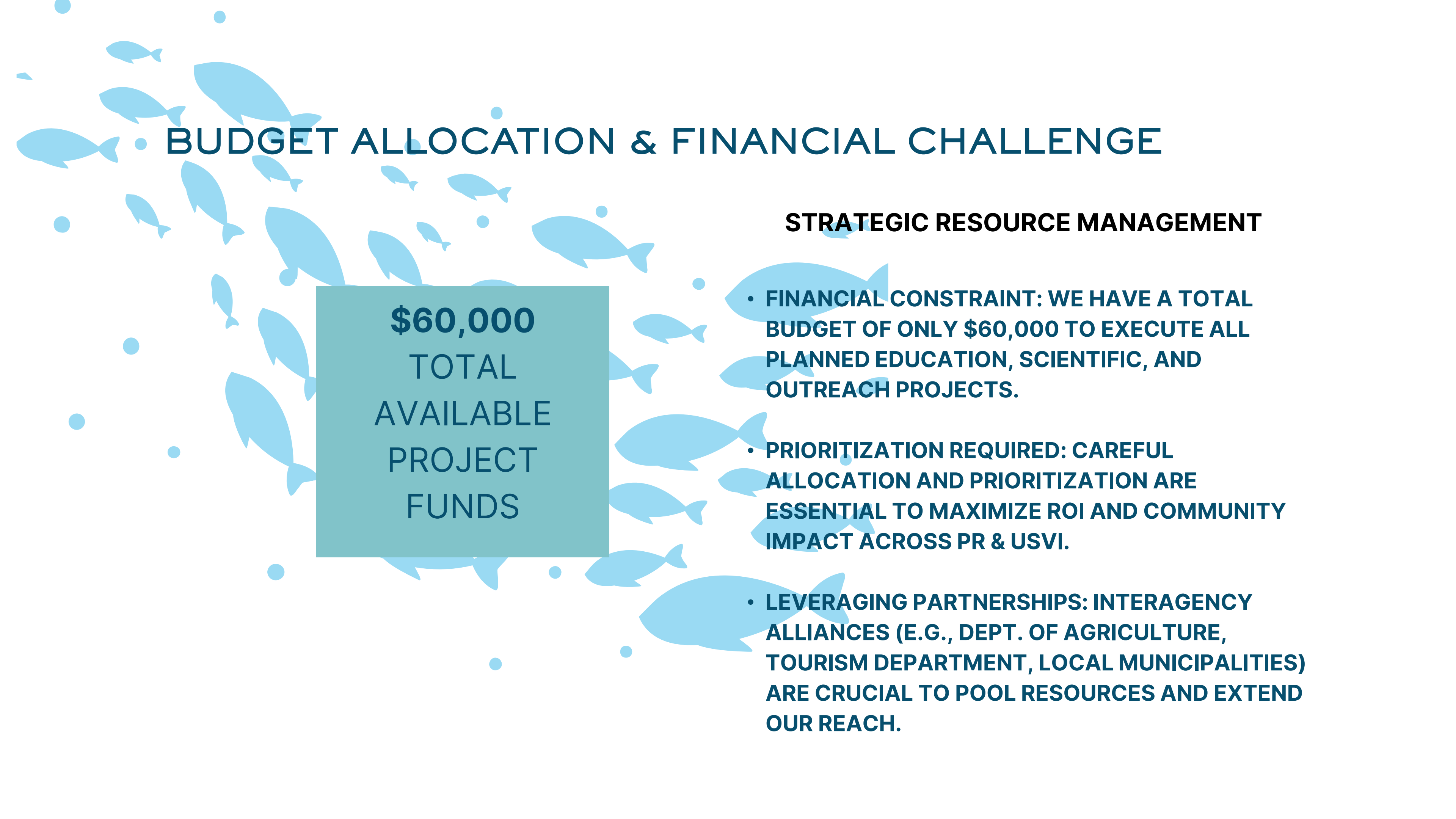
PROACTIVE & GRASSROOTS OUTREACH

**ONGOING PROJECTS: CONTINUOUS
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF
ANNUAL CFMC CALENDARS AND
EDUCATIONAL DECAL STICKERS.**

**GRASSROOTS ENGAGEMENT:
EXPANDING BEYOND FISHER-ONLY
MEETINGS TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE YOUTH
AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN MARINE
STEWARDSHIP.**

**NON-TRADITIONAL VENUES:
INCREASING CFMC PRESENCE AT
AGRICULTURAL FAIRS, COMMUNITY
FESTIVALS, AND PUBLIC EVENTS.**





BUDGET ALLOCATION & FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

\$60,000
TOTAL
AVAILABLE
PROJECT
FUNDS

STRATEGIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- **FINANCIAL CONSTRAINT:** WE HAVE A TOTAL BUDGET OF ONLY \$60,000 TO EXECUTE ALL PLANNED EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC, AND OUTREACH PROJECTS.
- **PRIORITIZATION REQUIRED:** CAREFUL ALLOCATION AND PRIORITIZATION ARE ESSENTIAL TO MAXIMIZE ROI AND COMMUNITY IMPACT ACROSS PR & USVI.
- **LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS:** INTERAGENCY ALLIANCES (E.G., DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, TOURISM DEPARTMENT, LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES) ARE CRUCIAL TO POOL RESOURCES AND EXTEND OUR REACH.

THANK YOU!





QUESTIONS & COMMENTS?