



Puerto Rico DNER Rangers Corp, Enforcement Report

December 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026

Cases described in detail

Law 21 "Law to Punish Anyone Who Throws Waste in Public or Private Places" (29 cases).

- Debris was deposited in the coastal area. Administrative Offenses.

Law 147 "Law for the Protection, Conservation and Management of Coral Reefs in Puerto Rico" (no cases reported).

- Coral breakage.

Law 278 "Puerto Rico Fisheries Law" (23 cases).

- Violations Related to: Pollution and Habitat Protection, Licenses and Permits, Closed Seasons and Protected Species, Minimum Sizes, Fishing Gear and Methods, Releasing non-native species, Failure to report incidental capture of grouper species, Obstructing and Interfering with inspections conducted by authorized personnel.

Law 430 "Puerto Rico Water Navigation and Safety Act" (1032 cases).

- Engaging in activities in the maritime zone without proper permits. Tying a boat to mangroves. Minor without a lifeguard. Towing without observing safety rules. Exceeding passenger capacity on a vessel. Diving with an unidentifiable flag. Operating a vessel without safety equipment. Navigating without the required license. Negligent navigation. Navigating without a defined course. Failure to renew annual rights/permits. Lacking required safety equipment.

Investigations were conducted into sightings of injured and entangled sea turtles and manatees at various points on the island due to negligent navigation.

Regulation 4860 "Regulation for the conservation of territorial waters and the maritime-terrestrial zone (MTZ) " (113 cases).

- Activity without MTZ permission.
- New use without MTZ permission.
- Illegal construction in MTZ.
- Illegal sand extraction in MTZ.

Regulation 7949 "Regulation on Fisheries" (172 cases).

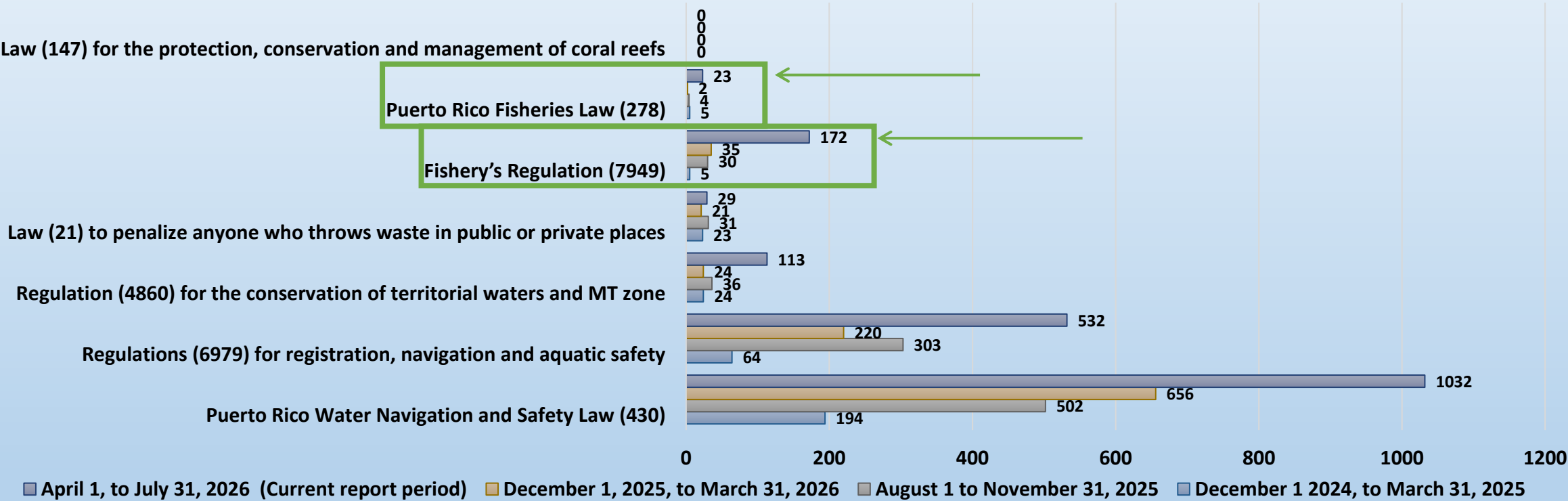
- Using a spear gun and tank without a commercial license.
- Violating the closed season.
- Caribbean Spiny Lobster below the legal minimum size.
- Queen Conch below the legal minimum size.
- Fishing in prohibited areas.
- Exceeding the allowed number of cartridges.
- Intervention related to conch harvesting.

Regulation 6979 "Regulations for Registration, Navigation and Aquatic Safety in Puerto Rico" (532 cases).

- Operating a personal watercraft after sunset.
- Navigating without a registration certificate.
- Navigating without a registration number displayed on the vessel.
- Consuming alcohol while operating the vessel.
- Personal watercraft operation after sunset.
- Anchoring in a natural reserve.



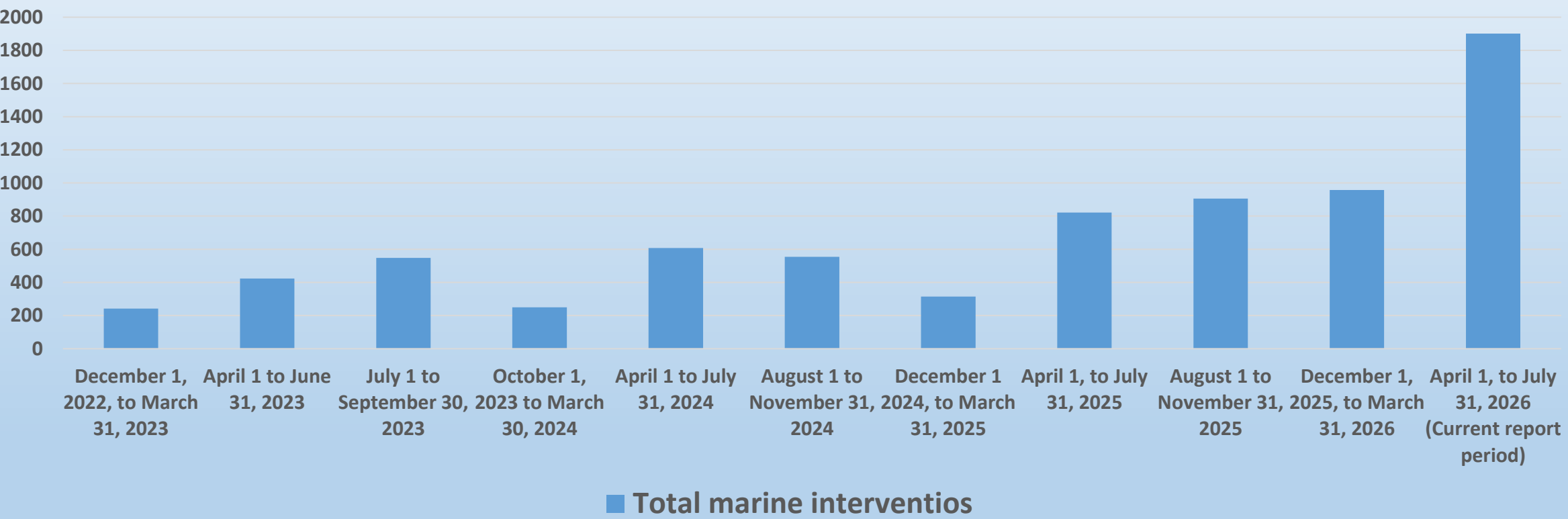
Cases submitted by DNER's Ranger Corp



The DNER Ranger Corps continues to provide security, protection, and surveillance of the Natural Resources of Puerto Rico in the coastal zone and in the open sea. Maritime and land preventive patrols are carried out in areas of clandestine dumps, sand extraction and damaged coastal mangroves in coastal areas of the Island. We guide the public and inspect recreational and commercial vessels that land on our shores. Recreational fishing tournaments that comply with nautical safety regulations are visited; assistance and cooperation is also provided to other state and federal agencies with the arrest of illegals on the coast.



Cases submitted by DNER's Ranger Corp



Highway Intervention: Seizure of Large Quantity of Undersized Lobsters

On April 9, 2026, maritime agents intercepted a vehicle on the highway transporting a large volume of undersized lobsters. The illegal catch was measured using official gauges and confiscated for regulatory size violations.





April 28 Enforcement: Seizures of Undersized Mackerel and Prohibited Shark

On April 28, 2026, maritime agents executed two (2) major interventions. In Loíza, a \$900 fine was issued for illegal bartering and possession of undersized mackerel. In San Juan, agents seized a regulated juvenile shark alongside multiple sub-legal mackerel from a cooler.





Violation of Regulation 7949 (Art. 18.20): Juvenile Hammerhead Seizure

On June 2, an intervention was executed for violating Article 18.20 of Regulation 7949. Agents confiscated a juvenile hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), a prohibited or strictly regulated species under current size and fishing laws.

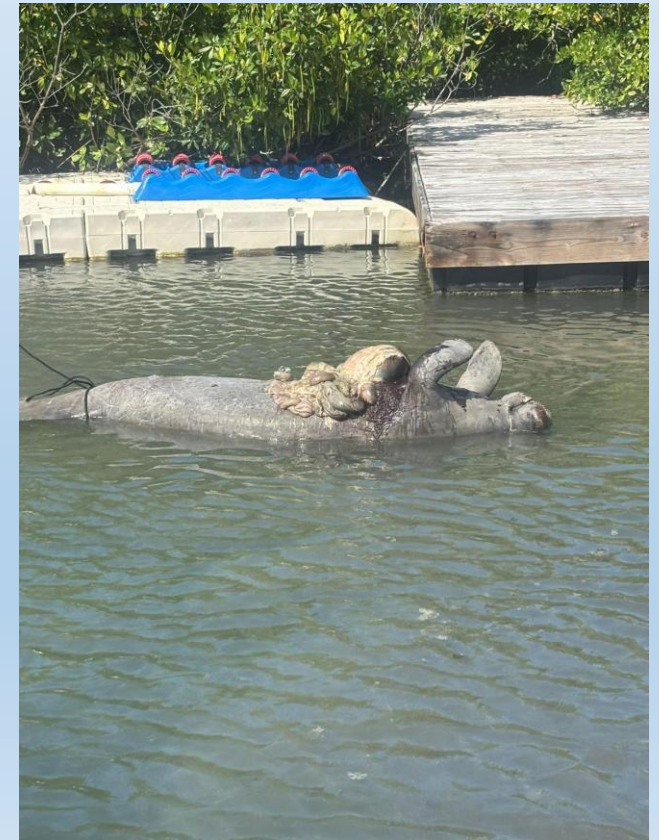




Dead Manatee Report & Necropsy: Salinas, June 4

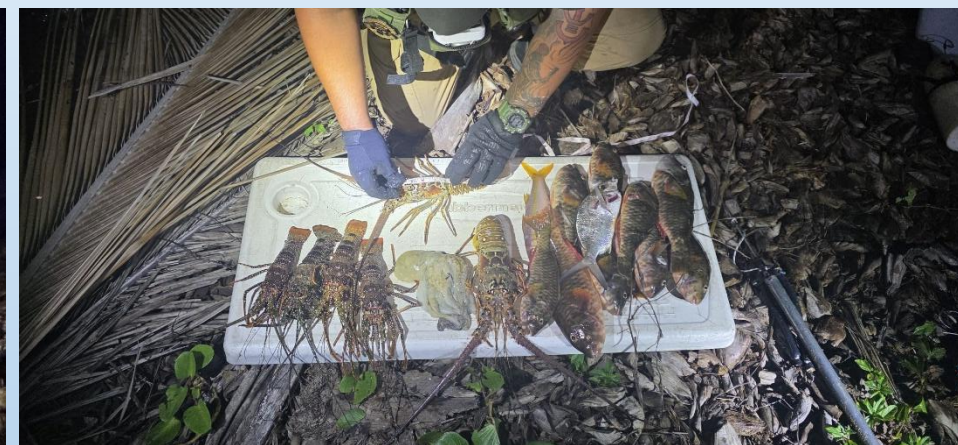


On June 4 at 12:15 p.m., a dead manatee was reported at Las Mareas, Salinas. The carcass was taken to JBNERR for a necropsy.



Illegal Spearfishing Catch Seizure: Lobsters and Reef Fish

The intervention resulted in the seizure of multiple undersized lobsters being measured by agents, along with various reef fish illegally harvested through night spearfishing.





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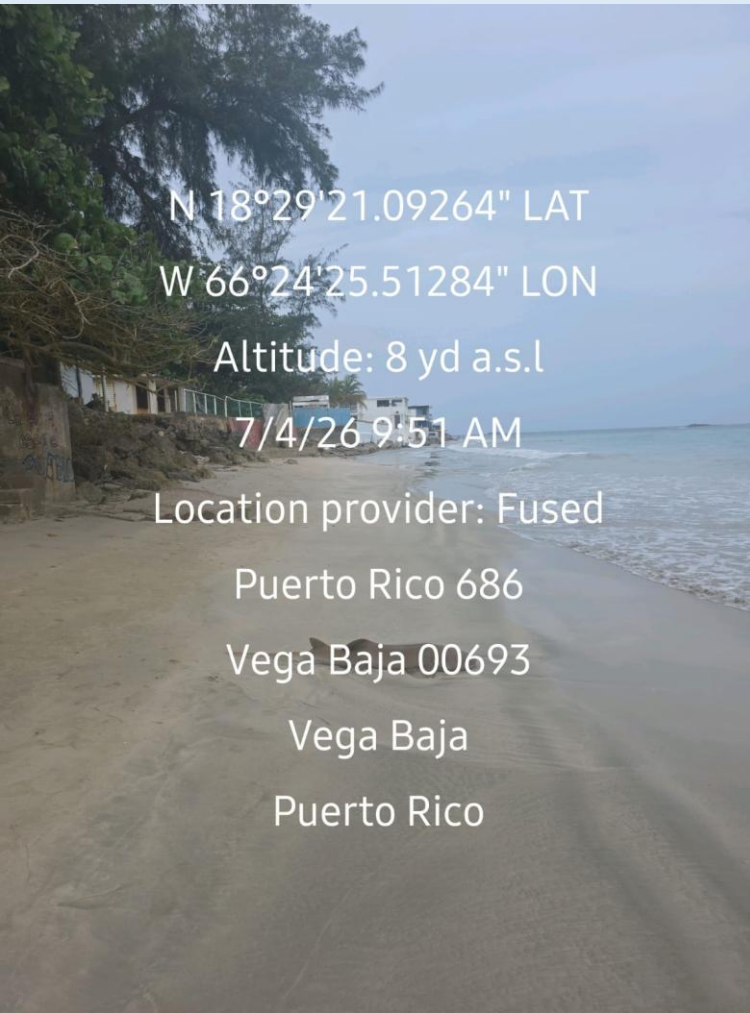
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López-Ortiz R., N. Cruz-Santiago, E. Rodríguez-Ruiz, and Y. Pérez-Román. PR DNER Rangers Corp Enforcement Report (April 1 to July 31, 2026), presented to the Caribbean Fishery Management Council 190th public hybrid meeting, in August 11-12, 2026, at the Courtyard by Marriott Isla Verde Beach Resort, Carolina, PR.



Nurse Shark (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) in Vega Baja

A juvenile female nurse shark placed ashore with apparently non-lethal, superficial cranial lacerations compatible with fishing tools or human interaction (stabbing). The exact cause of death remains undetermined.



N 18°29'21.09264" LAT

W 66°24'25.51284" LON

Altitude: 8 yd a.s.l

7/4/26 9:51 AM

Location provider: Fused

Puerto Rico 686

Vega Baja 00693

Vega Baja

Puerto Rico





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Piñones Maritime Intervention: Crabs Closed Season Violation

Piñones Maritime Unit Agents Figueroa and Medina cited an individual for violating Regulation 7949. The suspect illegally captured seven egg-bearing female land crabs during the closed season (July 15 to October 15).



Boat Sinking and Rescue Operation: Salinas to Caja de Muerto



Five people, including a child, were rescued near Salinas after their boat sank en route to Caja de Muerto. DRNA Rangers, FURA, and the Coast Guard secured the passengers, who received medical care.

Questions?

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