

Privacy Act Statement

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Date of expiration: XX/XX/20XX

Authority: The collection of this information is authorized under the Coral Reef Conservation Act (P.L. 106-562).

Purpose: Stakeholder use information, as related to frequency and areas of use, views on area conditions, and perceptions concerning congestion are needed to determine limits of acceptable change (LAC) in Puerto Rico's Northeastern Marine Corridor (Northeast Reserves and Culebra Island), which can be used to strengthen conservation of the area's coral reef and related ecosystems.

NOAA Routine Uses: NOAA will use this information to gather information from main stakeholders in the Northeast Marine Corridor of Puerto Rico. Disclosure of this information is permitted under the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. Section 552a) to be shared among NOAA staff for work-related purposes. Disclosure of this information is also subject to all of the published routine uses as identified in the Privacy Act System of Records Notices [COMMERCE/NOAA-6](#), Fishermen's Statistical Data and [COMMERCE/NOAA-11](#), Contact Information for Members of the Public Requesting or Providing Information Related to NOAA's Mission.

Disclosure: Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to participate in the survey will result in less information to support the conservation and management goals of the Coral Reef Conservation Program.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes/hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to **(CHRISTOPHER JEFFREY)**, NOAA NOS, **(1305 East West Highway, Rm #9213, N/SCI-1, Silver Spring, MD 20910 USA)**.

Everything we discuss will be protected. When we complete our interviews and other work, we will write a report that summarizes everything we have learned. We will not use people's names in our reports, or write about anything that is sensitive.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Commercial fishing operator survey

Survey number _____ Date _____

Name of operation _____

Name of person interviewed _____

Position of person in operation _____

Address _____

Tel _____

Email of operation _____

1. What is the principal port of the operation? Please identify the port/marina and city, where applicable.

2. Does the operation have a secondary port? YES NO
a. If YES, what is the secondary port?

b. If YES, then how many months/year does the operation use this port? _____ months
c. If YES, then which areas are targeted when using the secondary port? _____
3. How many years has the operation been in existence? _____ yrs
4. How many years have you worked with this operation? _____ yrs
5. How many years have you worked in this profession? _____ yrs
6. Which of the following includes your age?

7. What percentage of your household income is derived from commercial fishing? _____ %
8. What percentage of what you catch is consumed at home?
_____ %
9. Who else in your family fishes with you in your operation or vessel? _____
10. How do you pay your crew members?
 - a. Shares (types of shares) _____ %
 - b. Fixed pay (per trip/day) \$ _____
11. Vessel characteristics
 - a. Number of vessels _____
 - b. Length of vessels _____ ft _____ ft
 - c. Vessel hull type _____
 - d. Number of engines _____ hp _____
 - e. Replacement actual value of vessels \$ _____
 - f. Replacement actual value of engines \$ _____
 - g. Replacement actual value of electronic equipment \$ _____
 - h. Replacement actual value of safety equipment \$ _____
12. Fishery equipment (number and replacement actual cost)
 - a. Fish traps _____; \$ _____
 - b. Lobster traps _____; \$ _____
 - c. Nets _____; \$ _____
 - d. Vertical longline (cala/fuete) _____; \$ _____
 - e. Handlines _____; \$ _____
 - f. Dive gear and spearguns; \$ _____

13. Gear maintenance (annual)

- a. Vessels and engines \$ _____
- b. Fishing gear \$ _____
- c. Other costs \$ _____

14. What are your main fishing gears?

- a. Gear 1 _____
- b. Gear 2 _____
- c. Gear 3 _____

15. Please provide your best estimate for the trips to fishing areas, trip costs, and catches/landings for last year (2018). Also, please refer to the following map for the zones (areas) to provide percentages of trips taken to each area per year.

Area 1 - Aguadilla to Rio Grande

Area 2 - Rio Grande to the northeast, north of Fajardo to Culebra

Area 3 - Rio Grande to the east, including all shallow platform/shelf waters east and south of Culebra

Area 4 - south of Fajardo to Maunabo, including Vieques and other points east

Area 5 - Manuabo to the west to Ponce

Area 6 - Ponce to the west to Cabo Rojo

Area 7 - Cabo Rojo to the north to Aguadilla



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In the table below, please identify the **total number of trips** you took in 2018. If you took trips in which you used more than one gear type, please list those separately from trips that you took using only one gear or another combination of gear types. Also, please list the top three species you caught with each gear type.

Table 1

Gear 1	Gear 2	Gear 3	Total trips (2018)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gear:	Gear:	Gear:								
Species: 1. 2. 3.	Species: 1. 2. 3.	Species: 1. 2. 3.								
Gear:	Gear:	Gear:								
Species: 1. 2. 3.	Species: 1. 2. 3.	Species: 1. 2. 3.								
Gear:	Gear:	Gear:								
Species: 1. 2. 3.	Species: 1. 2. 3.	Species: 1. 2. 3.								

In the table below, please list your **typical trip costs**. If you took trips in which you used more than one gear type, please list those separately from trips that you took using only one gear or another combination of gear types.

Table 2

Gear 1	Gear 2	Gear 3	Fuel and oil	Ice	Bait	Food and supplies	Air for tanks	Crew
Gear:	Gear:	Gear:						
Gear:	Gear:	Gear:						
Gear:	Gear:	Gear:						

In the table below, please list up to the **top five species** you harvested in 2018, including the total pounds for each species.

Table 3

Species	Total pounds (2018)
Species 1:	
Species 2:	
Species 3:	
Species 4:	
Species 5:	

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16. How do you decide whether and where to take a fishing trip?
Please rank the following factors from 1-5, where 1 is the most important and 5 is the least important factor.

Factor	Rank (1-5)
a. Weather	_____
b. Fuel price	_____
c. Species market price	_____
d. Crowding in an area	_____
e. Preferred habitat/area	_____

17. Number of vessels in the fishing area

a. What is the maximum number of vessels that you can tolerate around your vessel in your fishing area before you change your fishing location?

Number of vessels _____

b. What is the average/usual number of vessels that fish around your vessel in your fishing area?

Number of vessels _____

18. Please rate the following in terms of how crowding affects your fishing activities, where 1 is least effect and 5 is most effect.

a. Lower catch	1	2	3	4	5
b. Lower catch rates	1	2	3	4	5
c. Use conflicts	1	2	3	4	5
d. Lack of space/hazards	1	2	3	4	5
e. Habitat damage	1	2	3	4	5

19. What is the optimal number of vessels that should operate around you in your fishing area? _____ number of vessels

20. Please rate the following types of users/vessels that may affect your fishing activities, where 1 is the least impact and 5 is the most impact.

a. Recreational fishers	1	2	3	4	5
b. Commercial fishers	1	2	3	4	5
c. Recreational divers	1	2	3	4	5
d. Commercial divers	1	2	3	4	5
e. Large party boats/cats	1	2	3	4	5
f. Charter boats (6-pack)	1	2	3	4	5
g. Private vessels	1	2	3	4	5

21. Please rate the condition of the following coastal and marine resources, where 1 is excellent and 5 is poor.

a. Fish and fisheries	1	2	3	4	5
b. Lobster	1	2	3	4	5
c. Conch	1	2	3	4	5
d. Coral reefs	1	2	3	4	5
e. Sea grasses	1	2	3	4	5
f. Mangroves	1	2	3	4	5
g. Other rocky bottom	1	2	3	4	5
h. Water quality	1	2	3	4	5

22. Please rate the trends in the following coastal and marine resources compared to how these were when you first started fishing in the area, where 1 is much better and 5 is much worse.

a. Fish and fisheries	1	2	3	4	5
b. Lobster	1	2	3	4	5
c. Conch	1	2	3	4	5
d. Coral reefs	1	2	3	4	5
e. Sea grasses	1	2	3	4	5
f. Mangroves	1	2	3	4	5
g. Other rocky bottom	1	2	3	4	5
h. Water quality	1	2	3	4	5

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23. Which coastal and marine resources have most declined the most in your area of use and why? What are the reasons for the decline?

24. In terms of use total, please state whether the following users/vessels should be decreased, remain the same, or be increased in the areas where you fish.

GROUP	Decrease	Sam e	Increase	Desired % change
Commercial fishers				
Recreational fishers				
Private boaters				
Large party boats/cats				
Charter boats				
Commercial divers				
Recreational divers				
Water taxis				

25. What coastal or marine resources would you identify as indicators that can be tracked such that if changes were to occur to these indicators, changes in management should take place?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

26. What type of management measures would you prefer to address ongoing resource impacts or to maintain present conditions? Please rate the measures on a scale from 1-5, where 1 is least preferred, and 5 is most preferred.

- a. No use areas 1 2 3 4 5
- b. No take areas 1 2 3 4 5
- c. Zoned areas, by use 1 2 3 4 5
- d. Education and awareness 1 2 3 4 5
- e. Enforcement 1 2 3 4 5
- f. Limits on total vessel use 1 2 3 4 5
- g. Fishing quotas 1 2 3 4 5

27. Please use the following map to identify the following:

- a. Current areas of use, by species
- b. Historical areas of use, by species
- c. Areas of high use, congestion
- d. Areas of conflict with other fishers and stakeholder groups

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