“Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations of the Puerto Rican Shelf”

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&

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Objectives

• This study will identify and document fish spawning aggregations in Puerto Rico, with the collaboration and participation of local fishermen.

• Visit as many potential sites as possible to confirm the presence and condition of spawning aggregations.
Methods


• Reef Fish Spawning Aggregation Monitoring Protocol for the Wider Caribbean. (Will Heyman et al., 2002)
Work Done:
* Bibliography revision (continuing).
* SPAG-Interview tool.
* Interview sampling design.
* Graduate student (Taina Rivera) DMC-diving course certification.

Working on:
* Testing interview tool.
* Printing detailed maps by zones. (for interviews)
* Fishers selection by zones.
* SPAG-species identification charts.
  - commercial
  - non commercial
12 artificial fishers interview zones and fishing areas

- Quebradillas
- Río Grande de Manatí
- Río La Plata Dorado
- Río Grande de Loiza
- Culebra
- Punta Puerca
- Vieques
- Guayanés
- Faro de Cabo Rojo
- Punta Cucharas
- Guayama
- Río Añasco
- Rio Grande de Loiza
- Río La Plata
- Dorado
- Guayanés
Commercial fishing Catch trends 1996-2002

*Epinephelus striatus*

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Catch trends of Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) in Puerto Rico

Prepared by Alfonso Aguilar, Ph.D

Sea Grant Seed project granted to Alfonso Aguilar, Ph.D. and Edgardo Ojeda, Ph.D.
Commercial fishing Catch trends 1996-2002
*Epinephelus guttatus*

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Commercial fishing Catch trends 1996-2002

*Lutjanus synagris*

Catch trends of Lane Snapper (*Lutjanus synagris*) in Puerto Rico

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Commercial fishing Catch trends 1996-2002

*Ocyurus chrysurus*

Catch trends of Yellowtail Snapper (*Ocyurus chrysurus*) in Puerto Rico

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Commercial fishing Catch trends 1996-2002

*Lutjanus analis*

Catch trends of Mutton snapper (*Lutjanus analis*) in Puerto Rico

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Hydro-acoustic Survey of Puerto Rico 2002-2003

Jonhston et al., (in press, Fisheries Bulletin)
Southwest (Zone 2 - depth detailed map)
Thanks