Key Informant Interview 3

Date: 7/20/2016

Occupation/Affiliation: Government

Years of Experience in Occupation/Field: 15

Community/Area/Location: Cabo Rojo

Speaker 1. Describe your involvement with Puerto Rican fisheries.

Speaker 2. My primary work consists of data collection for the Puerto Rico Recreational Marine Fisheries Program. This consists in data collection and analysis from interviews done to recreational fishermen in all fishing modes (shore, charter, private) and in marine recreational fishing tournaments.

Speaker 1. In general, how would you rate Puerto Rico coastal communities’ dependency on fisheries for their livelihood?

Speaker 2. Somewhat Dependent

Speaker 1. Describe (e.g. In what ways? Why do you think that is?).

Speaker 2. Few depend on it as a food source; some depend on it regularly (commercial Fishermen). I consider the dependency as “somewhat dependent” because they often find other ways to obtain their livelihood.

Speaker 1. In general, how would you rate Puerto Rico coastal communities’ dependency on coral reefs for their livelihood?

Speaker 2. Somewhat Dependent

Speaker 1. Describe (e.g. in what ways? Why do you think that is?).

Speaker 2. Maybe those that have diving schools in their areas or use their coral as a way to attract tourists.

Speaker 1. What would you say is (are) the major problem(s) facing fishing communities in Puerto Rico? (If more than one please rank them in order of importance).

Speaker 2. Lack of education on the resources, Pollution, Disregard towards regulations- Lack of compliance

Speaker 1. Have you observed any changes to the fishery, environment, or other natural resources in Puerto Rico that you think can be attributed to climate change? Describe.

Speaker 2. Algal blooms, coastal erosion

Speaker 1. In your opinion, are Puerto Rican fishers concerned about climate change? Why or why not?

Speaker 2. Not at all, only those affected directly are concerned. They do not see the effect this has on their livelihood.

Speaker 1. In your opinion, are Puerto Rico fishery manager/decision-makers/researchers concerned about climate change? Why or why not?

Speaker 2. Yes, the Agency [DNER] has made efforts to ensure the Island gets educated on these issues and starts understanding these changes and how they will affect our communities.

Speaker 1. Do you think people in this community can work together to solve community problems? Why or why not?

Speaker 2. Yes, they could.

Speaker 1. Do you think fishers could work together to solve problems in the fishery? Why or why not?

Speaker 2. Yes, they know their necessities and have the knowledge on their ecosystems.

Speaker 1. Can you think of any examples of this kind of community action occurring now in Puerto Rican fisheries? Describe.

Speaker 2. Fishermen of Rincon and Cabo Rojo - took part in meetings and expressed their concerns when regulations were changing. There was a Marine Education Course given to fishermen to address these issues and participants came from different areas to expose their problems and learn about management measures.

Speaker 1. Do you think the government and fishers could work together to solve problems in the fishery? Why or why not?

Speaker 2. Yes they could

Speaker 1. Can you think of any examples of this kind of participatory action occurring now in Puerto Rican fisheries? Describe.

Speaker 2. The “Junta de Pesca” This is a working group of different stakeholders (commercial, recreational, charter, scientists) that Represent different sectors dealing with issues regarding marine resources. They have votes in regards of current fishing regulations.

Speaker 1. Do you feel that fishery management in Puerto Rico is fair in the decisions they make? Why or why not? Be specific.

Speaker 2. Yes, we are trying to protect the ecosystem for all parties involved.

Speaker 1. Do you think most fishers understand how managers make decisions? Why or why not?

Speaker 2. Some understand it because they have taken part in workshops etc. Some are closed to learning how decisions are made.

Speaker 1. In general how would you describe the relationship between fishers and fishery managers/decision-makers?

1. A bit complicated

Speaker 1. If they exist, how are conflicts between fishers and between fishers and managers/decision-makers resolved?

Speaker 2. Through dialogue and having each side expose their views on the issue.