Key Informant Interview 7 (translated from Spanish)

Date: 8/29/2016

Stakeholder Group: Government

Years of Experience in Occupation/Field: 28 years

Community/Area/Location: Mayaguez Puerto Rico

Speaker 1. Describe your involvement with Puerto Rican fisheries.

Speaker 2. [...] work with fisheries statistics for PR commercial fisheries. Therefore, work with fishers and their communities in all of PR.

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

Speaker 2. The answer to this question is that where there are villas pesqueras in the west and south coasts of PR there is a significant entry into the fisheries. In the north only in Arecibo, Camuy, San Juan and Catano there is that perspective. In the east in Vieques and Naguabo the fishery has high commercial value for the community.

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

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

Speaker 2. Very Dependent

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

Speaker 2. Commercial and recreational fisheries, boat rentals, reef tourism, restaurants where fish, lobster, and conch are sold - it is significant.

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. Fishers should educate themselves like businessmen and foster a fishery resource conservation view.

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. Not at the moment,

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

Speaker 2. They are worried because climate change can affect their landing areas and businesses along the coast.

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

Speaker 2. The government of PR has communicated frequently to prepare the country and minimize future impacts.

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

Speaker 2. Yes, there are many communities that have worked together to make changes to improve.

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

Speaker 2. Yes, there are several fisher groups that have worked together to make changes for the better.

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

Speaker 2. Fishers Cooperatives: Villa Ojo del Agua in Aguadilla. Villa Pesquera in Ponce; del Dockey in Mayaguez; Amigos de Amoná and others…

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, this happens in the Junta Asesora del Secretario DRNA and the fishers involved in the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council.

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

Speaker 2. See previous response.

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. The Reglamento de Pesca 7949 has had the effect of improving the fishery resources that had been subjected to seasonal closures and there is a trend of improvement for these populations.

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

Speaker 2. The education program for commercial fishers (PEPCO) developed by the state has taught the fishers about the decision making process. About 400 fishers have been certified through this program.

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

Speaker 2. It is good but they should improve to be excellent.

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

Speaker 2. Public meetings and interactions with the DNER secretary.