

Status of Puerto Rico Commercial Fisheries

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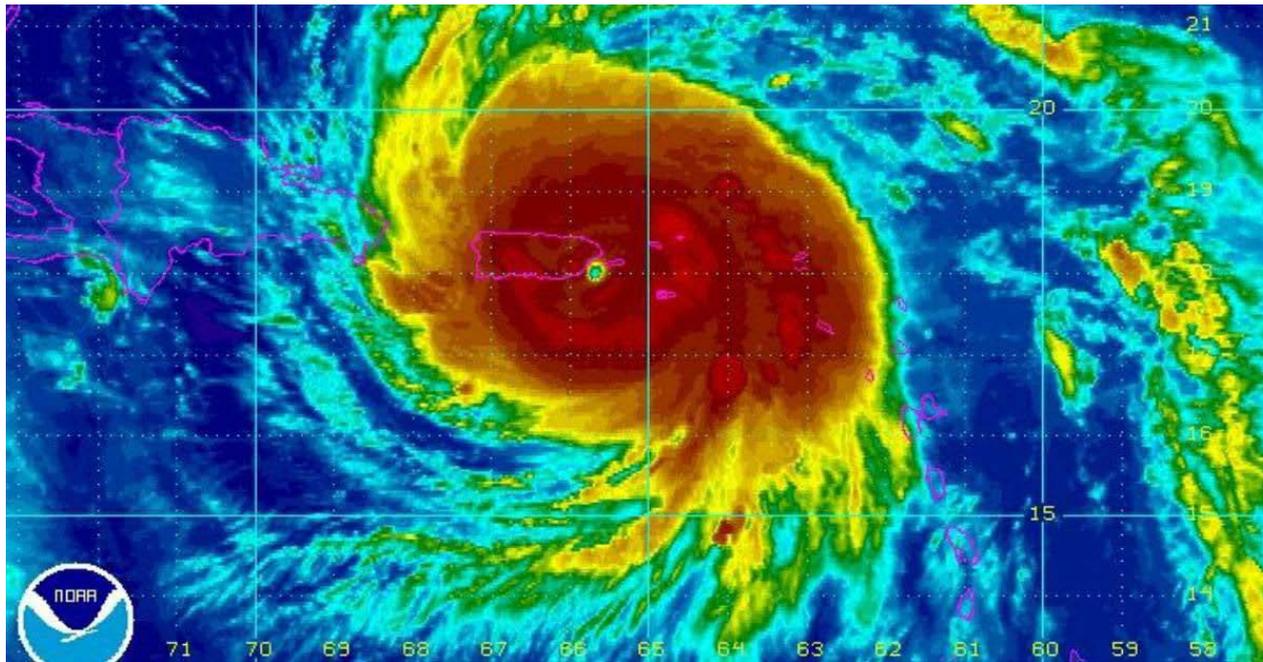
DNER Commercial Fisheries Statistics Program

FIN Meeting
New Orleans, LA
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thanks

The image features the word "thanks" rendered in a vibrant, 3D, sans-serif font. Each letter is a different color, following a rainbow spectrum: 't' is green, 'h' is blue, 'a' is purple, 'n' is yellow, 'k' is red, and 's' is green. The letters are thick and have a slight shadow beneath them, which is reflected on a dark, glossy surface below. The background is solid black, making the colorful text stand out prominently.



- On September 20, 2017 Hurricane María struck the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. This enormous, catastrophic Category 5 storm (sustained winds exceeding 156 mph) generated extensive damages to the local economy and Infrastructure.



The CFSP estimated that about 33% of the seafood restaurants remained closed three months after the hurricane (December 20, 2017) because of lack of electricity and infrastructure damaged.

The commercial fishing activity also was estimated in 33% around the Island. It was noted that 50% of fishing villages were closed.

Six months after the Hurricane (March 20, 2018) 75% of the electricity was reestablished around Puerto Rico's coastal areas and the commercial fishing activity increased approximately to 70%.

Early hurricane damages and forgone income estimates for the Puerto Rican fishing industry.

Operation	Business type	Damages (million \$)	Forgone fishing revenue (million \$)	Total economic loss (million \$)	Immediate job losses
Commercial	Commercial fishers	5.4	3.0	8.4	148
	Fishing cooperatives and seafood businesses	6.0	0.8	6.8	18
For-hire	For-hire operators	0.6	0.7	1.3	6
	Marinas	3.4	0.5	3.9	2
Total		15.4	5.1	20.5	174

Year	Number of Commercial Fishers Reporting Landings to CFSP			
2016	1025			
2017	964			
2018	801			



We are doing Fishery Census to the number of active commercial fishers in Puerto Rico. After approximately 390 interviews we observed some trends:

Most of them decrease their fishing effort because they are not totally recovered from hurricane María.



Commercial fishers mentioned that Queen Conch catch decreased approximately 60% after the hurricane María.



Commercial Fishers mentioned that Spiny Lobster catch increased approximately 40% in the Puerto Rico's east coast after the hurricane.



