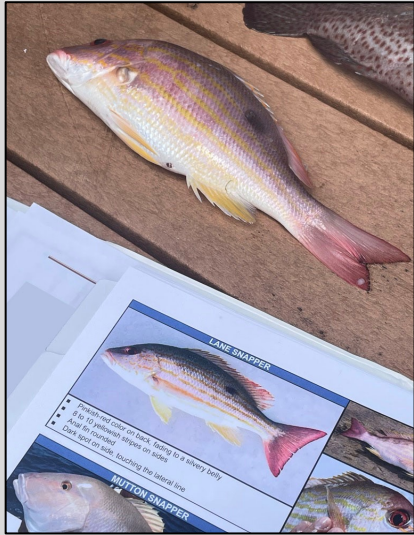




U.S. Coast Guard Puerto Rico & USVI

Fisheries Enforcement Highlights - December 2023



Living Marine Resources (LMR) Boarding Officer School Sep 5th – Sep 8th 2023

- USCG Southeast Regional Fisheries Training Center traveled to San Juan, PR to host a week-long training on federal fisheries enforcement
- Attendance roster: 14 USCG boarding officers across Station San Juan, Boat Forces Detachment St. Thomas, and four 154' Fast Response Cutters
- Curriculum included Magnuson-Stevens Act, Lacey Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, species ID, commercial fishing and safety regulations

St. Thomas / Hind Bank Vessel Termination + Seizure Sep 20th 2023

- USCG Boat Forces Detachment (BFD) St. Thomas collaborated with NOAA OLE and UVI Dive Program to investigate traps in the Hind Bank MCD.
- On 20SEP, BFD St. Thomas boarded a vessel suspected of fishing within Hind Bank. The boarding team documented 100lb of yelloweye snapper. The vessel had no commercial fishing documentation and minimal safety gear.
- USCG terminated the voyage and escorted the vessel back to Fajardo with assistance from PR's municipal police (FURA). NOAA OLE took custody of the catch, and the owner/operator was interviewed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Enforcement action pends.



Future operations:

- Discussions are ongoing between Sector San Juan Enforcement, NOAA OLE SA Miguel Borges, and Dr. Michelle Schärer to plan upcoming targeted enforcement actions.

Prepared by LTJG Andrew McGraw-Herdeg

