

Message to the Caribbean Fishery Management Council

185th Hybrid Meeting

December 4-5, 2024

Dear All.

I have been guiding the Outreach and Education Advisory Panel (OEAP) of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) since 2012. I am very, very grateful for this opportunity. It has been a great experience for me that opened the space to bring practically all the science and education experience that I had as a Marine Biology professor at the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) Humacao to the fishing communities in Puerto Rico, St. Thomas -St. John and St Croix (USVI).

At present, I am very sorry to inform you, that I must resign for the position of President of the OEAP. This year, I have been receiving medical treatment for breast cancer, and it will continue for 2025. It includes several chemotherapy and radiotherapy sessions and breast surgery that has changed completely my daily routine. It is not possible for me to keep the OEAP in regular meetings, even if they are conducted virtually.

However, I will continue with the IRA proposal ***Understanding Climate Change and its impact on the fishery ecosystem and the fisher's community in the U.S. Caribbean*** that was approved and is in progress. I will make a report to the Council for the next 2025 CFMC meeting.

I am sorry for the inconvenience, and you can contact me for materials or any issue that I may provide.

Have a *!!!Happy New Year 2025!!!*

