



Updates

CFMC SOCIAL MEDIA

Cristina D. Olán Martínez

CFMC Social Media Network Coordinator

189th CFMC Hybrid Public Meeting | April 21-22, 2026 | St. Croix, USVI

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

1 **Facebook** 

- 7,340+ followers
- highest amount of followers

2 **Instagram** 

- 2,485+ followers
- highest engagement (views, reposts, shares)

3 **Threads** 

- 243 followers

4 **LinkedIn** 

- 152 followers

5 **X** 

- 147 followers

6 **Bluesky** 

- 23 followers

OTHER PLATFORMS

1

YouTube

- videos
- 1,758 minutes – average of minutes watched in the past 2 months

2

ISSUU

- documents

VISIT OUR LINKTREE



**WHATSAPP
PR BROADCAST LIST
& STX CHATS**



CONTENT

- Seasonal closures (local & federal)
- Regulations
- Meetings & Workshops
- O & E activities
- Marine Species
- Shared content
- Collaborative content

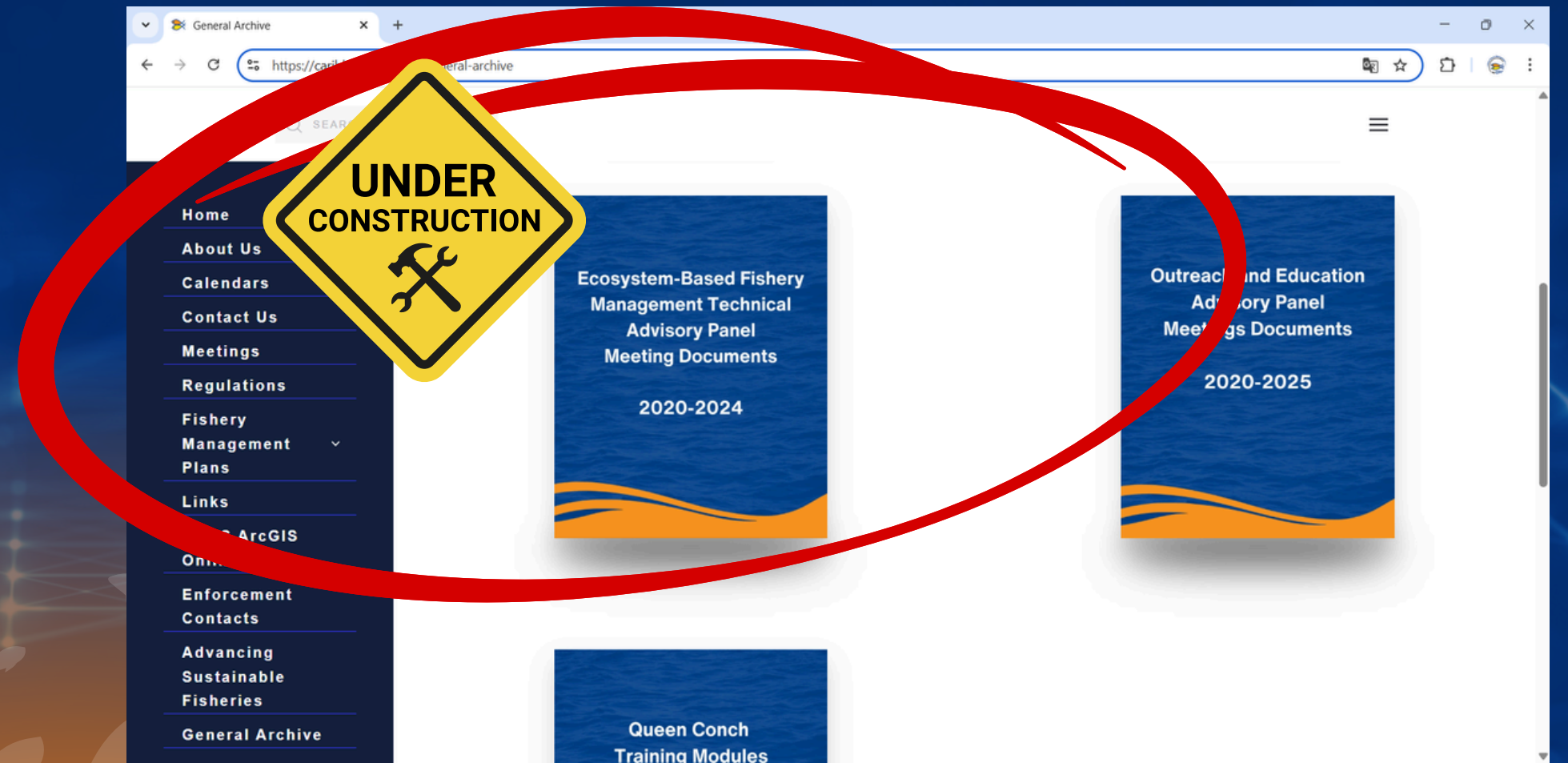
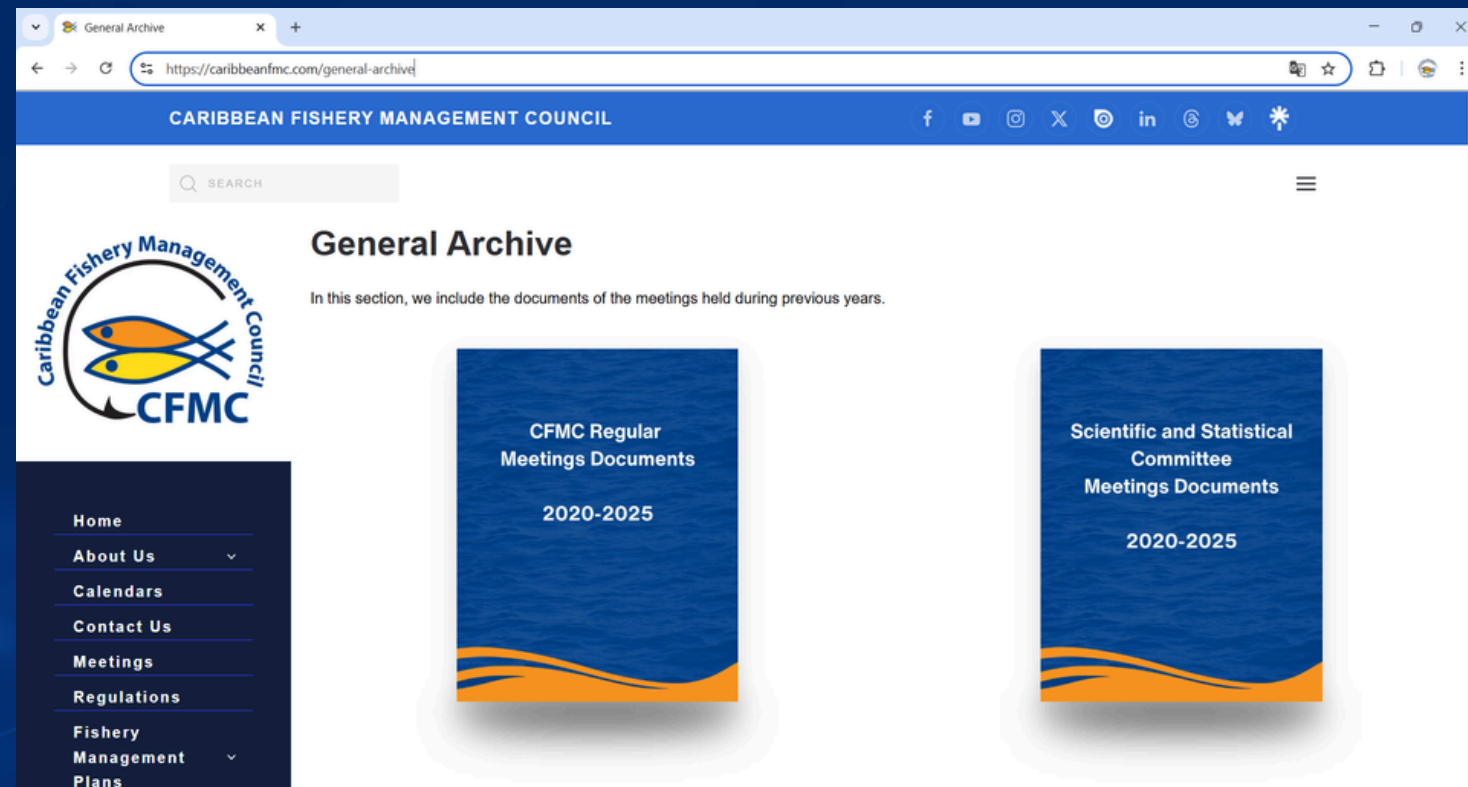
- Follower's requests
- Funding Opportunities
- Bulletins
- Big Fish Initiative
- Salvapeje / Assist the Fish
- Inbox/DM

ALL IN ENGLISH & SPANISH!

EMAIL CONTACT LIST



UPDATED GENERAL ARCHIVE



CFMC TAKES ACTION

CFMC TOMA ACCIÓN

CFMC Takes Action

Caribbean Fishery Management Council
CONSERVING, RESTORING AND MANAGING OF FISHERY RESOURCES IN THE US CARIBBEAN



JANUARY-MARCH 2026
Vol. 2 No. 1

Newsletter to inform and share the progress of diverse projects that advance the sustainability of the U.S. Caribbean fisheries.

As increasingly frequent and intense extreme environmental events alter marine ecosystems and fisheries, the need to identify robust adaptive management strategies that support the sustainability and resilience of species and fisheries has become urgent. To better understand these impacts and inform effective management planning, the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) is collaborating with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries

Institute (GCFI) to develop the project funded under the NOAA – IRA to the CFMC. This effort is led by Bob Glazer and Alejandro Acosta and brings together a multidisciplinary team of experts in modeling, socioeconomics, and marine biology, complemented by traditional ecological knowledge to strengthen the project's scientific foundation and management relevance.



"Adapting to a Changing Environment in the U.S. Caribbean: Implementing a Climate Smart Approach to Ensure Sustainable Red Hind and Lobster Fishing"

Within this context, anticipating changing conditions—by identifying plausible future scenarios—is a prerequisite for implementing effective and adaptive fisheries management. For example, one scenario may involve extreme future climatological conditions (e.g., elevated ocean temperatures,

CFMC toma acción

Consejo de Administración Pesquera del Caribe
CONSERVACIÓN, RESTAURACIÓN Y GESTIÓN DE LOS RECURSOS PESQUEROS EN EL CARIBE ESTADOUNIDENSE



ENERO-MARZO 2026
Vol. 2 No. 1

Boletín para informar y compartir los avances de distintos proyectos que fomentan la sostenibilidad de las pesquerías en el Caribe Estadounidense.

Ante la creciente frecuencia e intensidad de eventos extremos que alteran los ecosistemas marinos y las pesquerías, se hace urgente la necesidad de identificar estrategias de gestión robustas y adaptativas que apoyen la sostenibilidad y la resiliencia de dichas especies y pesquerías. Para comprender mejor estos impactos y contribuir a la planificación eficaz de la ordenación pesquera, el Consejo de Administración Pesquera del Caribe (CFMC, en inglés) está colaborando con el Instituto de Pesquerías del Golfo y del Caribe

(GCFI, en inglés) en el desarrollo de un proyecto financiado por la iniciativa NOAA – IRA al CFMC. Este esfuerzo, liderado por Bob Glazer y Alejandro Acosta, reúne a un equipo multidisciplinario de expertos en modelación, socioeconomía y biología marina, que se complementa con conocimientos ecológicos tradicionales de modo que fortalece la base científica del proyecto y su relevancia en la administración pesquera.



"Adaptándose a un ambiente cambiante en el Caribe estadounidense: Implementación de un enfoque climático inteligente que asegure la pesca sostenible del mero cabrilla y la langosta espinosa"

En este contexto, el poder anticipar las condiciones cambiantes —mediante la identificación de escenarios futuros probables— es un prerequisite hacia una gestión eficaz y adaptativa. Por ejemplo, un escenario podría

CFMC UPDATES

NOTICIAS DEL CFMC



CFMC UPDATES

APRIL 2025

The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) newsletter contains activity announcements, facts on various marine species, and valuable information on fishing and the regulations that govern this activity in federal waters around Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

OVERVIEW OF FISHING REGULATIONS IN THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS FEDERAL WATERS

The Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service are responsible for the conservation and management of federal fishery resources in the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which extends 3 nautical miles from the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) coast to the offshore boundary of the EEZ, and 9 nautical miles from the Puerto Rico coast to the offshore boundary of the EEZ.

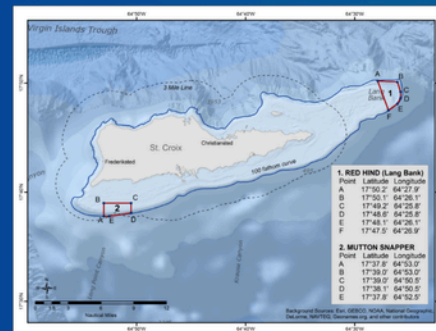
The CFMC shifted from a U.S. Caribbean-wide management approach to an island-based management approach, applicable to the three separate U.S. Caribbean management areas: (1) St. Croix, USVI; (2) St. Thomas/St. John, USVI; and (3) Puerto Rico with the adoption of three fishery management plans (FMPs). Previously, the CFMC managed federal fisheries in the U.S. Caribbean EEZ under four U.S. Caribbean-wide FMPs: the Reef Fish FMP, the Spiny Lobster FMP, the Queen Conch FMP, and the Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates FMP.



SUMMARY OF COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHING REGULATIONS IN FEDERAL WATERS OFF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS (USVI)

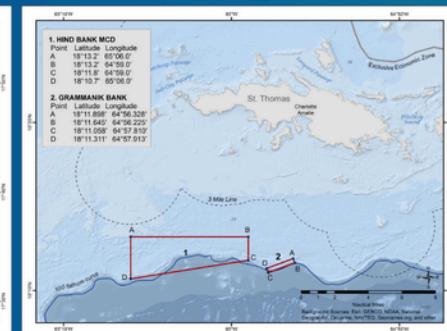


The Caribbean Fishery Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service are responsible for the conservation and management of federal fishery resources in the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which extends 3 nautical miles from the USVI coast to the offshore boundary of the EEZ. For information on the regulations for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species including tunas, billfishes, and sharks, visit: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species>.



SEASONAL AND AREA CLOSURES ST. CROIX

- Red Hind Spawning Aggregation Area (Lang Bank): Closed from December 1 through the last day of February each year, to all fishing activities. The use of pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited year-round.
- Mutton Snapper Spawning Aggregation Area: Closed from March 1 through June 30 each year, to all fishing activities. The use of pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited year-round.



SEASONAL AND AREA CLOSURES ST. THOMAS

- Hind Bank Marine Conservation District (MCD): Closed year-round to all fishing activities. Anchoring is prohibited year-round.
- Grammanik Bank: Closed from February 1 through April 30 each year, to fishing activities, except for harvest of HMS species. The use of pots, traps, bottom longlines, gillnets or trammel nets is prohibited year-round.

GEAR AND METHOD RESTRICTIONS

Applicable to All Fisheries	Applicable to Specific Fisheries Managed by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council	
Explosives, trawl nets, trammel nets, and purse seines are prohibited in federal waters.	Reef Fish	Poisons, drugs or other chemicals, powerheads, and gillnets are prohibited for the harvest of reef fish in federal waters. Fish must be landed with head and fins intact.* Descending devices required to be on board vessels fishing for reef fish in federal waters.
Toxic chemicals may not be used or possessed in a coral area.	Pelagic Fish	Gillnets are prohibited for the harvest of pelagic fish in federal waters. Fish must be landed with head and fins intact.*
Gillnets** are prohibited for managed species and restricted for non-managed species.	Spiny Lobster	Spears, hooks, or similar devices, and gillnets are prohibited for the harvest of spiny lobster in federal waters. Spiny lobster must be landed with head and carapace intact. Harvest of egg bearing females is prohibited in federal waters.
	Queen Conch	Harvest by diving while using a continued surface air supply is prohibited in federal waters. Queen conch must be landed with meat and shell intact.

* See 50 CFR 622.10 for exceptions to this rule. See 50 CFR 622.477 and 622.512 for restrictions on gillnet use.

SEASONAL CLOSURES FOR SPECIFIC SPECIES

Harvest of these fish is prohibited in federal waters around the USVI during the dates listed below

February 1 - April 30	April 1 - June 30
Red Grouper	Mutton Snapper
Black Grouper	Lane Snapper
Tiger Grouper	
Yellowfin Grouper	October 1 - December 31
Yellowedge Grouper*	Black Snapper
	Blackfin Snapper
June 1 - October 31	Vermillion Snapper
Queen Conch - harvest is allowed east of 64°34' West longitude, which includes Lang Bank, St. Croix.	Silk Snapper

*Prohibition for yellowedge grouper does not apply in federal waters around St. Croix.

PROHIBITED HARVEST

If these species are caught in federal waters, they must be returned immediately to the water with minimal harm

Midnight Parrotfish	Queen Conch - harvest is prohibited in all waters west of 64°34' West longitude.
Blue Parrotfish	Goliath Grouper
Rainbow Parrotfish	Harvest of all corals, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers in federal waters is prohibited.
Nassau Grouper	

QUEEN CONCH HARVEST LIMITS

Commercial Sector - 200 queen conch per vessel/day.
 Recreational Sector - 3 queen conch per person/day, or if more than 4 persons on board vessel, 12 queen conch per vessel/day.



Midnight, Blue and Rainbow Parrotfishes; Red, Yellowedge and Goliath Groupers & Queen Conch illustrations were provided by: Puerto Rico Sea Grant.



Black, Tiger, Yellowfin and Nassau Groupers; Lane, Black, Vermillion, Silk and Yellowtail Snappers and Spiny Lobster illustrations by: D. Peebles, D. Raver, NOAA, N. Deloach.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS IN USVI FEDERAL WATERS

Species	Minimum Size Limit
Spiny Lobster	3.5 inches (8.9 cm) carapace length
Yellowtail Snapper	12 inches (30.5 cm) total length
Redband parrotfish**	8 inches (20.3 cm) fork length
Queen, princess, redfin, redtail, stoplight, striped parrotfish**	9 inches (22.9 cm) fork length
Dolphin/Mahi	24 inches (61.0 cm) fork length
Wahoo	32 inches (81.3 cm) fork length

**Parrotfish size limits only apply in St. Croix EEZ waters.

Queen Conch
 9 inches (22.9 cm) in length from the tip of the spire to the distal end of the shell, or 3/8 inches (9.5 mm) in lip width at its widest point.

RECREATIONAL BAG LIMITS

Species	Allowed quantity:	
	Per Person/Day	Per Vessel/Day
snapper, grouper, parrotfish combined	5 fish per person/day	OR if 3 or more persons are on board, 15 fish per vessel/day
St. Croix angelfish, grunts, squirrelfish, surgeonfish, triggerfish combined	Not to exceed: 2 parrotfish per person/day or 6 parrotfish per vessel/day.	
St. Thomas/St. John angelfish, grunts, jacks, porgies, surgeonfish, triggerfish, wrasses combined	5 fish per person/day	OR if 3 or more persons are on board, 15 fish per vessel/day
spiny lobster	3 per person/day	No more than 10 spiny lobsters per vessel/day
dolphin/mahi	10 per person/day	Not to exceed 32 per vessel/day
wahoo	2 per person/day	Not to exceed 10 per vessel/day

SALVAPEJE: DESCENDING DEVICE

NOTICIAS DEL CFMC FEBRERO 2026

En el boletín del Consejo de Administración Pesquera del Caribe (CFMC, en inglés) encontrarás anuncios de actividades, datos sobre distintas especies marinas y valiosa información sobre la pesca y las regulaciones que rigen esta actividad en las aguas federales alrededor de Puerto Rico y las Islas Vírgenes Estadounidenses.

ACTUALIZACIONES SOBRE EL SALVAPEJE: DISPOSITIVO DE DESCENSO

NOAA Fisheries aprobó la Enmienda 2, que exige que toda embarcación pesquera cuente con un dispositivo de descenso (*descending device*) a bordo mientras esté pescando peces de arrecife.

- ¿Dónde aplica?** Aplica en aguas federales de Puerto Rico (9-200 millas náuticas) y de St. Thomas/St. John y St. Croix, USVI (3-200 millas náuticas).
- ¿Cuándo se requiere?** Siempre que se pesquen o se tengan en la embarcación peces de arrecife bajo el manejo del CFMC.
- El objetivo:** Reducir la mortalidad de los peces causada por el barotrauma (daño por cambios de presión al subir el pez rápidamente a la superficie).

Uso del dispositivo:

- Disponibilidad: El equipo debe estar a bordo y listo para su uso inmediato.
- Uso selectivo: Solo es obligatorio cuando el pez no pueda sumergirse (ej. signos de barotrauma).
- Objetivo: Garantizar que el ejemplar regrese al fondo de forma segura, aumentando su tasa de supervivencia.

¿Es obligatorio usarlo siempre? No, pero la ley exige tenerlo a bordo y listo para actuar si el pez no puede descender por su cuenta.

La regulación final que implementa la Enmienda 2 ya fue publicada en el Registro Federal. El requisito del dispositivo de descenso entrará en vigor el 1 de abril de 2026. Importante: la regulación aplica tanto a pescadores comerciales como a recreativos.

Foto: Marcos Henke / 787 Fishing Charters

www.caribbeanfmc.com 01 / 08



¡SALVAPEJE!
APRENDE A USAR EL *DESCENDING DEVICE* Y CONSTRUYE EL TUYO

¡NOS VEMOS EN LA PARGUERA!

Abierto para pescadores comerciales y recreativos. Habrán dispositivos de descenso "SALVAPEJES" gratuitos para todos los pescadores y pescadoras que asistan y estén hasta el final del taller. Al usar esta herramienta, ayudarás a la supervivencia de especies reglamentadas.

lunes, 4 de mayo de 2026
4:00 PM

VILLA PESQUERA DE LA PARGUERA LAJAS, PR

¡REGÍSTRATE HOY! ENVÍA TEXTO O WHATSAPP A WILSON SANTIAGO

Wilson Santiago
Oficial de enlace de pesquerías
787-344-0956



¡Falta poco!

SALVAPEJE

El requisito del dispositivo de descenso (*descending device*)-- conocido en Puerto Rico como *Salvapeje*-- será efectivo a partir del **1 de abril de 2026**.

Lee a continuación. →



YouTube PR salvapeje

Did you mean: salvaje

¡SALVAPEJE!
336 views • 1 year ago
Caribbean Fishery Management Council

Aprende a cómo reconocer los peces con barotrauma y liberar peces de descenso ...

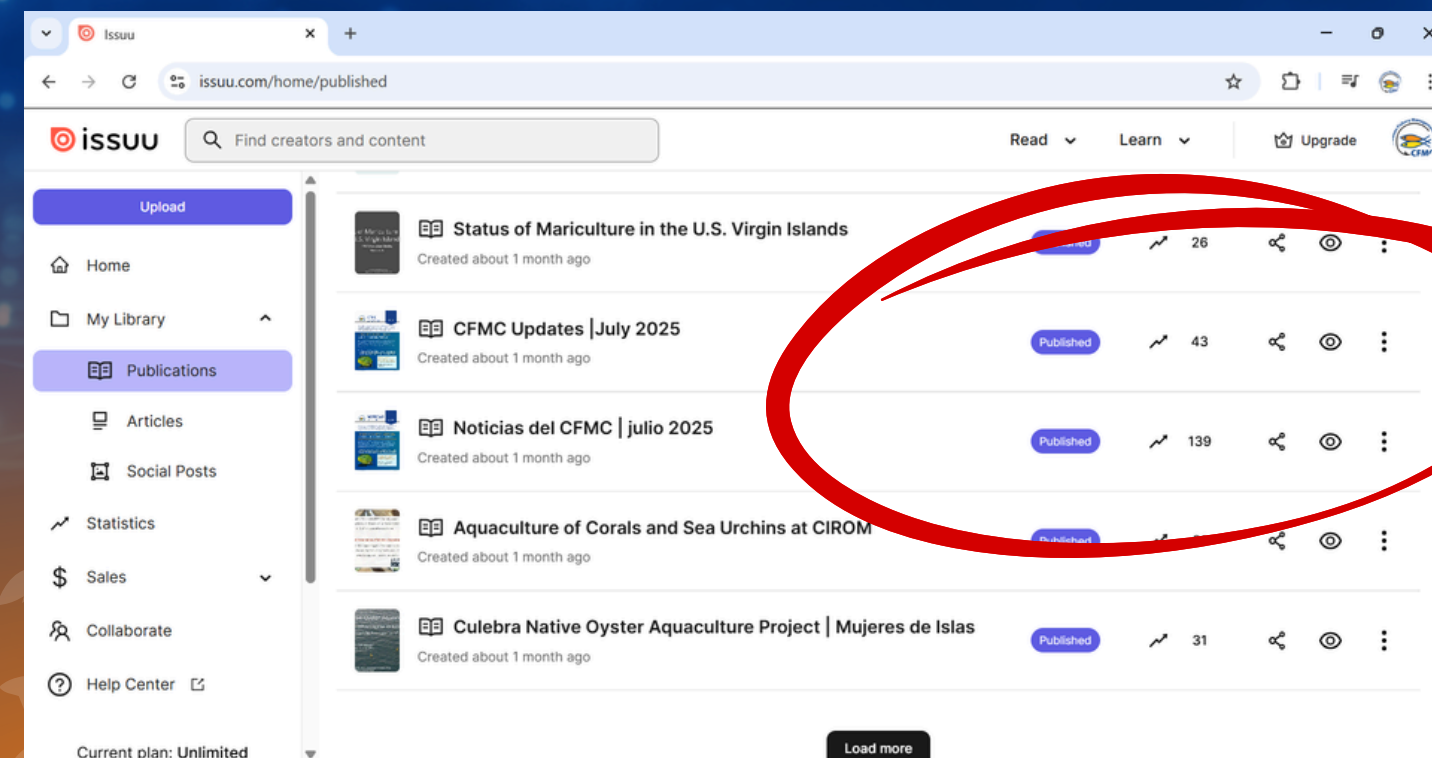
What is the purpose of having a descending device?

Improving the survival of reef fish released into federal waters (Exclusive Economic Zone) of the U.S. Caribbean.

Continue reading. →



NEW FISHING LIMITS FOR DOLPHINFISH: AN EXAMPLE OF A SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION



BIG FISH INITIATIVE



50TH ANNIVERSARY VIDEO

Video is being produced to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the MSA and the Regional Management Councils, to document part of the Council's history, highlight the Council's successes and share points of view on how the Council and fisheries' future might look like.



Locations: St. Thomas, St. Croix and Puerto Rico (Fajardo & Cabo Rojo).



Thank you! | ¡Gracias!



ST. CROIX, USVI | JAN. 21-23, 2026



Thank you! | ¡Gracias!



MARINA PUERTO CHICO, FAJARDO, PR | FEB. 5, 2026



Thank you! | ¡Gracias!



PUERTO REAL, CABO ROJO, PR | FEB. 20, 2026



¡MUCHAS GRACIAS! THANK YOU!

Thanks to all the staff members, panel members, committee members, fishers, liaison officers, followers, scientists, managers, local and federal agencies, collaborators, friends, among many other persons for all the support, information and ideas.