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Caribbean Fisheries Management Council

Caribbean Mariculture Workshop 2026 Report

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189th CFMC Regular Meeting, Buccaneer Hotel, St. Croix, USVI,
April 22, 2026 at 10:00-10:30 am



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National Marine Fisheries Service

Caribbean Mariculture Workshop 2026 Report

NMFS, Southeast Regional Office, Habitat Conservation Division,
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189th CFMC Regular Meeting, Buccaneer Hotel, St. Croix, USVI,
April 22, 2026 at 10:00-10:30 am



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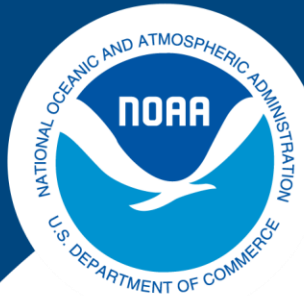
Galaxy A54 5G



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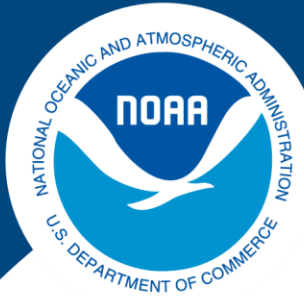
PARTICIPANTS:

- 60 persons present
- 280 Zoom interactions on 3/24/26
- 172 Zoom interactions on 3/25/26
- 5 countries



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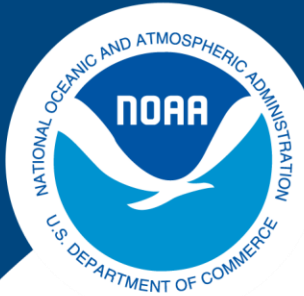
Topic	Organization - origin	Species
Restoration	Conservación Conciencia-PR	Queen conch restoration
	ISER Caribe, CIROM-PR	Corals, sea urchins, other invertebrates
	Mujeres de Isla + Asociación Pescadores Culebra- PR	Oysters
Commercial	Open Blue - Panama	Cobia
	Dyer Aqua - Panama	Florida pompano
	Kilic Dominik - DR	Seabream, red drum & other species
	Cultimar Technologies-PR	Red snapper fingerlings production & delivery
	Ocean SAS - Guadeloupe	20 years history-multiple species
	Innova Sea - US	Planning process & technology
Government	DRNA-PR	
	DPNR-USVI	
	NOAA-Aquaculture Program	
	NOAA-Habitat Conservation Division	
	NOAA -Sustainable Fisheries	
Capital	Hatch Blue - Global	Support sustainable aquaculture



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OBJECTIVES:

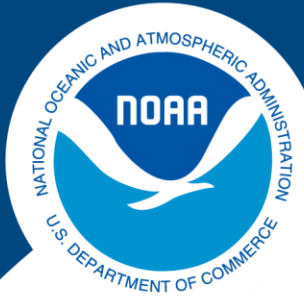
- How can existent mariculture infrastructure in the Caribbean Basin be used to start collaborations in the USA Caribbean?



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WRITTEN REPORT OF WORKSHOP:

- Scheduled for completion during August 2026.
- A follow up meeting is being considered.



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Mariculture Workshop 2026

- Strategic planning session
- U.S. Caribbean (PR & USVI)
- PESTEL & SWOT analysis for Restoration and Commercial/Industrial Focus Groups



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Political Factors

- Strong policy interest
- Permitting complexity
- Limited resources
- Regulatory fragmentation



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Economic Factors

- Premium local seafood prices
- High operating costs
- Import dependency
- Hurricane risk



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Social Factors

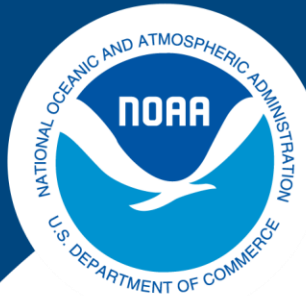
- Food security benefits
- Fishermen conflicts
- Workforce gaps
- Tourism competition



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Technological Factors

- Hurricane-resistant cages
- Automation potential
- High capital costs
- Supply chain limitations



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Environmental Factors

- Favorable ocean conditions
- Hurricane exposure
- Water quality risks
- Climate impacts (Sargassum)



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Legal & Regulatory

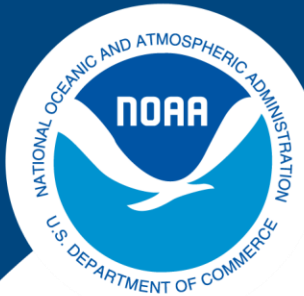
- Improving permitting process
- Jones Act constraints
- Strict labor laws
- Multi-agency coordination issues



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Strengths

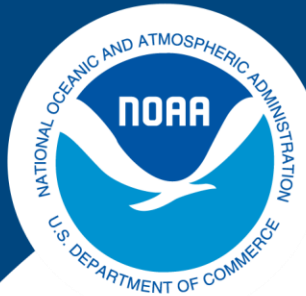
- Pristine waters
- U.S. market access
- Federal support
- Research institutions



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Weaknesses

- Infrastructure gaps
- High costs
- Limited workforce
- Investment challenges



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Opportunities

- Community-based aquaculture
- Species diversification
- Local market integration
- Value chain development



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Threats

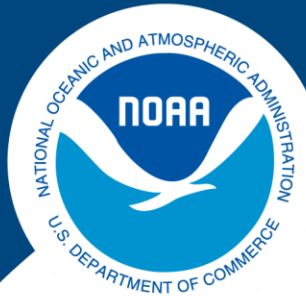
- Import competition
- Political uncertainty
- Climate risks
- Poaching



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Key Recommendations, PESTEL and SWOT

- Secure long-term policy
- Invest in hatcheries
- Adopt resilient technology
- Engage local communities



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Key Recommendations by Consensus

- Create a technical mariculture team in SERO
- Invest in hatcheries but do not compete with fishermen markets
- Encourage culture of algae and filter feeders
- Engage local communities



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THANK YOU TO ALL CFMC & NMFS STAFF WHICH
MADE THE MEETING POSSIBLE !!!!

OUR GRATITUDE TO DR. DANIEL D. BENETTI
FOR BEING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING !!!!



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QUESTIONS ?????

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