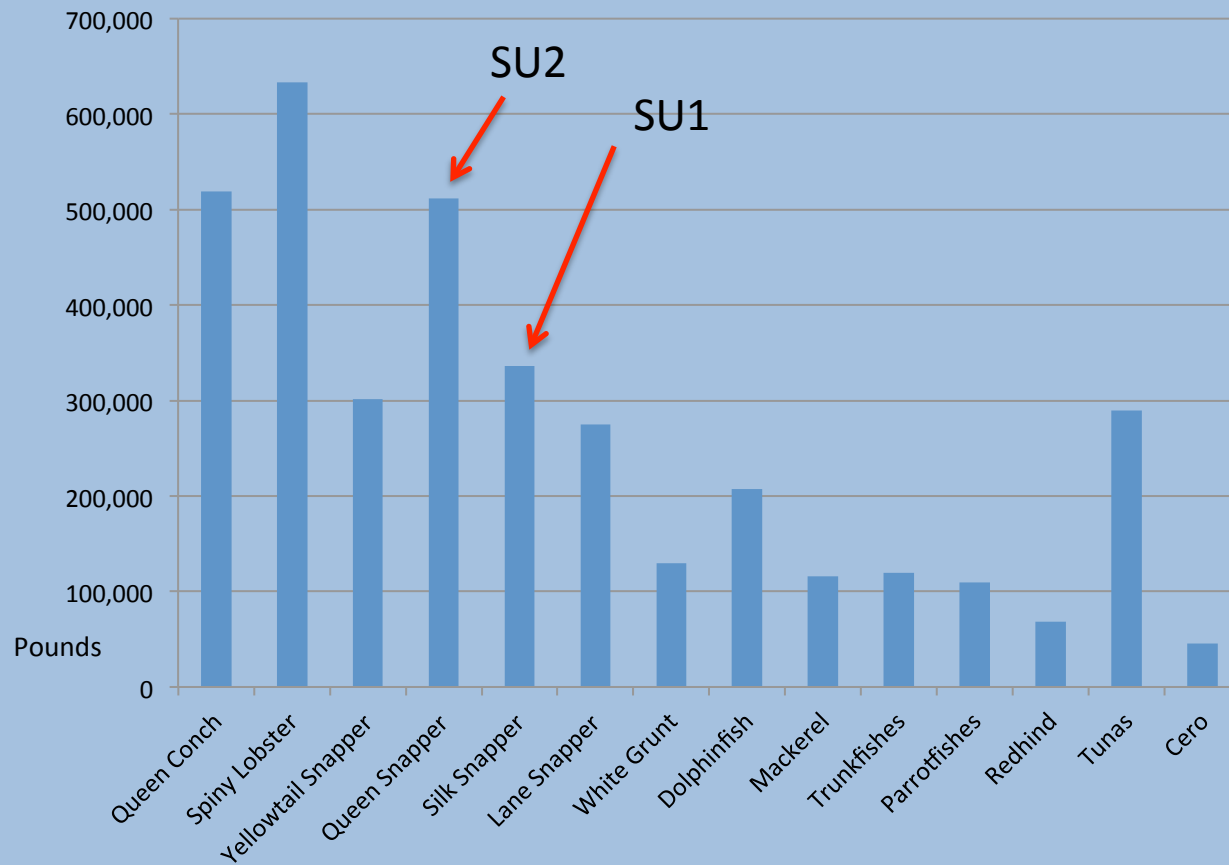


Background

- Deep Water Snapper (DWS) Fisheries
 - Most Important Finfishery in Puerto Rico
 - Managed as Fishery Management Units (FMU)



Landings reported for the most important commercial species in Puerto Rico 2007-2010



List of Species/Lista de especies FMU/Unidad de Manejo	Snappers	Pargos	Lutjanidae
Snapper Unit 1 Unidad de pargos 1 SU1	Silk	Chillo	<i>Lutjanus vivanus</i>
	Blackfin	Alinegra, Negrita	<i>Lutjanus buccanella</i>
	Vermillion	Besugo	<i>Rhomboplites aurorubens</i>
	Wenchman	Limosnera, muniama	<i>Pristipomoides aquilonaris</i>
	Black	Chopa negra	<i>Apsilus dentatus</i>
Snapper Unit 2 Unidad de pargos 2 SU2	Queen	Cartucho	<i>Etelis oculatus</i>
	Cardinal	Muniama de afuera	<i>P. macrophthalmus</i>
Snapper Unit 3 Unidad de pargos 3	Mutton	Sama	<i>Lutjanus analis</i>
	Lane	Arrayao	<i>Lutjanus synagris</i>
	Grey	Pargo prieto	<i>Lutjanus griseus</i>
	Dog	Pargo colorao	<i>Lutjanus jocu</i>
	Schoolmaster	Pargo rubio	<i>Lutjanus apodus</i>
	Mahogany	Rayado de yerba	<i>Lutjanus mahogani</i>
Snapper Unit 4 Unidad de pargos 4	Yellowtail	Colirrubia	<i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i>

- Annual catch limits (ACLs) were developed and implemented (2011) for the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)
- Based only on mean catch data from 1999-2005, the ACL for SU2 was set at 145,916 (commercial) and 34,810 (recreational) pounds

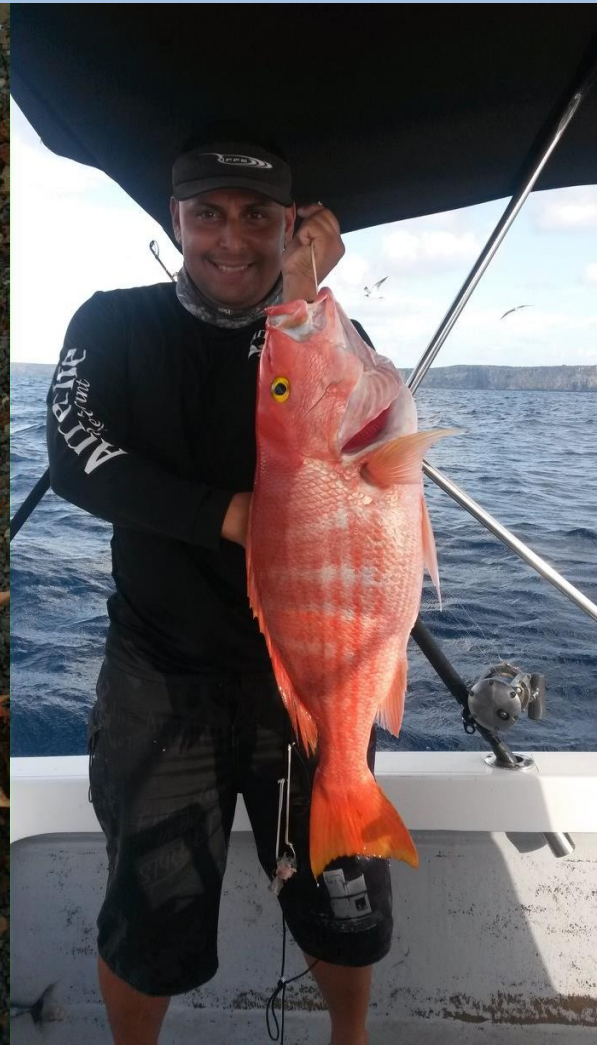
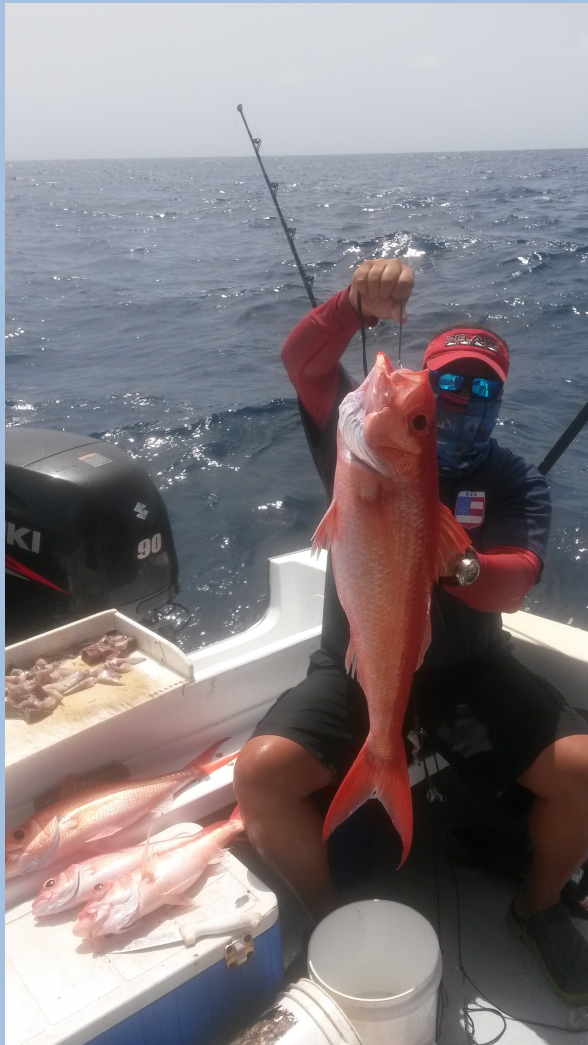


- In 2011, the same year of implementation, the SU2 landings exceeded the ACL
- In 2013, the overage triggered an Accountability Measure

The fishing season was shortened and closed in 21 September in the EEZ –Federal Waters



De facto Closing all DWS Fisheries since SU1 species are protected 1 October -31 December



The 2013 AM was unavoidable

- What can be done to avoid another overage?

EXTENDED RESPONSE ACTIONS-REQUIRED NOAA FISHERIES APPROVAL

- Revise ACL allocation of 145,916 pounds
- Transfer recreational poundage to commercial sector

QUICK RESPONSE ACTIONS-SPECIAL PERMIT BY LOCAL AGENCY

- Limit the number of fishermen
- Reduce annual harvest per fisherman

Special Permit to fish SU2 Species

- Why is this important?
 - Historical Event- First Time in Puerto Rico that a special permit is implemented responding to AM
 - First “Limited Entry” Permit
 - Only applicable for territorial waters BUT SU2 Puerto Rican Fishermen needed one to be able to land fish (caught in EEZ/Territorial water) after the end of the closure in Dec 31, 2013

Special Permit

- All fishermen harvesting Snapper Unit 2 species were required to obtain an authorization from DNER to conduct such activities
- This permit will improve the management of this particular fishery by limiting the activity only to the **traditional participants**

Development of the Special Permit



- Meeting July 11, 2013
- Participation of Snapper Unit 2 (West Coast) Fishermen—most affected
- To discuss special permit conditions and Implications
- Intense but productive-Almost Unanimous Agreements

Special Permit

- Requirements

- Commercial Fisherman License

- (full time/part-time)

- History of landings for the regulated species

- Five Years (2007-12) defined “Traditional Participants”

Special Permit

- Authorized fishing (only SU2)
 - In territorial waters during the 3 months EEZ closure (Sept 22--Dec 31 2013)
 - And throughout 2014 until Dec 31
- Conditions
 - A maximum of 120 trips per year
 - Monthly reporting of landings

REMARKS



Usefulness of the Special Permit

- **Successful in 2014**

A total of 134, 204 pounds (first complete year of the special permit. This was 11,712 lower than the ACL.

- **ACL overage determined in 2015**

AM will be implemented closing SU2 fisheries
November 26, 2016

- More fishermen want to get a permit
 - To date only 65 Hold SU2 Permit
 - Five lost their permit due to lack of reporting,
 - One died
- How to give more permit when current captures are too close or have surpassed the ACL?



- SU2 Special Permit has been negatively taken by the excluded sector
- DNER failed to outreach and communicate the process, thus it lacked transparency
- Special Permit is being revisited reacting to fishermen complaints and recent overage
- A SU2 sub-committee has been formed to work with fishers and provide recommendations



Subcommittee for the Wenchman and Queen snapper fisheries

- Requested by the DNER Secretary in accordance with the Fishing Advisory Board
- 4 commercial fisherman in compliance with the special permit for deep water snapper fishery
- 2 DNER Biologists
 - Dr. Ricardo López and Daniel Matos
- 2 Representatives of the Academy
 - Dr. Edgardo Ojeda and Dr. Michelle Scharer

Wenchman/muniama/
Pristipomoides macrophthalmus



Queen snapper/cartucho/*Etelis oculatus*



Subcommittee for the Wenchman and Queen snapper fisheries

- The first meeting was schedule as fast as possible because the Secretary last day in DNER is in July 15 and DNER personnel will be working out of the office or in vacation leave during July.
 - The 4 commercial fisherman and the 2 DNER Biologists were present.
 - The 2 Representatives of the Academy were excused
- Recommendations for special permit
 - Must have the Commercial fishermen license (full or partial time/not apprentices).
 - 5 continuous years of certified landings by DNER
 - 500 pounds of Wenchman and/or Queen snapper or 1,000 pounds of deep water snappers
 - Must have a vessel with commercial license (NEW)
 - Applicants with partial fulfillment of the requirements will be evaluated by the subcommittee (NEW)
- The subcommittee must be confirmed by the Secretary
- The subcommittee scheduled the next meeting by the 8 of August, 2016
 - Main task: create guide lines to consider applicants with partial fulfillment
 - Example: An applicant with over 5 years but not continuous landings, because of an illness

Subcommittee for the Wenchman and Queen snapper fisheries

- Other recommendations:
- Aumentar la vigilancia para que los pescadores comerciales que desembarcan cartucho y muniama sean multados. El subcomité señala que esta práctica ilegal es muy común.
- Recomienda que toda persona que pida licencia de pescador comercial sea investigada por Cuerpo de Vigilantes (se explicó que esto hay que cambiarlo en Ley de Pesca).
- Los permisos especiales no deben ser transferibles ni vendidos ni heredados.
- Se puede estudiar la posibilidad de hacer un cierre de dos a tres meses de cartucho y muniama durante primavera y/o verano, que no choque con cierre de chillo y alinegra.
- El subcomité estudió la posibilidad de distribuir los permisos de forma equitativa por costa, pero es factible. Todos los que cualifiquen a los requisitos mencionados no importa de que costa sean se les recomiendan para tener permiso especial.

Salt water related interventions

