

Puerto Rico Sea Grant is one of 33 Sea Grant college programs and is based at the University of Puerto Rico.



Puerto Rico Sea Grant's reef restoration efforts attract visitors to the island to experience the diverse display of reef fish and corals.
Credit: Raúl O. Ortiz

Puerto Rico Sea Grant reef restoration contributes to a growing tourism-based economy

Puerto Rico Sea Grant's coral reef restoration research contributed to a growing tourism-based economy on Culebra Island. Coral reef restoration efforts support an economy that is based on tourism and relies on healthy coastal ecosystems. Restoring depleted coral reefs provides additional long-term benefits by increasing shoreline resilience to wave action and helping to rebuild fisheries of species that rely on coral reefs for critical habitat.

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48,000

Workshop and conference participants



50,000

K-12 students reached

100

Undergraduate and graduate students supported



Metrics reported to National Sea Grant Office in June 2017 for work completed February 2016 to January 2017



RESEARCH

EXTENSION

EDUCATION

Puerto Rico Sea Grant helps inform management strategies for a popular marine reserve



Participant monitors coral in Tres Palmas Marine Reserve. Credit: Chelsea Harms-Tuho

- Tres Palmas Marine Reserve (TPMR) has been heavily marketed as one of the top five tourist attractions in Puerto Rico. The number of visitors has significantly increased due to TPMR’s growing popularity, generating new management challenges to maintain the reserve’s attractiveness and quality. Puerto Rico Sea Grant and partners implemented a series of management strategies aimed at protecting and conserving the TPMR. In 2016, two collaboration agreements were signed between Amigos de Tres Palmas and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources to co-manage the TPMR.

“Sea Grant Puerto Rico has been the catalyst for several critical projects over the years to reduce ocean drowning and improve water safety. We’ve been inspired to collaborate with them.”

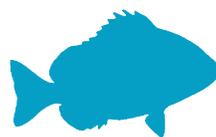
- B. Chris Brewster, Liaison Officer, U.S. Lifesaving Association

Contributing to an Ocean Literate Citizenry and Workforce



In 2016, Puerto Rico Sea Grant coordinated 37 education events for 2,219 K-12 students and 132 teachers. Students demonstrated a 61% increase in knowledge about local marine and coastal ecosystems. These education programs brought students into the marine environment through exhibitions, laboratories, conferences and field activities at diverse coastal nature reserves in Puerto Rico.

Helping Restaurants Support Sustainable Seafood Harvest



Puerto Rico Sea Grant’s Virgin Islands Marine Advisory Service (VIMAS) works with local restaurants to increase the number of restaurants certified as Reef Responsible. VIMAS educates restaurants on purchasing fish that are legally caught using sustainable methods and has helped 16 restaurants become certified as Reef Responsible since its inception.

Assessing Coastal Erosion using Unmanned Vehicles



Puerto Rico Sea Grant helped the Government of Puerto Rico use unmanned aerial vehicles to create a baseline of coastal erosion in the Puerto Rico Western region. Five observational sites were established to produce a robust data set that can be used to determine coastal erosion and accretion rates and examine the resulting impacts on coastal infrastructure.