

Preliminary report

First draft

Integral assessment of blue crab fishery

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Abstract

This preliminary report includes some of the information regarded after 43 personal interviews that took place from November 2021 to January 2022.

Interviews to fishermen from several localities where blue crab fishing is important to the economy. More information is being processed.

Interviews took place at Sabancuy, Isla Aguada, Palo Alto, Puerto Rico, Punta Careyes and Atasta. Most of the catch is blue crab, but some other species depending on the fishing ground are obtained. Fishermen were between 15 and 60 years old. Most fishermen catch blue crab since they were about 14-15 years old. Most of them are not part of a fishermen cooperative, but work with some other members of their family. It was common to see father, son, uncle, cousin related people. No women were found dedicated to this activity. In some cases, female members of the family are dedicated to cook, process and sell blue crab.

Fishermen, when possible, prefer to use “cayuco” since this implies no gasoline expend. Most fishermen work by their own, although some of them are part of a Fishermen cooperative.

Most of them sell their catch alive at the fishing ground to their formal buyer.

Sabancuy:

Small fishermen cooperative take their catch to the processing plant. They use “cayucos” and artisanal boats when needed. Most of the time use around 150 traps per boat.

Palo Alto.

Family members that collaborate as if they were a cooperative but they are not formalized. One of them does not write-read. They buy the bait from “fishermen from sea”, when possible they catch their own bait. They use small boats between 150-200 traps per boat. No services in the area

Isla Aguada

It is a small locality. The most important activities are fishing and tourism. Blue crab is an important fishery for young or old men. When there is bad weather more fishermen dedicates to blue crab since it is not the most important fishery in the area and incomes are not as important as for fish or shrimp. Better organized fishermen with services,

cooperatives. In this area, although blue crab fishery is important through the year, effort depends on price and availability of other fisheries as shrimp and fish.



Palo Alto



Palo Alto



Atasta



Atasta



Atasta



Isla Aguada



Palo Alto