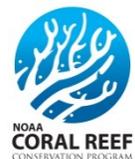


Canal de Luis Peña Natural Reserve Culebra, Puerto Rico Management Board Agreement



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Background

The Culebra Fishers Association, founded in 1967, recommended since 1980 the establishment of small no-take fishery reserves as a tool to recover local depleted fisheries in Culebra, Puerto Rico. After a successful community effort, the Puerto Rico Planning Board designated the Luis Peña Channel Natural Reserve on June 11, 1999 as a tool to begin the recovery of fisheries. The Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER) further designated the reserve as a no-take fishery reserve on September 30, 1999. Through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Coral Reef Conservation Fund, the management plan was accomplished by September 2008 with community input. The next step would be to begin the implementation of the management plan. One of the objectives of the Canal de Luis Peña Natural Reserve Management Plan is stated in Section 7.4 Administration, Objective 2: To Name representatives to form a management board that will work in collaboration with the [government] personnel assigned to the reserve. This document presents the accomplishment of this objective through the FY2011 NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program funding for the project titled *Support for the Effective Management of Two Priority Coral Reef MPAs in [East] Puerto Rico*.

During the calendar years of 2012 and 2013, the East Puerto Rico Coral Reef Education and Management Coordination Specialist for the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, implemented the goal to support PRDNER on several tasks pertaining to the implementation of management plans and Local Action Strategies (LAS) for two East Puerto Rico Natural Reserves: Canal de Luis Peña (Culebra) and Arrecifes la Cordillera (Fajardo) Natural Reserves. The Specialist developed and implemented outreach and education activities for both sites and assisted in efforts to engage stakeholders from surrounding local communities in the implementation of management activities of both sites.

Numerous activities were organized as a way to present alternatives to work with key management issues such as illegal fishing, inappropriate ecotourism practices and lack of community outreach and education in the region. Among the accomplishments was the production of a detailed chart of key stakeholders and documentation of their perceptions about the management of both reserves. Another accomplishment was to conduct informal, formal and focus groups interviews with some of these stakeholders. During the process, we conducted 18 informal or formal interviews, and participated in 8 meetings with managers, educators and enforcement agents specifically for Canal de Luis Peña Natural Reserve. With this data, we have been able to refine the list of sectors and representatives for the management boards and engage in an in-depth dialogue with stakeholders about the structure and composition of the board. As a follow-up to these dialogues, during December 2013 we organized the first management board meeting of the Arrecifes La Cordillera. Presented in Appendix 1 is a representation of the sectors identified and board members elected.

Canal de Luis Peña Co-management Board First Meeting

One of the primary goals of this project was to promote community involvement in the management of both reserves and facilitate collaborative management efforts between PRDNER and the local community. As a result, the Specialist coordinated the development of a Management Board for each reserve that will assist in identifying management activities that will be implemented with the Board's assistance.

As a result of these efforts, during December 12, 2013 the 1st meeting of Canal de Luis Peña natural reserve co-management board was celebrated. At the meeting, the purpose and concept of the board was clarified, key sectors identified throughout the 2-year life of this project were presented, and the representatives of each sectors elected. Twenty (20) stakeholders attended the meeting. Seven (7) of the participants were elected as part of the co-management board. The sectors and representatives identified were:

- 1) Community Leadership- Lourdes Feliciano,
- 2) Fishing Associations- still open,
- 3) ONG's- Mary Ann Lucking,
- 4) Educational- Teresa Tallevast,
- 5) Research- Dr. Edwin Hernández,
- 6) Commercial Sector- Tomás Ayala; and
- 7) Agencies- Misael Feliciano (PRDRNA)
- 8) Municipality- still open

The only sectors that are still without a representative are Authority for the Development and Conservation of Culebra (ACDEC), the Municipality government and the Fishing Sectors. PRDNER is going to work on the election of these sectors during January 2014.

The representatives were elected by consensus by the public that attended the meeting. The appendices demonstrate the results of two years of outreach and education efforts conducted by the Specialist. They demonstrate the commitment of the relevant stakeholders for the future conservation and appropriate management of the coral reef resources in the Canal de Luis Peña Natural Reserve. It is now up to this Board and PRDNER to continue the conservation efforts. The Specialist, Dr. Alejandro Torres, has made a commitment to remain available sporadically as a volunteer to provide some continuity of the NOAA funded efforts in the region.

Appendix 1. Canal Luis Peña's Board Sectors



Appendix 2. CLP's Co-management Board Meeting Invitation

4 de diciembre de 2013

Estimado Misael Feliciano:

Reciba un saludo cordial. Como es de su conocimiento, durante los pasados dos años el Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales (DRNA) y la Administración Oceánica y Atmosférica Nacional (NOAA) hemos estado trabajando en un esfuerzo colaborativo para fortalecer las estrategias de manejo de la Reserva Natural Canal de Luis Peña (CLP).

Una parte esencial de este esfuerzo tiene que ver con la participación activa de sectores interesados (*stakeholders*) en los esfuerzos de manejo de esta reserva. Entendemos que unos de los mecanismos más efectivos para asegurar dicha participación es el co-manejo. El Plan de Manejo del CLP establece como prioridad la creación de una junta de co-manejo compuesta por representantes de estos sectores.

Siguiendo estos lineamientos, nos complace informarle que el jueves 12 de diciembre de 2013 a las 6:00 PM llevaremos a cabo la primera reunión para la creación de la junta. Y quisiéramos extenderle una invitación a participar de la misma. La reunión tendrá lugar en la biblioteca de la Escuela Ecológica.

Los objetivos de la reunión son los siguientes: 1) presentar los sectores que se han identificado como claves en el manejo del CLP, 2) determinar los representantes de cada sector que formarán parte de la junta, 3) comenzar a reflexionar sobre el tipo de co-manejo que quiere adoptar la junta.

Nos alegra retomar este esfuerzo hacia la creación de la junta de co-manejo del CLP. Agradecemos, de antemano, que nos confirme su asistencia. Esperamos contar con su acostumbrado apoyo.

Cordialmente,

Robert Matos Morales
Director Unidad Especiales Marinos y
Gerente de Áreas Protegidas del
Noreste
Departamento de Recursos Naturales
y Ambientales de Puerto Rico

Alejandro Torres-Abreu, Ph.D.
Coordinador
Proyecto Colaborativo del Litoral
Noreste

12 de diciembre de 2013

Primera reunion para creación de la Junta de Co-manejo CLP

Documento compromiso participación Junta co-manejo CLP

Propósito

Durante los pasados años el Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales (DRNA) y la Administración Oceánica y Atmosférica Nacional (NOAA) se han dado a la tarea de desarrollar el plan de manejo para la Reserva Natural Canal de Luis Peña. En el Plan de Manejo aprobado de la reserva se establece como prioridad la creación de una Junta de co-manejo. El propósito principal de la junta de co-manejo es dirigir los esfuerzos de conservación del CLP en conjunto con el Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales (DRNA), basado en las estrategias que se establecen en dicho plan.

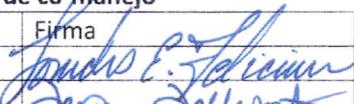
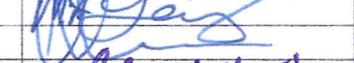
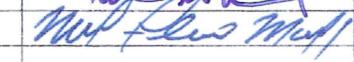
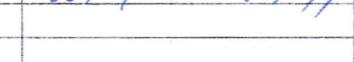
Sectores identificados

Los sectores que se han identificados son: 1) Municipio (ACDEC y Municipio), 2) ONG's, 3) Agencias (FWS, DRNA, Turismo), 4) Liderazgo Comunitario, 5) Educativo, 6) Pescadores, 7) Investigación, 8) Sector comercios.

Cualidades de los representantes

- 1) compromiso ambiental para contribuir a esfuerzos de manejo del CLP, 2) persona reconocida en la comunidad que goce de la confianza, seriedad y honestidad del sector que representa, 3) que tenga la capacidad de poder comunicarse y recoger el sentir del sector para que pueda representarlo en la Junta, 4) pueda ser conciliadora y mantener un debate de altura en la Junta, a pesar de las discrepancias con otros miembros de la Junta, 4) tenga disponibilidad de asistir a las reuniones de la junta al menos 1 vez al mes.

Firmas participantes Junta de co-manejo

Nombre	Firma	Sector
1. Lourdes Feliciano		Liderazgo comunitario
2. Teresa Thallevast		Educativo
3. Mary Ann Lucking		ONG's
4. Tomasito Ayala		Comercios
5. Edwin Hernández		Investigación
6. Misael Feliciano		Agencias- DRNA
7.		ACDEC-Municipio
8.		Pescadores