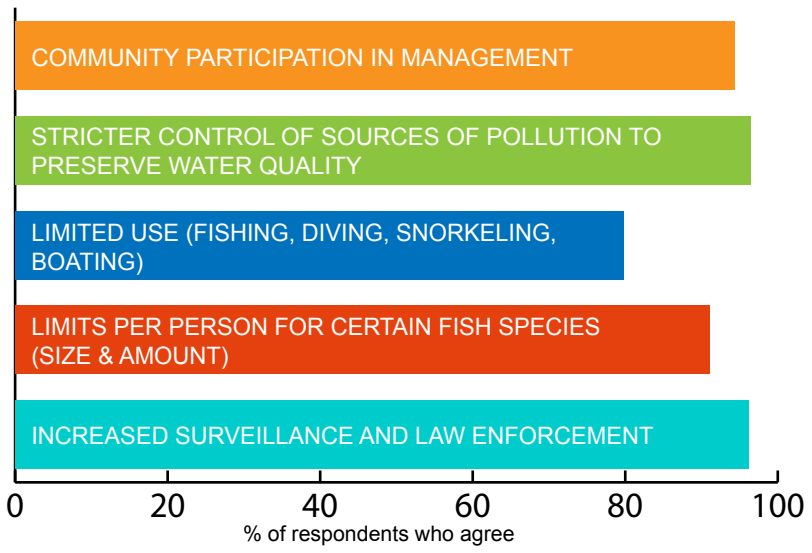
CONNECTIONS BETWEEN
CORAL REEFS & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program monitors the biological, socioeconomic, and climate conditions of US coral reef areas and communities. This includes collection of socioeconomic variables including demographics, human use of coral reef resources, as well as knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of coral reefs and coral reef management through the use of surveys and existing data. The takeaways below are based on the survey results for Puerto Rico.

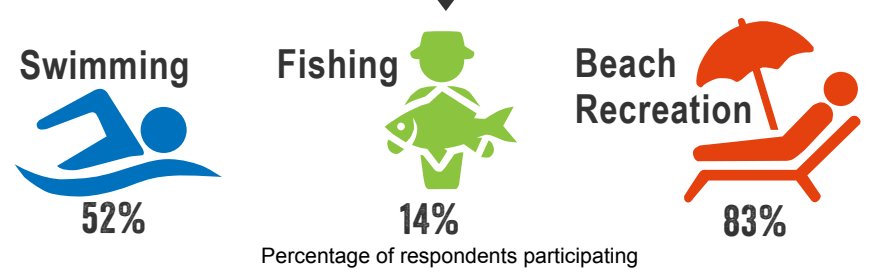
TAKEAWAYS FROM PUERTO RICO

MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The majority of people support management strategies to improve protection.



USES OF RESOURCES

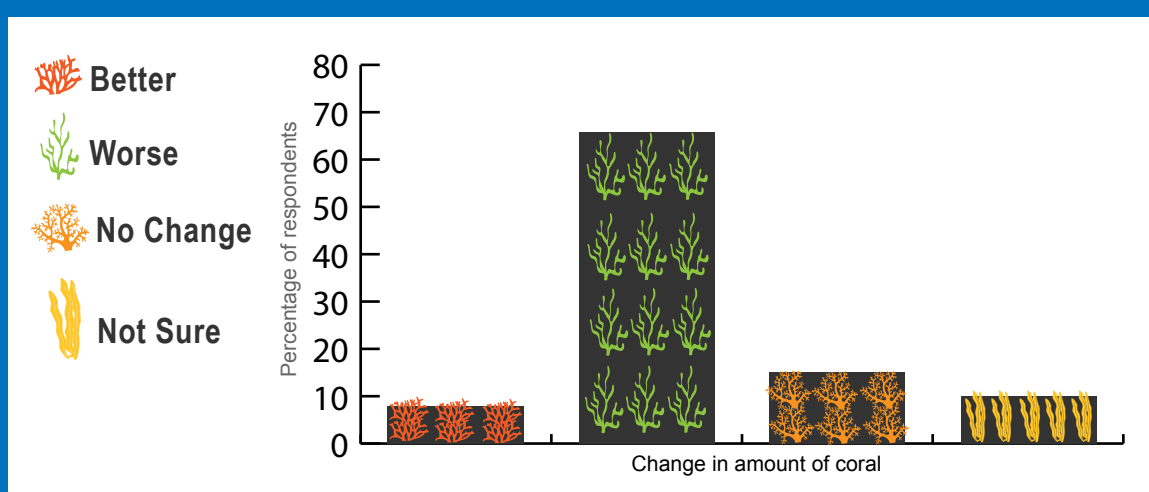


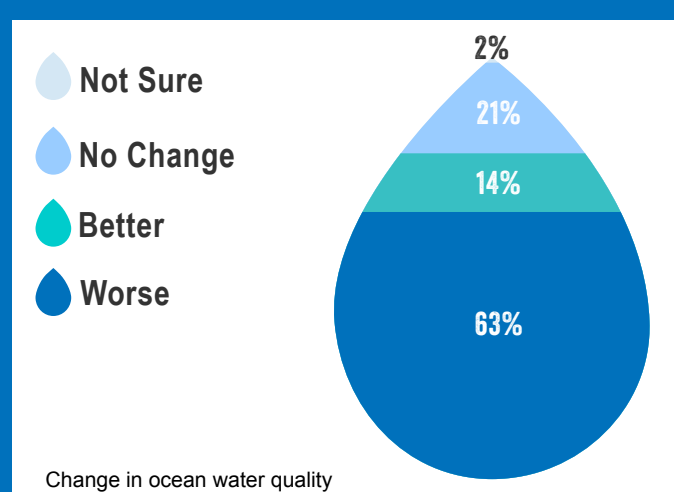
TENURE & CONDITION

Years of residence impacts perceptions of marine resource conditions. Lifelong residents of Puerto Rico are more likely to have a more negative opinion concerning the change in the condition of marine resources over the last 10 years.

PERCEPTIONS

PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED HOW THE AMOUNT OF CORAL AND CONDITION OF OCEAN WATER QUALITY HAS CHANGED IN THE PAST 10 YEARS...





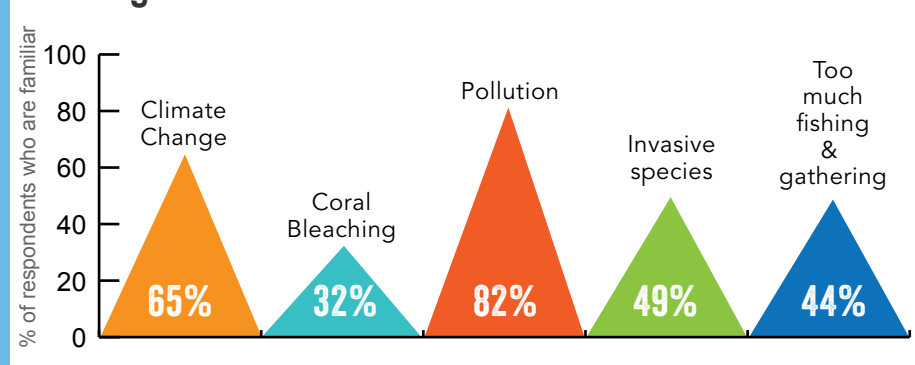
VALUES & AWARENESS

1. Puerto Rican residents who agreed that "coral reefs are important to Puerto Rico's cultures" were more likely to participate in more marine activities and participate in pro-environmental behavior.

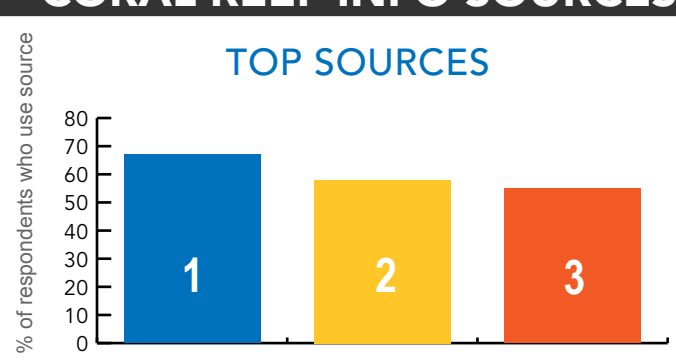
2. Puerto Rican residents who agreed that "coral reefs protect Puerto Rico from erosion and natural disasters" were more likely to respond more favorably to management options and be more familiar with the various threats faced by coral reefs.

THREAT FAMILIARITY

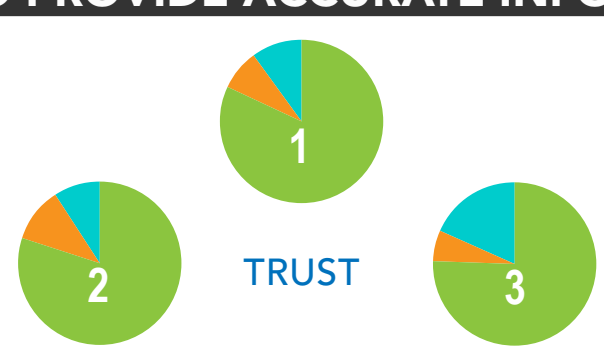
How familiar are you with these potential threats facing coral reefs?



CORAL REEF INFO SOURCES & DEGREE OF TRUST TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFO



1) TV
2) Newspapers/Print
3) Internet



The survey was conducted for a random stratified sample of households in the Ponce, Aguadilla, Caguas, Mayaguez, Fajardo, Guayama, Arecibo, Bayamon, and San Juan regions of Puerto Rico in the year 2015. In comparing the sample to the total population of Puerto Rico, the data were determined to be representative and therefore the results are generalizable to the entire population of the jurisdiction. Data were collected through the telephone random digit dial survey method, and the total sample size for this survey was 2,503. The survey effort is used in conjunction with the collection of existing secondary data to monitor the socioeconomic conditions of the coral jurisdictions over time. For more information, please see the NCRMP Socioeconomic Component project page at http://www.coris.noaa.gov/monitoring/socioeconomic.html.