

MICHAEL I. NEMETH
SENIOR CONSULTANT

EDUCATION

M.S., Biological Oceanography, University of Puerto Rico, 1998
B.S., Biology, Florida International University, 1993

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Mr. Nemeth has over 10 years experience in assessing tropical marine resources particularly anthropogenic impacts to coral reefs and associated habitats. He has developed and implemented coral reef monitoring projects focused on determining ecological patterns across environmental gradients. Mr. Nemeth has provided oversight, monitoring and documentation for damage assessment and restoration of coral reef habitat damaged due to vessel grounding. He has experience quantifying and mapping the abundance and ecological condition of marine organisms including the design of sampling methodologies that incorporate the spatial structure of complex systems. Mr. Nemeth's experience in varied projects demonstrate his capabilities in providing high quality service in examining impacts and restoration alternatives to living marine resources and habitats.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, Guanica Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment, Guanica, PR. Part of the LTCI team developing a natural resource damage assessment in response to the Guanica Oil Spill of 2007 [2007 – Present].

Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, M/T Margara Natural Resource Damage Assessment, Guayanilla, PR. Part of the LTCI team developing a natural resource damage assessment, restoration projects and monitoring program in response to the M/T Margara grounding in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico [2006 – Present].

University of Puerto Rico, Department of Marine Sciences. Coral Reef Ecosystem Studies project. Research assistant investigating spatial patterns and processes of the coral reef fish community as part of an interdisciplinary study. Developed sampling design, conducted field sampling, managed database, analyzed data [2003 – 2007].

Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, Coordinator, Marine Habitat Program, San Juan, PR. Project leader for the coral reef monitoring of Natural Reserve Baseline Sites. Collected data on the coral reef epibenthic community, reef fish abundance, and water quality parameters. Coordinated mooring buoy project including proposal writing, supervision of personnel and maintenance of systems. [2000 – 2002].

University of Puerto Rico, Department of Marine Sciences. Fish Trap Impact Study. Investigated the effects of commercial fish traps to coral reefs for the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council. Determined the distribution of traps relative to habitat type and characterized the structure of the benthic community to quantify damage caused by traps to corals reefs [1999 – 2000].



ReefKeeper International. Conservation Associate, Puerto Rico. Implemented coral reef conservation campaigns through analysis of agency regulatory action and advocacy. Directed coral reef monitoring efforts in Puerto Rico to determine coral abundance, presence of disease, and assess temporal changes [1998 – 1999].

University of Puerto Rico, Department of Marine Sciences. Seagrass Productivity and Disturbance Study. Research assistant for project to determine the production and the dynamics of disturbance in seagrass communities. Sampled for abundances of seagrass and algae, processed field samples to determine biomass per unit area, and collected/processed fauna samples to characterize seagrass assemblage [1994 – 1998].

University of Puerto Rico, Department of Marine Sciences. Queen Conch Abundance Study. Research diver assessing stock abundance of queen conch in western Puerto Rico for the National Marine Fisheries Service SEAMAP program. Collected data along transects using Scuba to determine conch densities, describe population size/age structure, and characterize habitat [1995 – 1996].

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Lead contractor in study to monitor nesting success of leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles to determine the effects of an oil spill in northwest Puerto Rico. Located and excavated nests to determine survivorship, collected samples for chemical analysis [1994].

Florida Department of Transportation. Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Environmental scientist for roadway construction projects to mitigate impacts to wetlands and endangered species utilizing NEPA guidelines. Conducted field consultations wrote and reviewed wildlife and wetlands sections of environmental impact documents, and assisted on the design of wetland mitigation projects [1993].

SELECTED REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Nemeth, M, M. Scharer and R Appeldoorn. 2007. Observations of *Mycteroperca venenosa* from a spawning aggregation at Mona Island, Puerto Rico. Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, 59: 489-492.

Griffin, S.P., M. Nemeth. 2007. Ship Grounding in the Caribbean: Considerations for Coral Reef Recovery after Marine Incidents. *Our Watery World: Humans and the Sea*. CEA-CC Publications. Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. Pages 181-192.

Aguilar-Perera A., M. Scharer and M. Nemeth. 2006. Occurrence of juvenile Nassau grouper, *Epinephelus striatus* (Teleostei: Serranidae), off Mona Island, Puerto Rico: considerations of recruitment potential. *Caribbean Journal of Science*, 42(2): 264-267.

Scharer M., M. Nemeth and R.S Appeldoorn. 2007. Mapping Ontogenetic Habitat Shifts of Coral Reef Fish at Mona Island, Puerto Rico. Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, (In Press).

Weil, E., E.A. Hernandez-Delgado, A.W. Bruckner, A.L. Ortiz, M. Nemeth and H. Ruiz. 2003. Distribution and status of Acroporid coral populations in Puerto Rico. In: Bruckner A.W., 2002.



Proceedings of the Caribbean Acropora Workshop. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-OPR-24, Silver Spring, MD. 199 pp.

Nemeth, M. 2002. Puerto Rico DRNA Coral Reef Monitoring Project Report. Task 1: Monitoring of Natural Reserve Baseline Sites, Marine Resources Division, Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, San Juan, PR. 38pp.

Appeldoorn, R.S., M. Nemeth, J. Vasslides, M. Scharer. 2000. The effects of fish traps on benthic habitats of La Parguera, Puerto Rico. Report to the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, Hato Rey, PR. 31pp.

Posada, J, I. Mateo and M. Nemeth. 1999. Occurrence, abundance and length frequency distribution of queen conch in the shallow waters of Jaragua National Park, Dominican Republic. Caribbean Journal of Science, 35(1-2): 70-82.

Nemeth, M. 1994. Monitoring of sea turtle nesting in NW Puerto Rico: Final Report for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cabo Rojo, PR. 20pp.

PREVIOUS EMPLOYERS

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| 2003-2007 | University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, PR, Research Assistant. |
| 2000-2002 | PR Dept. of Natural and Environ. Resources, San Juan, PR, Biologist. |
| 1998-1999 | Reefkeeper International, San Juan, PR, Associate. |
| 1995-1998 | University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, PR, Research Assistant. |
| 1994 | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cabo Rojo, PR, Contract Biologist. |
| 1993 | Florida Dept. of Transportation, FL, Environmental Specialist. |

CONTACT INFORMATION

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