

**MANUEL AMAURY NIEVES ORTIZ**

C5 calle Yuisa, Urb. Vista Azul, Rincon P.R. 00677

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Phone: 787-201-0209

**EDUCATION**

- Aug 2016 – Dec 2020 **MSc.**, Marine Sciences, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez
- Jan 2012 – May 2016 **BSc.**, Coastal Marine Biology, University of Puerto Rico-Humacao

**LANGUAGES**

- **Spanish** (first language)
- **English** (written & spoken)

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Restoration ecology
- Tropical marine ecology
- Wildlife and coastal management
- Community outreach & education

**EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE**

1. **Project Manager - Caribbean Coral Reef Institute, UPR-Mayaguez**
  - a. Sep 2022 - present      Juan J. Cruz-Motta      [juan.cruz13@upr.edu](mailto:juan.cruz13@upr.edu)
2. **Divemaster for Taino Divers, Rincon P.R.**
  - a. Jun 2021 - May 2022      Frank Lazu      [frank.lazu@upr.edu](mailto:frank.lazu@upr.edu)
3. **Fish ID expert for NOAA's Puerto Rico National Coral Reef Monitoring Program (PR-NCRMP)**
  - a. May 2019 - present      Hector J. Ruiz      [astreoides@gmail.com](mailto:astreoides@gmail.com)
4. Coral restoration practitioner with Institute for Socio-Ecological Research (ISER) Caribe's coral microgragmentation project in Isla Magueyes, La Parguera, Lajas P.R. (Jan - Dec 2021)
5. Coral restoration practitioner and marine scientist with Sea Ventures Pro Dive Center (Jun; Oct - Nov 2021)
6. Data manager for the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) through CariCOOS, P.R. (Mar 2021 - May 2021)
7. Snorkeling and diving tour guide with "413 Divers" in Rincon (Jan 2021 - May 2021)
8. Writer and editor for the Sea Grant College Program at UPRM, P.R. (Aug 2018 - Aug 2020)
9. Waterfront Director at Camp Merz, Chautauqua, Buffalo, N.Y. (Jun - Aug 2016)

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

1. **Fish assemblages associated with natural, transplanted, artificial, and accidental reefs in Puerto Rico** (Aug 2016 - Dec 2020)
  - a. Published in the *Journal of Ocean and Coastal Management*  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2021.105901>
2. Abiotic factors affecting the growth & the microbial community in the brown macroalgae *Turbinaria ornata* in Mo'orea, French Polynesia (May 2015)
3. Assessing the mayor lateral tooth of chiton (Polyplacophora) radulas as taxonomic criteria (Aug 2014)

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4. Composition of the resident macrofauna community in free-floating *Sargassum* seaweed from the Sargasso Sea (Jan - Mar 2014)
5. Proposal for a multidisciplinary management of biodiversity in the Sargasso Sea (Jan - Mar 2014)
6. Effect of shell fit on shell investigation behavior by the hermit crab *Clibanarius vittatus* in response to colors and chemical cues (August 2013)
7. Shift of the symbiotic algae population in the intertidal anemone *Anthopleura elegantissima* (January 2013)
8. Short-term changes in planktonic community composition in the bioluminescent bay, Laguna Grande, Puerto Rico, at the onset of the rainy season (August 2012)

### CERTIFICATIONS & SKILLS

- PADI Dive Instructor
- AAUS Scientific Diver
- PADI Rescue Diver
- PADI Nitrox Diver
- PDIC Advanced SCUBA diver
- DRNA Navigation license
- CPR, First Aid and AED instructor
- Tall ship sailing & nautical sciences (>700 hrs.)
- Transplant, and maintenance of indoor and outdoor coral nurseries
- Caribbean reef fish identification
- Caribbean coral species identification
- DNA extraction, quantification, PCR, & electrophoresis
- CTD, water sampling, & data-logger deployment and maintenance
- Plankton sampling methods & basic taxonomy
- Basic marine invertebrate taxonomy
- Small watercraft navigation
- Over 800 professional dives

### COMPUTER SKILLS

- Proficient in PC & Mac systems word processors, spreadsheet & large data management
- Experience in ArcGIS & Google Earth Pro
- Experienced with SPSS, PRIMER v7, & Oriana statistics softwares
- Basic programming in Linux, Python and R
- Experienced in ImageJ & Adobe Photoshop

### ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS & RELATED OUTREACH EXPERIENCES

March 2023

- Marine Science Symposium in UPR-Mayaguez, Puerto Rico  
**Poster:** *Monitoring seawater chemistry, benthic communities, and fish assemblages to assess the health of coral reefs in Puerto Rico through application of the Biological Condition Gradient (BCG).*

July 2018

- Great Barrier Reef Restoration Symposium in Cairns, Australia.  
**Poster:** *Biodiversity and coral health across natural and artificial reefs in Puerto Rico: an insight to reduce human pressure in natural areas*

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March 2018

- **Internship:** Programming for Evolutionary Biology Intensive Workshop in Berlin, Germany

January 2017

- **Internship:** Threatened and Endangered Coral Species at CCMI-Little Cayman Research Center. Coral reef monitoring and restoration workshops.

Sept 2016 - 2018

- **Graduate fellowship:** Puerto Rico's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minorities Participation (PR-LSAMP) Bridge to the Doctorate Program (BDP)

February 2016

- ASLO 2016 – New Orleans, EEUU  
**Poster:** *Abiotic factors affecting the growth & the microbial community in the brown macroalgae Turbinaria ornata in Mo'orea, French Polynesia*

May-August 2015

- **Internship:** The Diversity Project, Pathways to PhD Program: Coral reef algae ecology in Mo'orea, French Polynesia

February 2015

- ASLO 2015- Granada, Spain  
**Oral presentation:** *Factors that influence the composition of resident macrofauna in free-floating Sargassum*

May 2014

- SEA Student Symposium, Woods Hole, MA: **Poster:** *Floating Sargassum seaweed & its resident macrofauna.*
- **Oral presentation:** *Proposal for a Convention for Stewardship of the Sargasso Sea*

Feb - May 2014

- **Internship:** Marine Biodiversity & Conservation program: Sea Education Association, Woods Hole, MA. Oceanographic research aboard the SSV *Corwith Cramer*.

Aug - Dec 2013

- **Internship:** Duke Marine Lab's Marine Science & Conservation Scholarship Program for Fall Term 2013, Beaufort, NC

August 2013

- 98th ESA Meeting-Minneapolis, MN: **Poster:** *An intertidal anemone selectively expel less tolerant symbionts in order to cope with environmental stress*

March 2013

- NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, WA: **Oral presentation:** *Drift of the symbiotic algae population on the intertidal anemone Anthopleura elegantissima*

February 2013

- ASLO 2013-New Orleans, EEUU: **Poster:** *Short-term changes of the planktonic community at "Laguna Grande", Puerto Rico at the onset of the rainy season*

Jan - Jun 2013

- **Internship:** Multicultural Initiative in the Marine Sciences Program (MIMSUP) in Anacortes, WA

Summer 2010

- **Internship:** Nesting & in-water censuses of the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) & green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) at the natural reserve of Isla de Mona, PR with the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER)