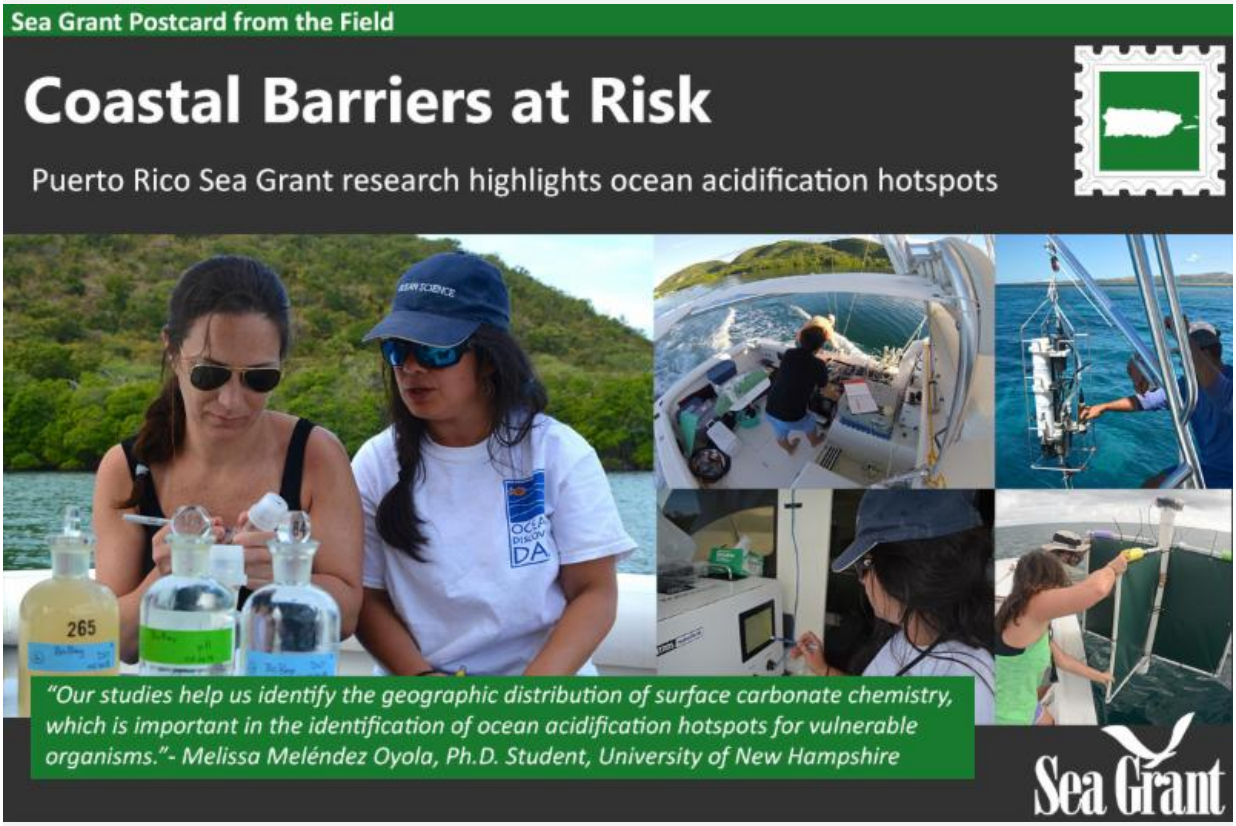
Sea Grant Postcard from the Field



Coastal Barriers at Risk

Beneath the waves just outside the serene fishing village of La Parguera, Puerto Rico, danger is lurking. The village's natural protectors against incoming waves, coral reefs, are facing an invisible threat: ocean acidification. With funding from Puerto Rico Sea Grant in 2017, researchers from University of Puerto Rico, University of New Hampshire and the Caribbean Regional Association for Coastal Ocean Observing are working together to develop the first biogeochemical and physical assessment for the La Parguera barrier system. The results are enabling detection of hotspots of coastal ocean acidification in coral reef ecosystems and highlighting areas that may be vulnerable to dissolution.

Learn more about this research.

Image description: Five photos (all courtesy of Ph.D. student Melissa Meléndez Oyola unless otherwise noted) and a quote from Oyola about the research. Clockwise from left: researchers label water samples in the field, researchers measure water chemistry parameters from the side of a boat (photo credit: Marc Emond), scientific instrumentation is deployed from the side of a boat and a researcher analyzes samples.

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