

Building successful linkages in support of the queen conch and fish spawning aggregation regional fisheries management sustainability

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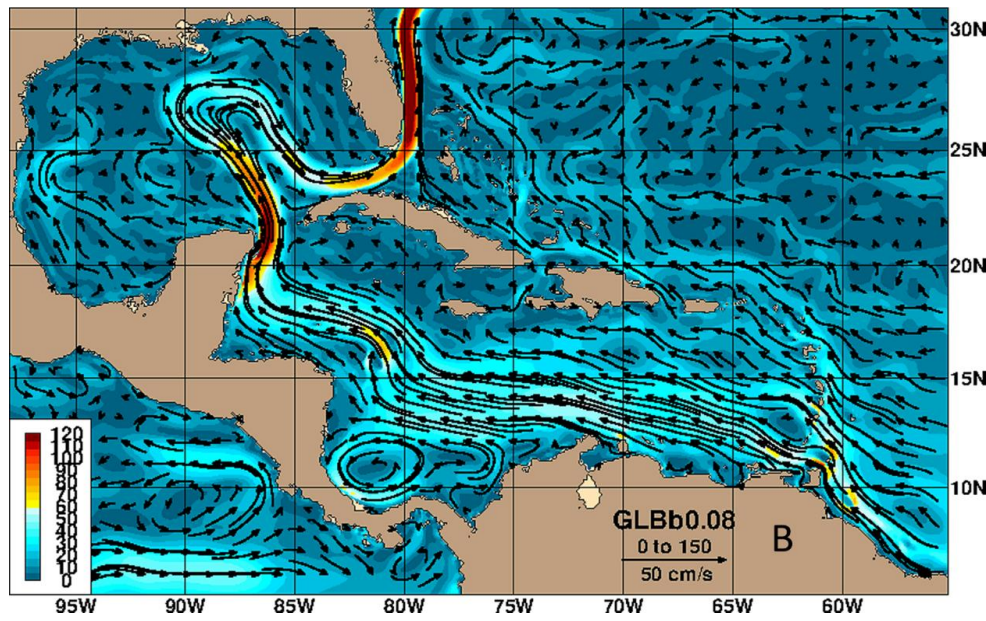
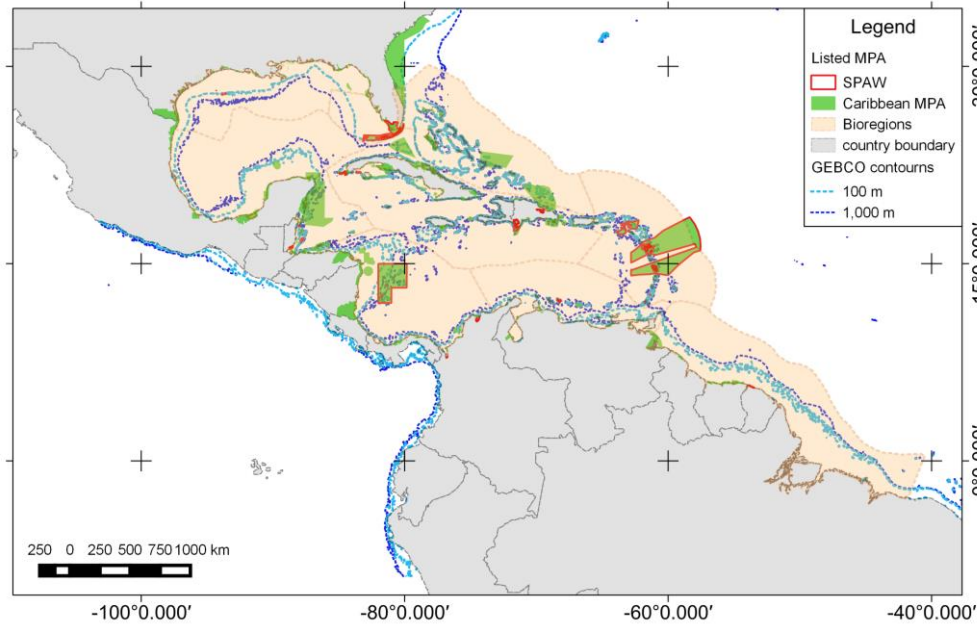
184th CFMC regular meeting

San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 23-24, 2024



The Wider Caribbean Region

High connectivity, transboundary resources



+ 134 million people in coastal areas

High cultural diversity (Europeans, natives, negro, etc.)

~ 6.7 million km² marine waters

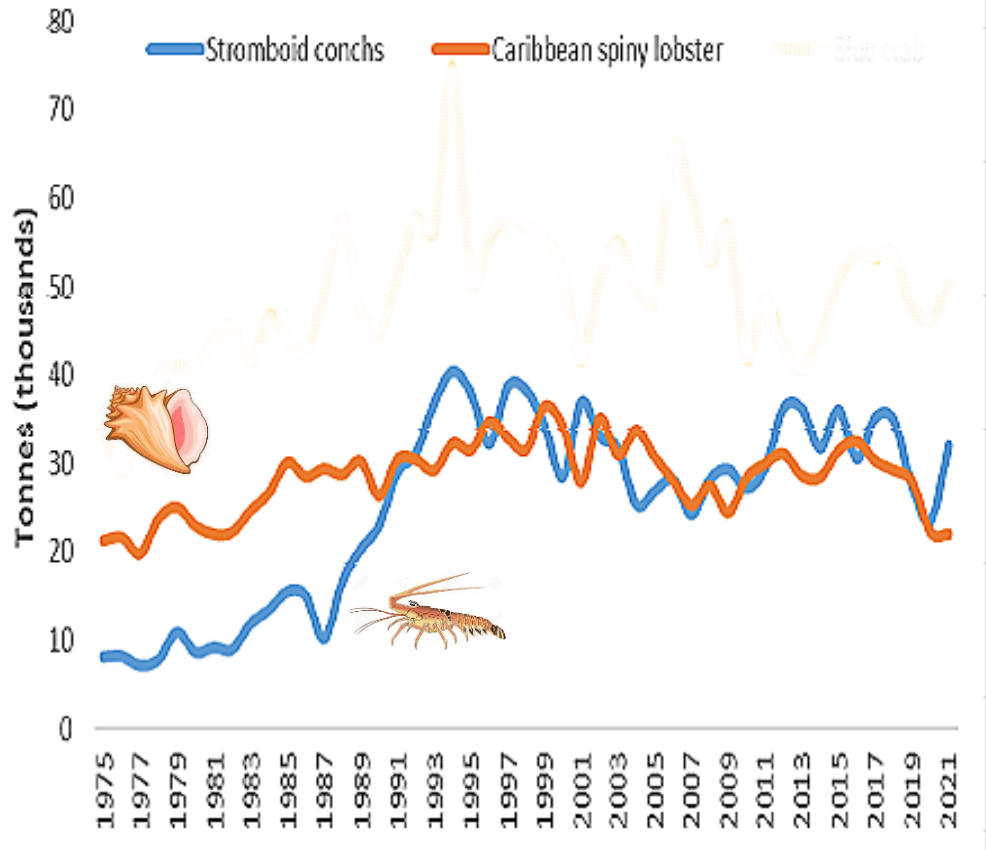
+7,000 islands, islets, cays, ~0.2 million km²

Coral reefs, mangroves, seagrasses

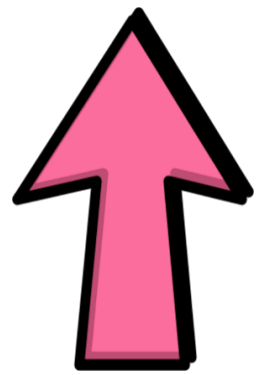
Complex interconnections

Significant species diversity, endemics, threatened

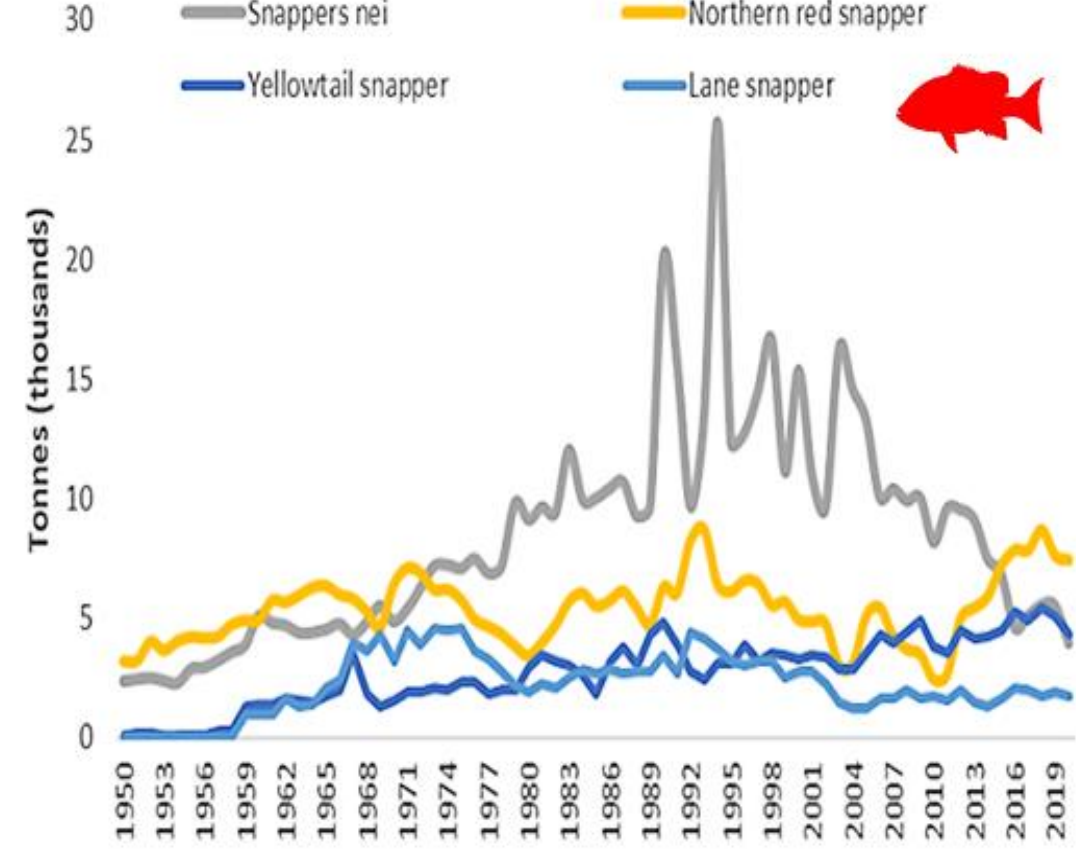
Heterogeneous productivity, riverine & upwelling



Conservation



Management



- Intense fishing pressure
- Increasing habitat degradation
- Increasing pollution
- Increasing IUU fishing

- Intensification climate change
- Higher frequency natural disasters
- Ecosystems & economies disruption

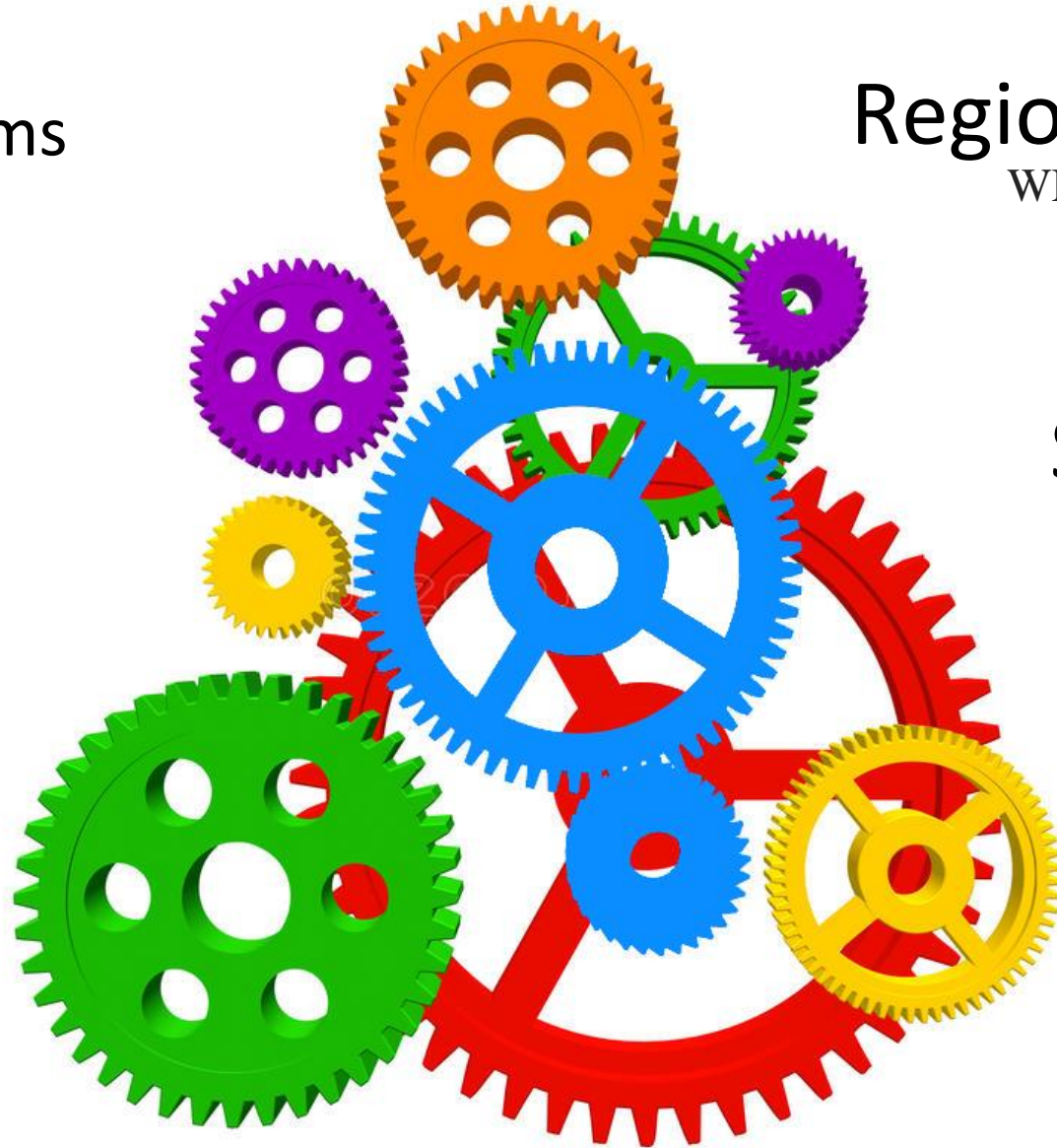
Regional strategies through Working Groups

1. OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on **Caribbean Spiny Lobster**
2. CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES Working Group on **Queen Conch**
3. WECAFC Working Group on the Management of **Deep-Sea Fisheries**
4. WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on **Recreational Fisheries**
5. CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER Working Group on **Fisheries Using FADS**
6. CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on **Flyingfish/Dolphinfish in the Eastern Caribbean**
7. WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working **Group on Shrimp and Groundfish in the Northern Brazil-Guianas Shelf**
8. CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on **Spawning Aggregations**
9. Regional Working Group on **Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing**
10. WECAFC Working Group for the Conservation And Management of **Sharks in the WCR**
11. WECAFC/CRFM/OSPESCA Fisheries **Data and Statistics Working Group**



Complex fisheries governance

- ✓ Large & multiple ecosystems
- ✓ Multiple species exploited
- ✓ Multiple stakeholders
- ✓ Multiple interests
- ✓ Multiple jurisdictions
- ✓ Multiple legal frameworks
- ✓ Multiple cultures
- ✓ Transboundary resources
- ✓ Increasing threats



Regional
WECAFC

Subregional
CRFM, OSPESCA

National
+40 countries +
overseas territories

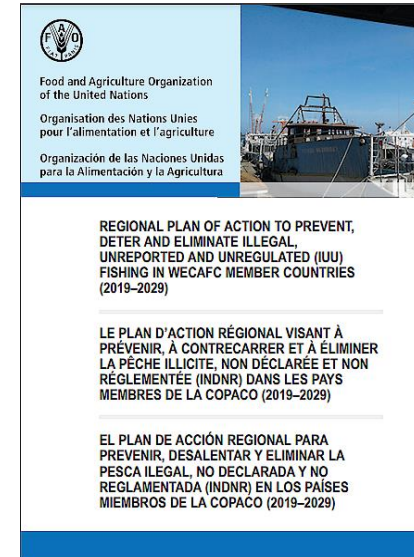
Adopted regional fisheries management plans



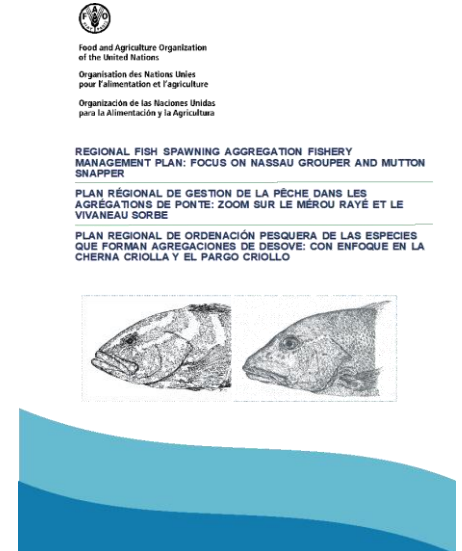
2017



2018



2020



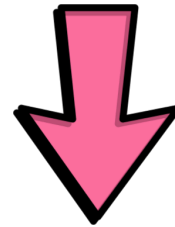
2024

Under development ...

1. Moored Fish Aggregating Devices Fishery
2. Caribbean Billfish Management & Conservation plan
3. Conservation of Management Sharks, Rays & Chimeras WECAFC
4. Regional Strategy on the Management of Bycatch and Discards in Latin American and Caribbean bottom trawl fisheries

What about plans implementation?

Implementation remains **voluntarily** and **given limitations** in resources (human, technical, financial) or political will, the reversal of negative trends are yet to be achieved.



2 task force committees to increase coordination & communication, technical advice & securing funding for Queen Conch and Spawning Aggregation WGs.

Queen Conch Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (QC/STTG)

Meetings:

1. April 23-25, 2019
2. November 25-26, 2019
3. April 11-12, 2023
4. April 30 - May 1, 2024

Recommendations 5th QCWG, San Juan, Puerto Rico and online, 13-14 December 2021.

First overview qualitative country progress implementation QC Regional Fisheries Management Plan (since 2019).

Re-analysis regional estimation of QC conversion factors (soon be published ENG & SPA by FAO).

Recommendations 6th QCWG, San Juan, Puerto Rico and online, 16 March 2023.

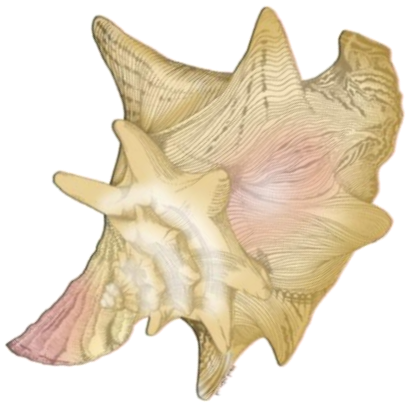
Updated CFMC QC three training modules, estimating population status, densities, & annual catch quotas.

First phase pilot improving QC landings statistics (Jamaica).

Recommendations 17th, 18th & 19th WECAFC meetings 2019, 2011, 2023.

First phase QC genetic pilot genetic library and support counteracting IUU fishing in trade.

Simplified guidelines to develop NDF for QC Exports - CITES.



Fish Spawning Aggregation Progress

Review parrotfishes in the Caribbean with recommendations for management.

Support to Big Fish Campaign & communication strategy.

Writing proposals

Meeting:

1. November 7-9, 2023

Informal meeting with experts, advise for coordination committee.

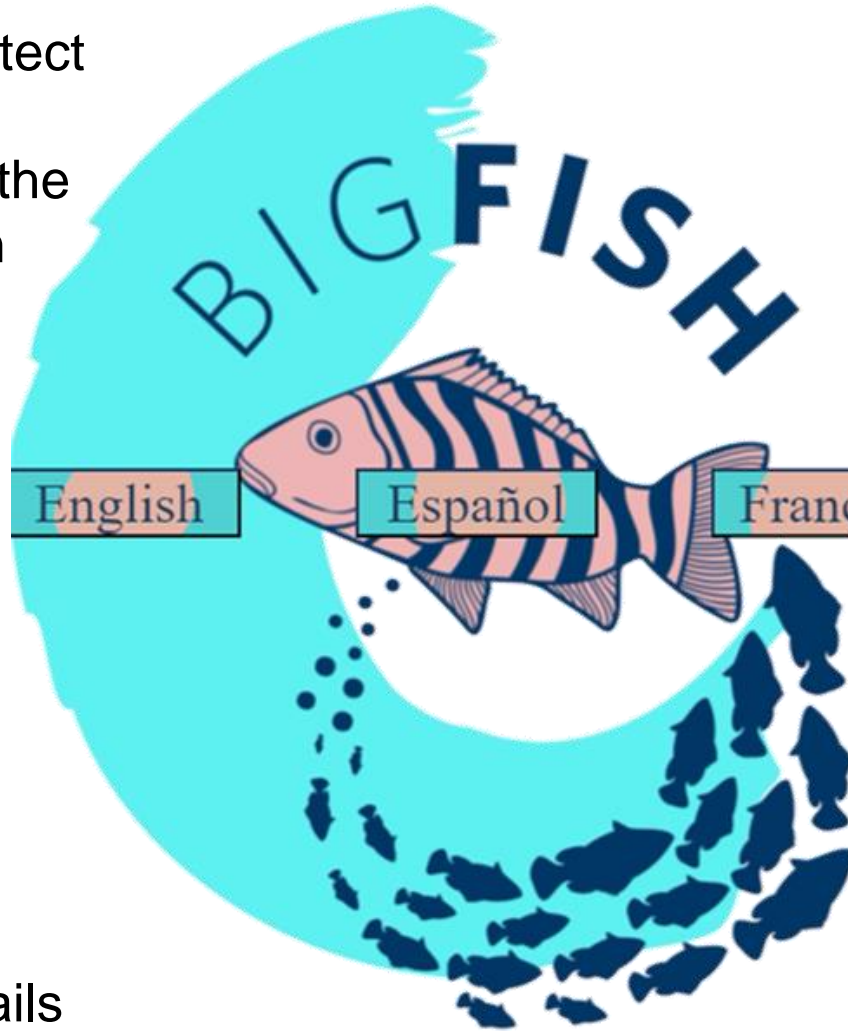
Informal meeting Big Fish Campaign.

Determining degree plan implementation

Radio kits!!!
(English & Spanish)

<https://linktr.ee/bigfishinitiative>

A collaborative campaign to protect fish spawning aggregations in the wider Caribbean

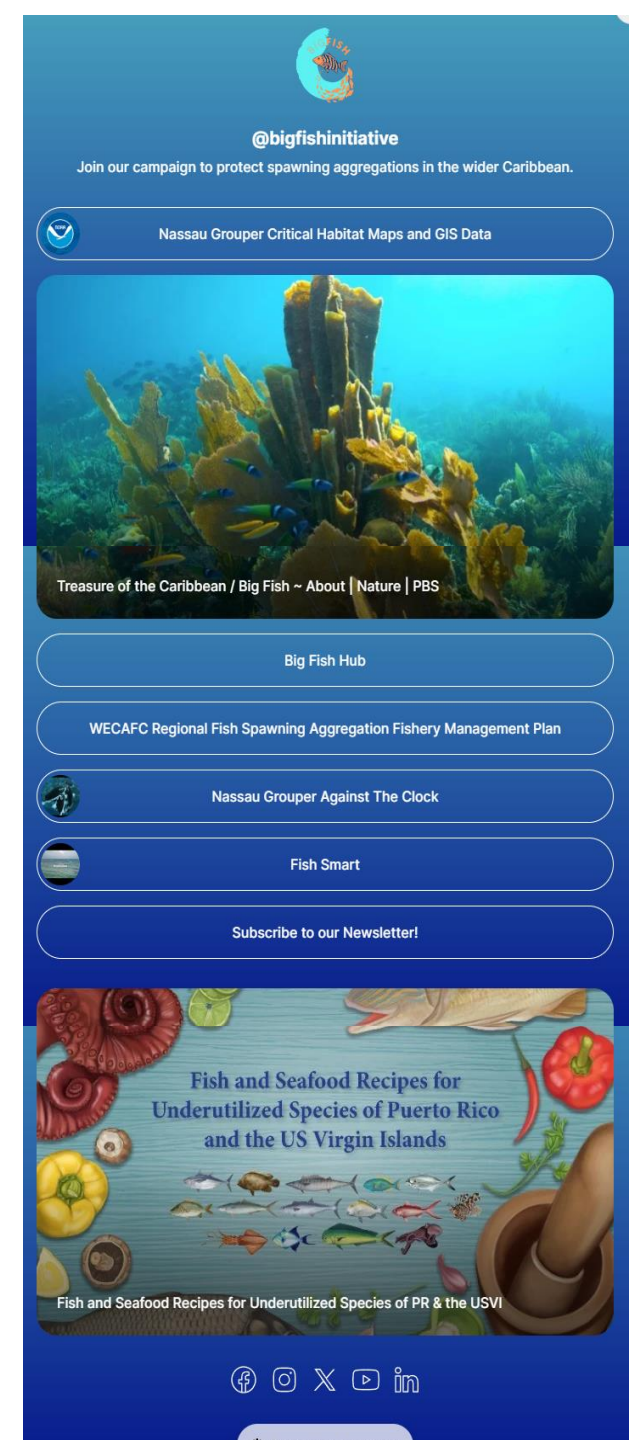


The hub 

The plan 

... Further details next talk!!!

Social media 



Lessons learned



- Better understanding complexity
- Addressing specific needs
- Improved communication & coordination
- Exchange information & ideas
- Reaching broader audiences
- Building trust
- Capitalizing voluntarily commitments & online tools
- Slow country's responses
- Overlaying multiple responsibilities
- Need support for translations
- Time differences



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