

Example Goals & Objectives for Island-based Fishery Management Plans (IBFMPs)

Without clearly articulated goals and objectives, the rationale for IBFMPs is weak and lacks any guiding framework or focus for future management actions. The following examples illustrate possible configurations of G&Os for purposes of discussion. Example Goals (an FMP may have multiple goals and objectives may be indexed to goals):

- • **Goal #1:** Maintain long-term sustainable use of coral reef fishery resources while preventing adverse impacts to stocks, habitats, protected species, or the reef ecosystem as a whole.
- • **Goal #2:** Manage the fisheries within the limits of local ecosystem production so as not to jeopardize a wide range of goods and services provided by a healthy ecosystem, including food, revenue, and recreation for humans.
- • **Goal #3:** Account for biological, social, and economic differences among the islands comprising the U.S. Caribbean.
- • **Goal #4:** Foster collaboration among territorial and federal authorities in the management of fisheries of the U.S. Caribbean.

Example Objectives:

- • **Objective #1:** Provide for long-term sustainable use of fisheries resources within the limits of local ecosystem production using a precautionary, ecosystem-based approach to management that accounts for uncertainty and relevant biological, ecological, economic and social factors in the fishery, including the benefits of food production, recreational opportunities, and protection of marine ecosystems.
- • **Objective #2:** Prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, and achieve optimum yield on a continuing basis.
- • **Objective #3:** Account for ecological relationships and functional roles of species in the fishery that contribute to a

healthy ecosystem, such as grazers, forage fish, habitat-builders and top predators.

- • **Objective #4:** Describe and identify EFH, adverse impacts on EFH, and other actions to conserve and enhance EFH. Adopt management measures that minimize adverse impacts from fishing on EFH and promote habitat conservation, including designation of specific habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) within EFH for more focused management action.
- • **Objective #5:** Reduce bycatch and waste in the fishery through the use of measures such as gear restrictions, seasonal closures or marine protected areas that reduce or minimize regulatory and/or economic discards, including measures to minimize the mortality of discarded bycatch that cannot be avoided.
- • **Objective #6:** Promote fair and equitable use of fishery resources that recognizes the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities as well as differences in local environment, culture, markets, user groups, gears, and seafood preferences.
- • **Objective #7:** Establish and maintain data collection and reporting programs necessary to support the conservation and management objectives of the Plan, including the biological, ecological, economic, and social data needed to assess the impacts of management measures.
- • **Objective #8:** Pursue consistent, coordinated regulations for the conservation and management of coral reefs and reef-associated resources in cooperation with local governments in the region.
- • **Objective #9:** Collaborate with domestic and international regional fishery management bodies in managing pan-Caribbean species.
- • **Objective #10:** Reverse the burden of proof on new, renewed or significantly expanded fisheries.