

Caribbean Fishery Management Council's 160th & 161st Meetings Reports

160th REGULAR MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

August 15-16, 2017 • The Courtyard Marriott in Isla Verde, Puerto Rico

Due to inconveniences experienced with hurricanes Irma and María, it was not possible to complete and publish this report in its due time.

The 160th CFMC Regular Meeting highlights are:



Mr. Carlos Farchette was re-elected as Council Chair. Mr. Marcos Hanke, recreational fisher from Puerto Rico was sworn in as Council member, and elected as Vice Chair.

Mr. Luis (Berto) Román, commercial fisher from Arecibo, PR reported on the field research that, in collaboration with Dr. Jorge Garcia-Sais under a Coral Reef Conservation Program Grant to the CFMC, was conducted to document the deep water (200 meters) communities around Desecheo. They were looking for silk snapper and made special emphasis on the fact that marine life is very rich at these depths. It is important that fishers know the state of the fishery at these depths. This is an excellent example of the value of the fisher's knowledge to improve fisheries management.



- Extensive discussions developed around the SSC presentation, specially on the concepts of overfishing, scalar and buffer descriptions for the fish stocks to be managed. This discussion will continue in the December meeting.



- The status of the IBFMPs was presented by Dr. Bill Arnold and Ms. María del Mar López from SERO. Orientation meetings throughout the Council's jurisdiction were proposed for Fall 2017. These has to be reprogrammed due to the impacts of hurricanes in the islands.



- Timothy Essington, Univ. of Washington, presented the Road Map for a Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) as proposed by Lenfest/PEW Approach to Fishery Ecosystem Plan Development. Meetings between PEW, CFMC (OEAP) will coordinate orientation meetings with fishers and other community members to promote their participation in the FEP.



• The NGO Beyond Our Shores established a pilot project with MenTa Cuisine in Arecibo, PR called the Seasonal Catch Seafood Initiative. Mr. Cedric Taquin, fisher, DAP-PR member, chef and owner of the MenTa Cuisine Restaurant will provide information to verify the authenticity of their in-season, local and sustainably caught fish to their restaurant guests and collect fisheries catch and effort data for the region. Visit www.beyondourshores.org/menta-cuisine to see their Seasonal Catch.

Motions

• DAPs from PR, St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix met in July 6, 2017 to discuss the status of the different species considered for management. Based on their best knowledge of the ecological and the fishery aspects for each island. Recommendations were made on whether species should be removed or remain in the list to be managed. Dr. Graciela García-Moliner presented their recommendations to the Council and the following motions were presented and approved.*

1. Motion to accept the report from St Croix DAP as presented and amended.
2. Motion to accept the report from DAP/PR as presented with modifications by Nelson Crespo.
3. Motion to accept the report from the DAP St Thomas/St John, USVI as presented with the modifications.

Other Motions approved:

4. Motion to place on the agenda for the December meeting final action on Framework Action to make expedited changes to ACLs for 2018.
5. Motion to instruct staff to develop a fishery ecosystem plan for the U.S. Caribbean.

*The reports can be found at www.caribbeanfmc.com

161st REGULAR MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December 12-13, 2017 • Marriott Stellaris in San Juan , Puerto Rico

The 161st CFMC Regular Meeting highlights are:



- The Council presented a recognition to Dr. Bonnie Ponwith for her effective contributions. Dr. Ponwith was the Director of the SEFSC and supported the Council in different research projects to improve the data for the FMPs.

Impacts of hurricanes Irma and María in the CFMC jurisdiction, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands



- The islands of St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix, Puerto Rico, Vieques and Culebra were all hit by hurricanes Irma and María in September 6 and 20, 2017. The impacts to the fisheries and the fisher's families were considerable: gear and vessels lost; docks and launching areas, fisher's markets and other infrastructure were severely damaged or destroyed. Fisher's families, also suffered losses in their homes and communities,

specialty lack of electricity and running water which limited considerably their capacity to work and keep their markets running.

Also, the coastal ecosystems: beaches, seagrass beds, mangroves and estuaries were affected by the waves, winds and storm surge altering considerably the habitats regularly used by many of the marine species that form the fishery in this area. The results of these hurricanes on the fishery will be reflected in the statistics and socioeconomic data by the end of the year.

It will be important for the fisheries industries in the region to find ways to restore their properties and businesses to recover the industry. One possible action presented by Tommy Forte (fish dealer from San Juan, PR) and Tony Iarocci (fisher from Florida) is to promote the exportation of available species in the area to other places.

Up-date on the status of the Island-Based Fisheries Management Plans

- Indicator species for the managed fish groups in each island have already been selected by their respective DAPs and the SSC. An indicator species should be a data-reach species that can be assessed and served as a status indicator for the entire unit. Other groups have only one species or have no indicator species selected yet.

Puerto Rico

- Snapper Unit 1: Black, Blackfin, [Silk](#), Vermilion, Wenchman
- Snapper Unit 2: Cardinal, [Queen](#)
- Snapper Unit 4: [Mutton](#), Dog, Schoolmaster
- Grouper Unit 3: [Coney](#), Graysby
- Grouper Unit 6: [Red hind](#), Rock hind
- Triggerfishes: Ocean, [Queen](#), Gray
- Dolphinfishes: [Dolphinfish](#), Pompano

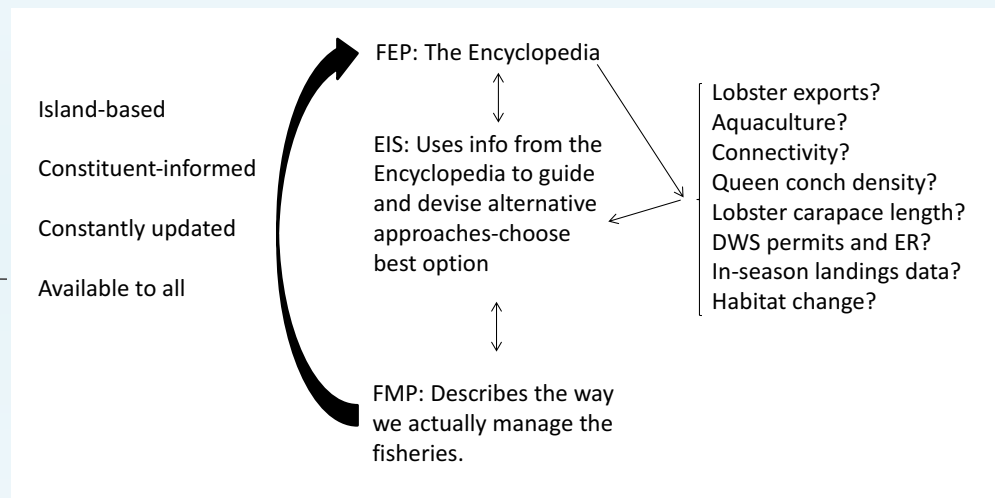
St. Croix

- Snapper Unit 1: Black, [Blackfin](#), [Silk](#), Vermilion
- Snapper Unit 3: Gray, [Lane](#)
- Grouper Unit 3: [Coney](#), Graysby
- Grouper Unit 3: [Red hind](#), Rock hind
- Grouper Unit 5: Black, Red, Tiger, [Yellowfin](#)
- Parrotfish Unit 2: Princess, Queen, Redfin, [Redtail](#), [Stoplight](#), Redband, Striped

St. Thomas/St. John

- Snapper Unit 1: Black, [Blackfin](#), Silk, Vermilion
- Snapper Unit 3: Lane, [Mutton](#)
- Grouper Unit 3: Coney, [Red hind](#)
- Grouper Unit 4: Black, Red, Tiger, [Yellowfin](#)
- Grunts: [White](#), Bluestriped, Margate
- Porgies: Jolthead, Sea bream, Sheepshead, [Pluma](#)
- Parrotfish Unit 2: Princess, Queen, Redfin, [Redtail](#), [Stoplight](#), Redband, Striped
- Surgeonfishes: Blue tang, Ocean surgeonfish, [Doctorfish](#)
- Angelfishes: Queen, [Gray](#), French

Dr. Bill Arnold reported that the IBFMPs document should be ready for the Secretary of Commerce by December 2018. An important issue is the integration of the Ecosystem Based Fishery Management (EBFM) in these Plans. NOAA Fisheries defines EBFM as a systematic approach to fisheries management in a geographically specified area that contributes to the resilience and sustainability of the ecosystem; recognizes the physical, biological, economic, and social interactions among the affected fishery-related components of the ecosystem, including humans; and seeks to optimize benefits among a diverse set of societal goals. The Council has endorsed the development of the Fisheries Ecosystem Plan (FEP) for the Caribbean fisheries. This document, under development, is the encyclopedia that contains the information about the ecosystem Caribbean wide, not just the US Caribbean and will be integrated into the final IBFMPs document.



An orientation meeting with the Council, the SSC and the DAPs will be held in PR before the next CFMC regular meeting to present these concepts and receive their input for the IBFMPs.

If you need more information on the documents discussed at the Regular Meetings please go to www.caribbeanfmc.com



Next Meetings:

CFMC Meeting:

April 3-4, 2018 at the Marriott Stellaris in San Juan, Puerto Rico

SSC Meeting:

February 26 - March 02, 2018 at the CFMC's Headquarters in San Juan Puerto Rico

OEAP Meeting

March 08-09, 2018 at the CFMC's Headquarters in San Juan, Puerto Rico

Orientation Meeting

March 20, 2018 at the Marriott Stellaris in San Juan, Puerto Rico

Acronyms

ABC - Acceptable Biological Catch

ACL - Annual Catch Limit

AM - Accountability Measures

CFMC - Caribbean Fishery Management Council

DAP - District Advisory Panel

EBFMP - Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Plan

EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zone

FEP - Fishery Ecosystem Plan

FMP - Fishery Management Plans

FMU - Fishery Management Unit

IBFMP - Island Based Fishery Management Plan

MSA - Magnuson Steven Act

NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NS1 - National Standard 1

OFL - Overfishing Limit

OY - Optimum Yield

PR - Puerto Rico

SSC - Scientific and Statistical Committee

SFSC - South Fisheries Science Center

STT/STJ - St. Thomas / St. John

STX - St. Croix

USVI - United States Virgin Islands

Credits

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Editor's Note

The Caribbean Newsletter is published by The Caribbean Fishery Management Council. Its purpose is to report developments in fisheries management that would be of interest to its readers. Please credit the council when reprinting articles used in this newsletter. Anyone wishing to submit information or articles pertaining to fishing or fisheries management, or letters to the editor on a pertinent issue, is invited and encouraged to do so. These may be mailed to Natalia Perdomo, Caribbean Newsletter, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue Suite 401 San Juan Puerto Rico, 00918, or may be sent via internet to this email address nataliaperdomo_cfmcc@yahoo.com.