Ecosystem Based Technical Advisory Panel (EBFM TAP) Report to the CFMC

June 23, 2020

EBFM TAP History Background

October 23, 2019: CFMC establishes Technical Advisory Panel

December 10-11, 2019: EBFM TAP Members Appointed

February 19, 2020: The EBFM TAP convened for the first time.

- Agenda (where are we now, where are we heading, how it is going to work, assignments, set up meeting schedules).
- Coordination and collaboration CFMC, Lenfest, ESR and others

June 1-2, 2020: The EBFM TAP second meeting

- FEP outline (work in progress)
- FEP goals and subgoals (work in progress)

FEP outline

1. **Introduction/Background**
   a. Purpose and need
   b. Goals and Objectives
   c. Explain the approach of EBFM
   d. Describing the organization (council panel group management boundaries)

Figure: The Lenfest FEP loop (Essington et al., 2016)

FEP outline

2. Defining the Interface Between Fishery and Ecosystem Management

a. Jurisdictions
b. Magnuson-Stevens Act
c. Other federal law and guidance
    i. NOAA obligations
    ii. Other federal agencies (e.g. Dept of Agr., USFWS, EPA, Coast Guard, USCE)
d. Local regulations
e. FEP development process and reassessment
f. Local interface between fisheries, fishery communities and ecosystem management

3. Environmental setting

a. Society and culture
    i. St. Croix, St. Thomas/St. John, Puerto Rico
    ii. Connectivity
b. Economics
    i. St. Croix, St. Thomas/St. John, Puerto Rico
    ii. Connectivity
c. Ecology
    i. St. Croix, St. Thomas/St. John, Puerto Rico
    ii. Connectivity
    iii. Habitat
d. Fisheries
    i. St. Croix, St. Thomas/St. John, Puerto Rico
        a. Fisheries regulations
    ii. Connectivity

FEP outline

4. **Conceptual Models**
   a. SSC, DAPs and other Council body conceptual models
   b. Any other conceptual models developed by independent researchers
   c. Stack Conceptual Models under council's guidance or by independent researchers
   d. Applications

5. **Present Status**
   a. Review of Ecosystem work in the U.S. Caribbean
   b. Ecosystem Status Report prepared by SEFSC
   c. Risk Analysis
   d. Other reports and documents (e.g. EPA bio criteria analysis, NCRMP status reports)
   e. Applications

6. **Future prospects**
   a. Quantitative Models
   b. Restoration/Mitigation

FEP outline

7. **Assessing Fishery and Ecosystem Conditions**
   a. Data availability, needs, strategies
   b. Assessment within an Ecosystem Context
   c. Developing group (e.g., biomass based) Assessment Approaches
   d. Assessing EFH
   e. Understanding the uncertainties/ variability of environmental changes and human activities on ecosystems and fisheries resources

8. **Coordination of ecosystem approaches to fisheries management in the US Caribbean**
   a. Considerations for Management
      i. MSA Revisions
      ii. FMP Amendments
      iii. CFMC policy statements
   b. Process for bringing the EBFM to the Council *(Convey the notion that the TAP is still in discussion on this. EBFM might inform management decision made by the Council)*
   c. Identify potential management strategies
   d. Integrated Ecosystem Assessment *NOTE-we may not have one for a while, but this outline includes not just what we have but what we need*

FEP outline

9. **Research needs**

10. **Performance evaluation**
    a. Performance measure
    b. Management strategy evaluation
    c. Review and revision schedule

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL

FEP goals and sub goals:

- The overarching *goal* of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) is to promote ecosystem based approaches to ensure healthy, resilient and productive marine ecosystems and the fisheries resources dependent upon those ecosystems, within the context of the unique biological, ecological, economic, social and cultural characteristics of those fishery resources and the communities dependent on them.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL

FEP goals and sub goals:

- A corollary goal is to provide the framework that promotes the following sub-goals:

1. Increase human community resilience within the context of changing ecosystems;
2. Promote ecosystem resilience within the context of changing ecosystems;
3. Define present ecosystem status/functionality;
4. Understand dynamics of fisheries and ecosystem services;
5. Describe key ecosystem linkages;
6. Identify research priorities;
7. Identify additional ecosystem-essential species in need of conservation and management;
8. Understand the risks to the fishery ecosystem and tradeoffs from different management strategies;
9. Improve the data and information needed to support marine ecosystem management;
10. Prevent overfishing and/or ecosystem overfishing;
11. Achieve optimum yield;
12. Incorporate ecosystem considerations into stock assessments;
13. Bring ecosystem considerations into the decision-making process;
14. Promote adaptive management policies (Revising MSA, National SSC, CCC).