

## CFMC Draft Strategic Plan Comment Summary

Comments on the Draft CFMC 2022-2026 Strategic Plan were accepted via Spanish and English online comment forms from Friday, August 6 through Friday, September 3, 2021. A total of three individuals provided comments.

### Vision, Mission, Core Values

- One commenter stated that the Vision, Mission, and Core Values were not very inclusive, while another supported all three as written.

### Management

- Regarding Objective 2, one commenter recommended gathering fisher input for this objective by gear and region, possibly via an electronic request for comments.
- The same commenter also suggested development of an educational campaign, possibly through regional workshops combined with a digital component, to gather input for the strategy “Incorporate fisher input into stock assessments” noting that it was key for fishers to be heard in that process to strengthen confidence in management, as well as clarify uncertainties in quantification of [assessment] inputs with the knowledge of local commercial fishers.

### Ecosystem and Resource Health

- One respondent agreed with all proposed objectives under the Ecosystem and Resource Health goal and supported the dialogue between the Council and Puerto Rico DRNA regarding non-fishing activities noted as a strategy under Draft Objective 17.
- The same commenter supported monetary compensation of fishers for their contributions scientific projects evaluating ecosystem health and recommended this be a requirement in research proposals. This commenter also suggested the guides for RFPs (Requests for Proposals) include recognition of collaborating fishers for their contributions via co-authorship on publications or educational dissemination of their contributions.
- Another commenter noted that Sargassum influxes have been negatively impacting coastal ecosystems since 2011 and suggested adding this to Objective 18 and its strategies.

### Social, Cultural, and Economic Issues

- One commenter noted that this goal was essential to increase the confidence in and support of fisheries management by the commercial sector and to increase compliance with regulations. This respondent offered several suggestions specific to Puerto Rico:
  - Agreement with Draft Objectives 30-33, noting that collection of social and economic data to inform management was critical.
  - Communities should be conceptualized not only as geographic based on point of landing, but also by gear type and organizational mode (e.g., independent fishers vs. those associated with villas pesqueras) as these differences could be important in designing methods of communication and participation.
  - Conduct a study to determine the prevalence of fish mislabeling in order to understand how best to intervene with educational activities.
  - A better understanding of underutilized local markets is needed to strengthen food security of rural communities via fresh fish and seafood.
  - Efforts to promote recruitment of young fishers should include the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, together with university social workers.