



NOAA
FISHERIES

SEFSC
Caribbean
Fisheries Branch

K. McCarthy
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March 16, 2022

Introduction of SEFSC Caribbean Branch Staff & Strategic Planning Project

Introduction



Former organization

- No dedicated US Caribbean branch
- Caribbean work was responsive (address an immediate issue; e.g., stock assessment)

Need for Caribbean Fisheries Branch

- Establish a group of researchers and analysts focused on US Caribbean
- Foster research and data collection programs to address fisheries issues in the region
- Be proactive in developing innovative solutions

Branch established

- January, 2021



Organization Chart



Clay Porch
Director of Southeast Fisheries Science Center



John Walter
Deputy Director for Science and Council Services



Shannon Cass-Calay
Director of Sustainable Fisheries Division



Kevin McCarthy
Chief of Caribbean Fisheries Branch



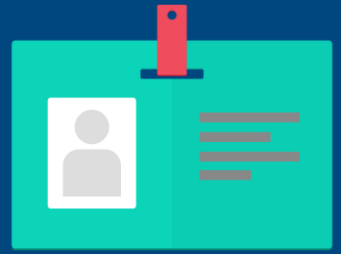
Nancie Cummings
Adyan Rios
Refik Orhun
Stephanie Martinez
Rachel Eckley

Research fisheries biologist
Research ecologist
Research fisheries biologist
Fisheries biologist
Affiliate



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Caribbean Fisheries Branch Staff



Kevin McCarthy

Branch Chief

- SEDAR
- Fisheries Surveys

Nancie Cummings

Research Fisheries Biologist

- SEDAR
- WECAFC



Adyan Rios

Research Ecologist

- SEDAR
- Management History



Refik Orhun

Research Fisheries Biologist

- Aquaculture
- Data analyst



Stephanie Martinez

Fisheries Biologist

- Life history work
- Data analyst



Rachel Eckley

NOAA Affiliate

- Strategic Planning
- Caribbean Projects Inventory



Caribbean Strategic Planning Project



Goal

- Develop a strategic plan for data collection, analytical best practices, and outreach/education in the US Caribbean to support stock assessments

Principal investigators

- Kevin McCarthy, Skyler Sagarese, Shannon Cass-Calay, Nancie Cummings, Christian Jones, Vivian Matter, Kate Overly, Adyan Rios, Steven Smith



Caribbean Strategic Planning Project



US Caribbean data needs

- Temporally and spatially extensive fishery independent data collection programs
- Cooperative data collection programs with stakeholders
- Size and age composition
- Life history data
- Long-term, species-specific landings
- Automate landings expansion factor calculation
- Recreational catch statistics
- Information on discards/bycatch
- Improved data accessibility

Process Improvement

- Identify species specific data gaps
- Direct research and development funding more strategically
- Identify mechanisms to build capacity within the region
 - Increased training opportunities for regional fisheries staff
 - Funding of students and interns
 - Increased outreach and education of stock assessment concepts to stakeholders



Caribbean Strategic Planning Project



Three-year, collaborative project

Fundamental step towards improved stock assessment

- Identify data gaps through the Caribbean Projects Inventory and Data Triage
- Prioritize, coordinate, and optimize data collection strategies

Caribbean Strategic Planning workshop

- Quality Management and Continuous Improvement tools (QM/CI)
- May 16 - 19, 2022
- Establish working groups





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Questions

