

EBFM:

- 1. Develop Species and Habitat Climate Vulnerability indices for the US Caribbean! 3**
 - a. Follow methodology of Hare et al. 2016
 - b. Tie to Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) Blueprint.
 - c. Northeast Fisheries Sciences Center adapted it for species and did a habitat climate vulnerability approach.
- 2. EBFM reference points for use in the fisheries management decision support system in the US Caribbean 3**
 - a. **Develop methods/procedures to estimate reference points for multi-species data for use in ecosystem assessments to support fisheries management in the US Caribbean.**
 - b. **Develop EBFM relevant indices (e.g. temperature, coral cover) that can be used directly within stock assessment within the US Caribbean (e.g., estimators of uncertainty, assumption, or covariates).**
- 3. Bycatch/discards research 2**
 - a. **Research to better characterize and quantify bycatch and discards associated with fisheries in the US Caribbean (commercial and recreational).**
 - b. **Research to improve methods for bycatch reporting methodology in the US Caribbean (commercial & recreational sectors).**
- 4.—Restoration: 2**
 - a. **What reference points/measurements are necessary to assess the efficacy (+/-) of ecosystem restoration within the US Caribbean? Research should lead to clarity on questions, such as:**
 - i. **Is it self-sustaining & scalable?**
 - ii.—**Is it effective/meets objectives related to improved ecosystem services and resilience in the system?**
 - iii. **Impact on fish productivity?**
 - b. **Develop capacity for mariculture in the US Caribbean.**
- 5. Assess the ecological sustainability of managing herbivores on ecosystems within the US Caribbean and identify important ecosystem indicators for those species and associated habitat. 3**
- 6. Quantify positive and negative effects of Sargassum as critical habitat and effects of inundations on local fisheries. 3**
 - Indices of floating algae already exist, how much ends up on the coastline, and how that affects fisheries, not well established.
 - Coastal effects/predictions of sargassum landings (negative impacts).
 - How it acts as essential fish habitat for pelagic species (benefits)
- 7. Research to guide best strategies for adaptive fisheries management in the US Caribbean. 2**

Human Dimensions:

- 1. Identify socio-economic factors to design a survey(s) to systematically collect data to inform social impact assessments in the context of management strategies and system stressors (e.g., hurricanes, sargassum).3+**

- Examples of data include well-being and job satisfaction, perceived vulnerability and adaptive capacity, perceptions on governance, changes in fishing activity (e.g., changes in fishing grounds and target species).
- Data to understand aspects of reliance and dependence on fisheries, including subsistence levels, and economic/market cost/fishing cost data.
- Research to assess and integrate Local Ecological Knowledge into decision-making - building upon current Conceptual Models.
 - o Support iteration and promote continuation of efforts to engage and involve stakeholders. This will also help to support and strengthen cooperative research efforts for monitoring and surveying.

Letter from the SSC/council summarizing these priorities annually to provide to partners, funding agencies, etc.. would go along way to integrating in future funding opportunities.

Set specific priorities that are actionable and can be integrated into RFPs directed to the US Caribbean, identify clear structure or process for council to help influence or present clear needs for rfp's for Caribbean.

Recommendation for SSC/Council Staff to draft a letter or clear research priority 1 pager/document.