

Strategic Objectives

Ecological/Habitat/Biotic

- Reduce the degradation and enhance the recovery and resistance of marine habitats, particularly coral reefs
- Maintain structure and function of essential fish habitat, especially sensitive nursery habitats
- Ensure ecosystem-essential species are considered in management (operational)
- Reduce and monitor marine diseases (operational under reduce degradation)
- Maintain larval connectivity pathways necessary for successful recruitment on ecologically and commercially important fishes in the US Caribbean

Socio-Economic

- Maintain and promote social cultural and economic resilience of fishing communities in the US Caribbean
- Support tourism opportunities that promote healthy fisheries and habitat (operational under maintain and promote social, cultural...)
- Develop education and outreach opportunities that support sustainable fisheries and habitat (operational under maintain and promote social, cultural...)
- Increase adaptive capacity of fishing communities to climate change impacts

Abiotic

- Minimize the impacts of climate variability and enhance resilience of fisheries to climate variability in the US Caribbean

Anthropogenic Sources of Impact

- Incorporate ecosystem considerations into stock assessments
- Bring ecosystem considerations into the decision making process
- Ensure sustainable fishing (from all sectors) to maintain ecosystem integrity, and optimizes benefits across all stakeholder groups
- Ensure water quality is sufficient to promote healthy habitats and fish populations
- Ensure minimal impact of anthropogenic impacts and disturbances (including coastal development) on coastal marine habitats and fisheries
- Ensure data collection incorporates sources from all sectors (commercial, recreational, for-hire) to inform management decisions in the US Caribbean (for operational objectives)

Management/Policy/Governance

- Promote adaptive management practices
- Ensure greater equity and environmental justice among stakeholders for fisheries in the US Caribbean
- Enhance inter-jurisdictional collaboration to promote healthy fisheries and ecosystems
- Eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing