

New Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Draft Outline

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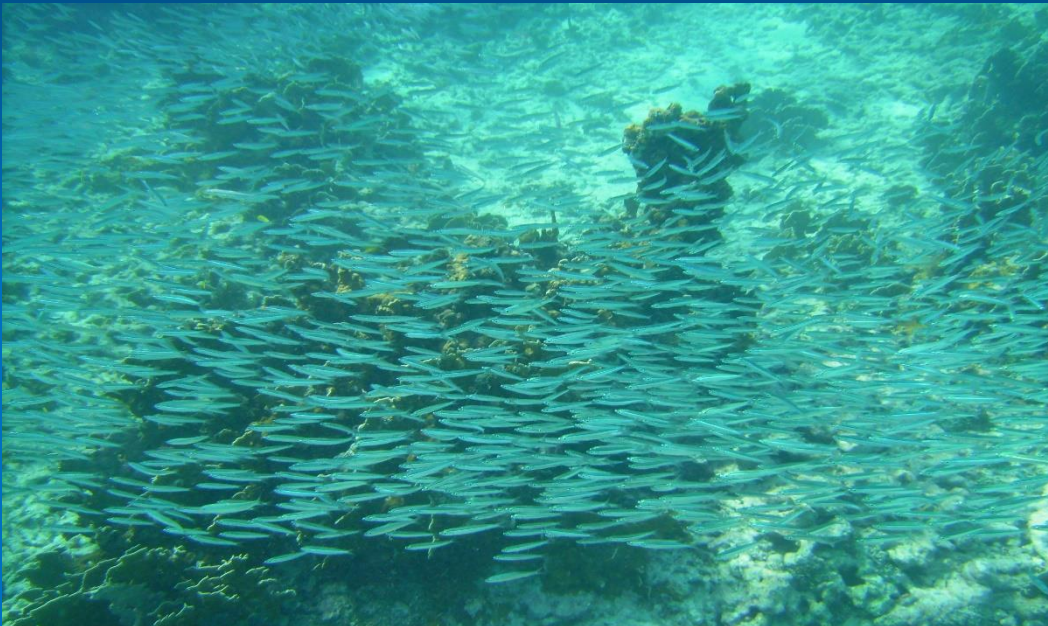
Joint SSC-EBFM TAP Meeting

May 1st 2023



Meeting Goals

- Present New Vision/Outline for FEP
- EBFM TAP Discussion & Review
- EBFM TAP Finalize/Approve New Outline
- EBFM TAP Discuss Development Strategy



2020 Draft Outline

- Outline Headings:
 - I. Introduction/Background
 - II. Defining the Interface between Fishery and Ecosystem Management
 - III. Environmental Setting
 - IV. Conceptual Models
 - V. Present Status
 - VI. Future Prospects
 - VII. Assessing Fishery and Ecosystem Conditions
 - VIII. Coordination of Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries Management in the US Caribbean
 - IX. Research Needs
 - X. Performance Evaluation

2020 Draft 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)
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
 - ii. St. Thomas/St. John

- iii. Puerto Rico
 - iv. Connectivity *NOTE-this establishes the framework for a hierarchical spatial approach*
 - b. Economics
 - i. St. Croix
 - ii. St. Thomas/St. John
 - iii. Puerto Rico
 - iv. Connectivity
 - c. Ecology
 - i. St. Croix
 - ii. St. Thomas/St. John
 - iii. Puerto Rico
 - iv. Connectivity
 - v. Habitat
 - d. Fisheries
 - i. St. Croix
 1. Fisheries regulations
 - ii. St. Thomas/St. John
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 - iii. Puerto Rico
 1. Fisheries regulations
 - iv. Connectivity
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
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*
 9. Research needs
 10. Performance evaluation
 - a. Performance measure
 - b. Management strategy evaluation
 - c. Review and revision schedule

New Vision

Draft FEP Outline

- Introduction
- Ecosystems and ecosystem services
- Ecosystem indicators
 - ESR
 - Conceptual Models
- Use of Indicators in Management
 - Risk Assessment
- Plan Moving Forward



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- Tool for Use by CFMC
- Actionable
- Informative
- True to Original Vision

2023 Outline = New Vision, Same Components

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- 2023 Outline Headings:

- I. Introduction
- II. Ecosystem and Ecosystem Services
- III. Ecosystem Indicators
- IV. Use of Indicators in Management
- V. Plan Moving Forward

2023 Outline

1) Introduction

- Purpose, need, and limits of the FEP
- Goals and objectives
- Approach of EBFM
 - Within EBFM context:
 - US Caribbean jurisdictions
 - MSA
 - Other federal law, federal agencies, and obligations
 - Local regulations

2) Ecosystems and ecosystem services

- Local interface between fisheries, fishery communities, and ecosystem management
- Basic description, compare/contrast, and describe connectivity among the three island platforms with regards to:
 - Society and Culture
 - Economics
 - Ecology
 - Fisheries

3) Ecosystem indicators

- ESR
- Conceptual Models
- Other available products for reference

4) Use of Indicators in Management

- Tools for Council Use:
 - Risk Assessment
 - Quantitative Models
 - Restoration/Mitigation
- Other ecosystem approaches
 - MSA Revision
 - FMP amendments
 - CFMC policy statements
 - Integrated Ecosystem Assessment

5) Plan Moving Forward

- Research needs
- Strategic objectives
- Operational objectives
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