

Regional Strategies for US Caribbean Stock Assessment & Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A facilitated workshop occurred May 22nd to May 25th, 2023 in San Juan, Puerto Rico to identify collaborative efforts that improve and inform stock assessment and ecosystem based fisheries management in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. During the week, 35 participants from partner organizations including CFMC, CIMAS, Puerto Rico DRNA, USVI DPNR, NOAA, NPS, SEFSC, SERO, UPR, UVI, and USC-A followed the Hoshin Kanri method of strategic planning. Participants defined the values, vision, and mission that will guide the planned collaborative efforts. The prioritized strategy includes 5-year breakthrough objectives, annual goals, and individual projects to be addressed in regional working groups.



VALUES

- Integrity, reproducibility, transparency, and communication of data
- Diversity and inclusivity of data sources, data input, communities, and stakeholder ideas
- Collaboration and cooperation in the collection and dissemination of data
- Respect and trust in data and partnerships
- Innovation through adaptive management and continuous improvement

VISION

To have effective, efficient, and innovative, continuous data collection processes and partnerships to inform on progress towards fisheries and ecosystem management objectives in the US Caribbean

MISSION

To develop and continuously improve collaborative data collection programs to support stock assessments and implementation of EBFM, integrating the region's inherent cultural and ecological diversity for the benefit of the US Caribbean

For questions, contact Rachel Eckley at rachel.eckley@noaa.gov

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE BREAKTHROUGH OBJECTIVES

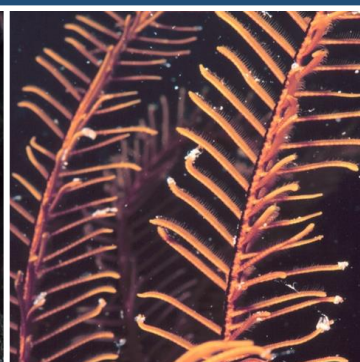
1. Expand the toolbox to inform fisheries management
 - Determine appropriate methods and approaches to inform management given available data
2. Reduce gaps in datasets used to inform management
 - Establish a prioritized list of data needs utilizing existing lists for the following data types: fishery-independent, fishery-dependent, life history, socioeconomic, habitat and environmental
3. Improve communication of knowledge to better engage stakeholders in fisheries management processes
 - Identify current communicators, mechanisms, and methods
4. Establish funding governance structures that are equitable for fishers, contractors, agencies, and islands and allow for the collection of necessary data to inform fisheries management
 - Define the governance needs then identify the mechanisms to streamline the process for establishing a funding governance structure



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