An underwater photograph of a vibrant coral reef. The scene is filled with various types of coral, including large, rounded, reddish-pink corals in the foreground and more delicate, branching yellow and white corals in the mid-ground. Several small, colorful fish are visible swimming around the coral. The water is clear and blue. A semi-transparent white rectangular box with a thin black border is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title text.

ECOSYSTEM BASED TECHNICAL ADVISORY
PANEL
(EBFM TAP)
REPORT

Caribbean Fishery Management
Council (CFMC) 184th General Meeting

Apr. 23, 2024

Sennai Habtes

EBFM TAP Chair

Bureau Chief, Fisheries

VI DPNR – Division of Fish & Wildlife



EBFM TAP Purpose

The EBFM TAP Charter - Objectives

- The EBFM TAP shall provide the Council ongoing scientific advice on ecosystem-based fishery management for fishery management decisions, including recommendations for habitat status, social and economic impacts of management measures, and ecosystem-based impacts (stressors) on sustainability of fishing practices

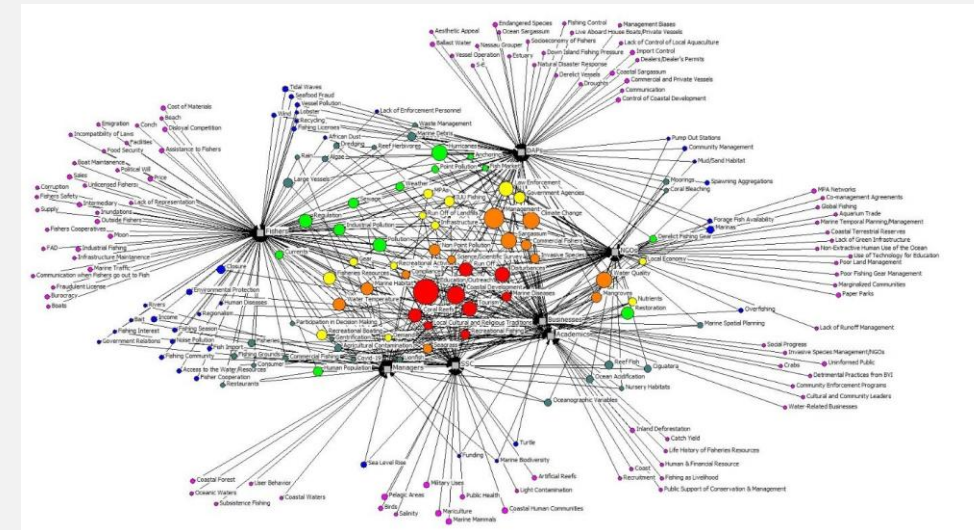
The EBFM TAP Charter - Process

- Develop a Fisheries Ecosystem Plan – FEP
 - Framework by which the Council can maintain marine ecosystems and the fisheries resources dependent upon those ecosystems
- Infrastructure for CFMC to implement EBFM in US Caribbean

UPDATES

- **Working Group Updates:**
- **Conceptual Model Molding** – Completed summary report and developing objectives and framework to include in FEP
- **Ecosystem Indicators** – Draft framework currently under review and revisions
 - Evaluating Ecosystem Traits Index (ETI) along with NOAA Ecosystem Status Report (ESR) indices for inclusion into FEP
- **Risk Assessment** – Technical Writer
 - Tauna Rankin & Council Staff – MSA - Sustainable Fisheries internal funding
 - **Contractor – Bioimpact – Leigh Fletcher**
 - Developing Risk Assessment Framework for FEP
 - Met with all working groups; and attended World Fisheries Congress
 - Evaluating Current Risk Assessment frameworks
- **Data Repository** – Initial objectives and needs in development. Working with partners through NOAA Caribbean Branch Strategic Planning and SEAMAP to identify existing models.
- **Presentations:**
 - **March 3-7, 2024:** 9th World Fisheries Congress presentation by Tarsila: Operationalizing ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) through inclusive research, engagement, and partnerships

WORKING GROUPS





NEXT
STEPS

Activity	Expected Date of Completion
Revise and draft EBFM TAP goals and objectives	December 2020
Draft FEP goals and objectives	April 2021
Continue to collect and analyze existing data sets from Lenfest, SeaMap, ESR, etc... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected products = a centralized repository of data (e.g., MBON, Caricoos, etc.); summary analyses of pertinent datasets; potentially peer-reviewed publications 	April - December 2021
Complete all conceptual models	June 2022
Meld conceptual models to create island-specific conceptual models	December 2022
Use the conceptual models & additional products to create island-specific risk assessments for consideration by the SSC, that will be used to inform approaches that will be presented in the FEP.	December 2023
Use the conceptual models and other products produced by the ESR, EBFM TAP, and by the Lenfest FEP project to identify ecosystem indicators that should be monitored. In addition to inclusion in the FEP.	December 2023



Activity	Expected Date of Completion
Develop strategic objectives, prioritize the objectives, and outline a vision for the use of the FEP for consideration in the CFMC processes.	Aug 2023
Develop operational objectives with concrete action items to be presented in the FEP, for consideration by the CFMC.	Aug 2023
Develop performance measures and draft a management strategy that can be used situationally during CFMC decision making, to be presented in the FEP, for consideration by the CFMC.	Aug 2024
Develop a feedback mechanism for adaptive management to be presented in the FEP, for consideration by the CFMC.	Nov 2023
Develop a draft FEP document	Dec 2024
Submit FEP for council approval	Mar 2025
Reconvene EBFM TAP	Summer/Fall 2024