

The Cornerstone of Sustainable Fisheries

50th Anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the Caribbean Fishery Management Council

August 11, 2026 - August 12, 2026



The beginning

- The Magnuson Act was signed into law on April 13, 1976.
- Modeled on the basic principles of scientific management, including the notion of standards and catch limits, the law also included an innovative regional public-private management framework – **creating the fishery management council system.**



- 1976- Establishment of the Exclusive Economic Zone and 8 regional fishery management councils.
- Sustainable Fisheries Act- The 1996 amendments to the Act provided needed adjustments, including a new focus on habitat (Essential Fish Habitat) and the requirement for a 10-year rebuilding timeline.
- The most recent and transformative change was the MSA Reauthorization Act of 2006, establishing Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) and accountability measures, among others.

Today, the Magnuson Act - at 50 years of age - is at another turning point in its journey – we are turning the corner towards a future when **ending overfishing** can be a concern of the past, and where **maintaining sustainable fisheries** is a shared commitment to our future.

Caribbean Fishery Management History with Miguel Rolón



1974-1975: Project Leader, Fisheries Statistics Program

1975-1978: Director Fishery Development Program, Department of Agriculture, PR

1977: Designee Dept Agriculture to CFMC

1979-1981: Fishery Official, CODREMAR

1980-1983: Dept. of Marine Sciences, UPRM

1983-1989: Chief Scientist, CFMC

1989-present: Executive Director, CFMC

1990: WECAFC, FAO



1976

Creation of the
Regional
Fishery
Councils

1980

CFMC hosts CCC for the
1st time

1984

FMP Spiny Lobster

1985

FMP Shallow-water Reef Fish Fishery

1987

CFMC hosts CCC for the
2nd time

1995

FMP Corals and Reef
Associated Plants
and Invertebrates

1997

CFMC hosts CCC for
the 3rd time

1996

FMP Queen Conch

2005-2018

SFA &
amendments

1991- Amendment #1

2005- Amendment #2

2007- Amendment #3

2009- Amendment #4

2011- Amendment #5

2016- Amendment #6

2017- Amendment #7

1989- Emergency Interim Rule

1990- Amendment #1

1991- Reg. Amendment #1

1993- Amendment #2

1994- Tech. Amendment #2

1996- Reg. Amendment #2

2005- Amendment #3

2010- Reg, Amendment #3

2011- Amendment #5

2011- Amendment #6

2013- Reg. Amendment #4

2016- Amendment #7

2016- Amendment #8

2017- Reg. Amendment #6

1999- Amendment #1

2005- Amendment #2

2011- Amendment #3

2013- Amendment #4

2016- Amendment #5

2017- Amendment #6

2005- Amendment #1

2011- Reg. Amendment #1

2011- Amendment #2

2011- Amendment #3

2013- Reg. Amendment #2

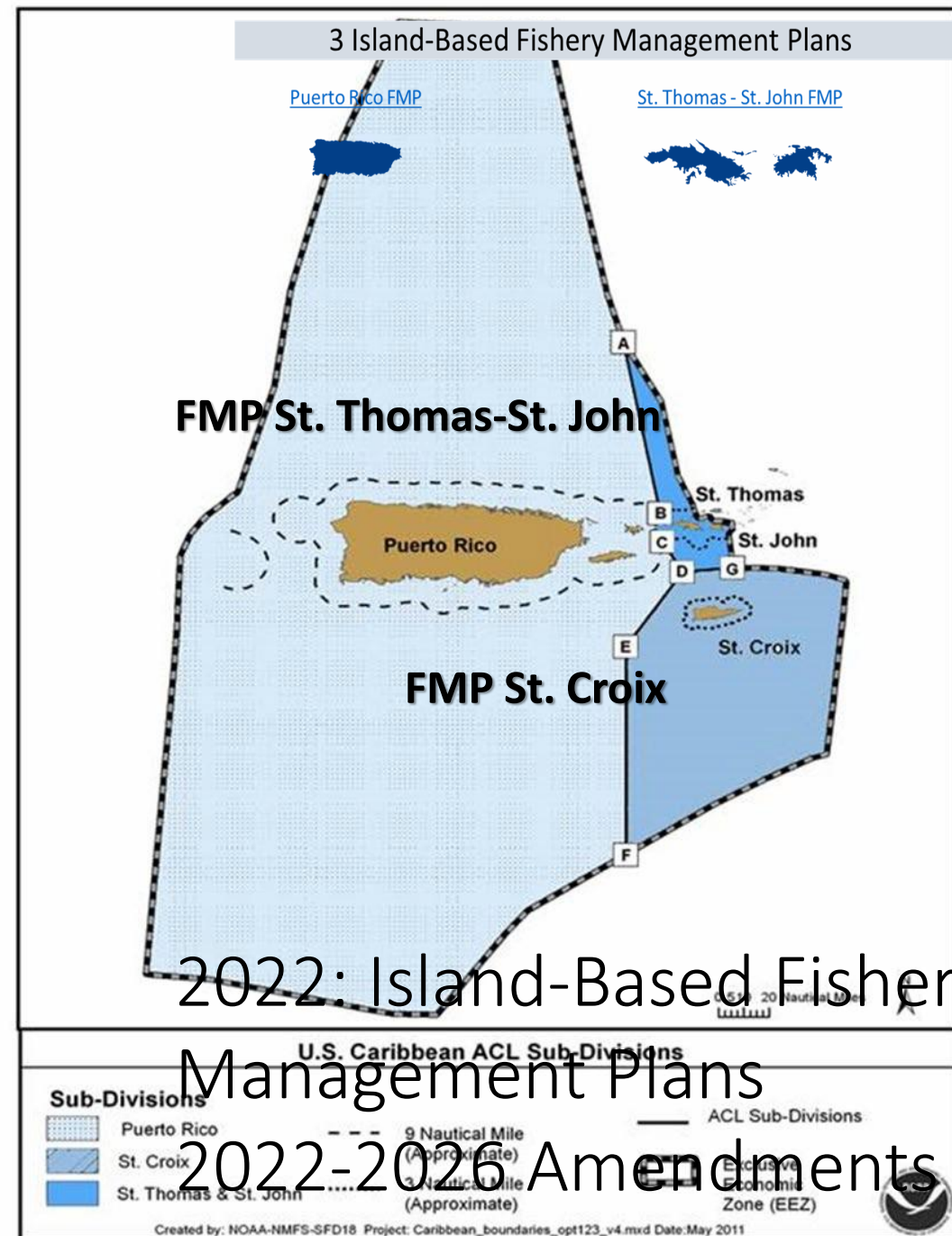
2016- Amendment #4

2018-to present *AND BEYOND...*

Development of Island-Based FMPs in the U.S.
Caribbean: Transition from Species-Based FMPs
to Island-Based FMPs.

ACLs and AMs apply to each EEZ
Separately.

FMP Puerto Rico

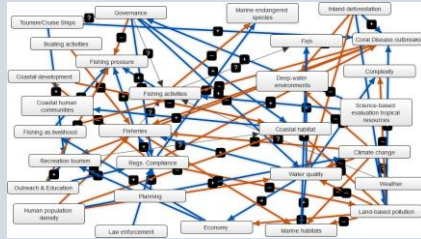


But the work is not finished; we need to continue to work together in the development of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan...

Development of conceptual models (CMs)



Fisher workshop in Puerto Rico



Conceptual Model built during virtual workshop

Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP-Draft)

Draft FEP Outline

1. Introduction
 - a. Purpose, need, and limits of the FEP
 - b. Goals and objectives
 - c. Approach of EBFM
 - i. Within EBFM context:
 1. US Caribbean jurisdictions
 2. MSA
 3. Other federal law, federal agencies, and obligations
 4. Local regulations
2. Ecosystems and ecosystem services
 - a. Local interface between fisheries, fishery communities, and ecosystem management
 - b. Basic description, compare/contrast, and describe connectivity among the three island platforms with regards to:
 - i. Society and Culture
 - ii. Economics
 - iii. Ecology
 - iv. Fisheries
3. Ecosystem indicators
 - a. ESR
 - b. Conceptual Models
 - c. Other available products for reference
4. Use of indicators in Management
 - a. Other ecosystem approaches
 - i. MSA Revision
 - ii. FMP amendments
 - iii. CFMRC policy statements
 - iv. Integrated Ecosystem Assessment
 - b. Tools for Council Use:
 - i. Risk Assessment
 - ii. Quantitative Models
 - iii. Restoration/Mitigation
 - iv. Other Management Approaches (Harvest Control Rules, etc.)
5. Plan Moving Forward
 - a. Research needs
 - b. Strategic objectives
 - c. Operational objectives
 - d. Performance measures
 - e. Management strategy Evaluation
 - f. Review and revision schedule

Inventory of threats

Analysis of CMs

Development and analyses of stakeholder driven conceptual models to support the implementation of ecosystem-based fisheries management in the U.S. Caribbean

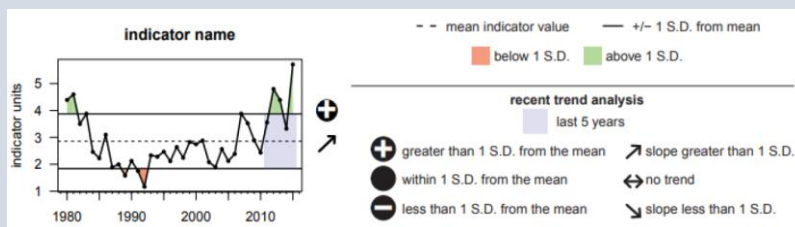
Tarsila Seara  Stacey M. Williams, Kiara Acevedo, Graciela Garcia-Molliner, Orian Tzadik, Michelle Duval, Juan J. Cruz-Motta

Published: May 31, 2024 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0304101>

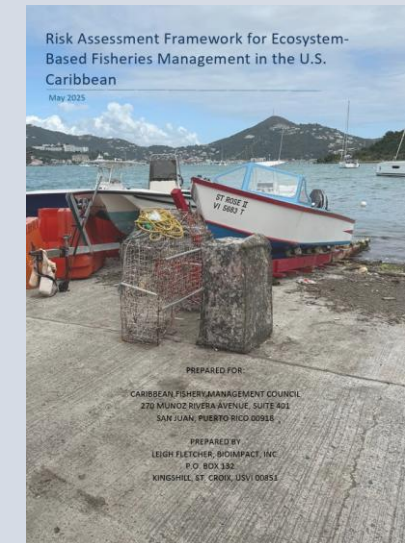
THE STRUCTURE AND PROCESS OF FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLANS



Caribbean Ecosystem Status Report



Risk Assessment Framework for EBFM





The Council has had some
milestones since its creation.
Some of these are:

50 Years of history...

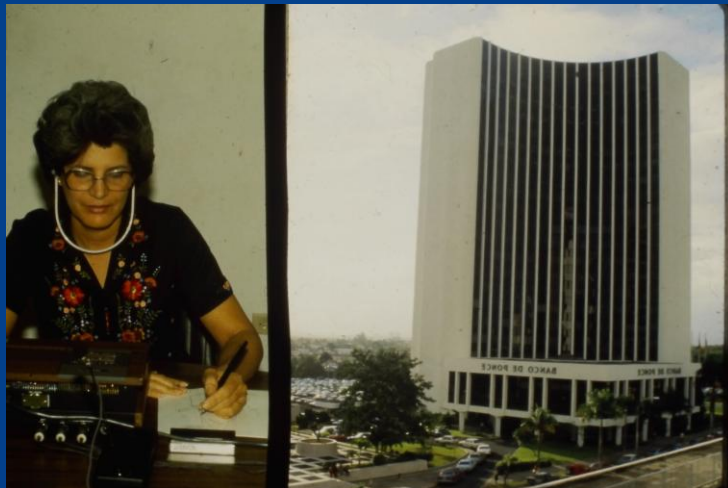
The first CFMC Meeting was held on September 28-29, 1976 in St. Thomas, USVI, with a temporary Chairman, William H. Stevenson.

- At this meeting, a Council Chairman and a Vice Chairman were elected,
 - 1st Elected Chairman - Omar Muñoz-Roure
 - 1st Elected Vice Chairman - Virdin Brown
- The Scientific and Statistical Advisory Committee and Advisory Panel were established.

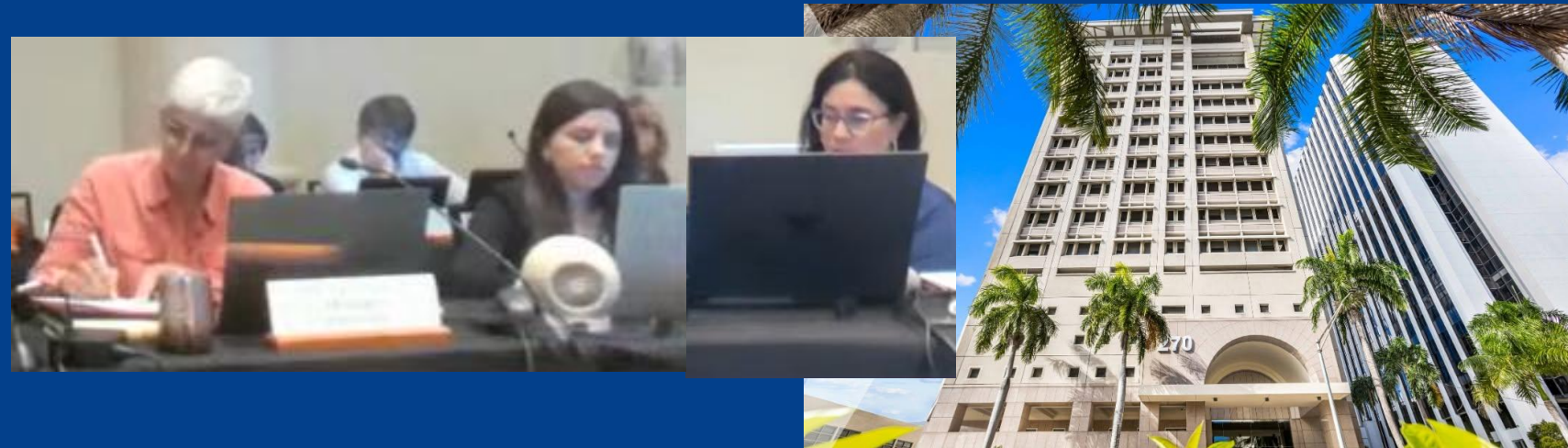
CMFC Headquarters, San Juan, Puerto Rico



Banco de Ponce



270 Plaza



At that time (1976) the **Voting Members** were:

- Omar Muñoz Roure (Puerto Rico)
- Jose Suárez Caabro (Puerto Rico)
- Hector Vega Morera (Puerto Rico)
- Viridin C Brown (US Virgin Islands)
- Anthony Chioromitaro (US Virgin Islands)
- John Harms (US Virgin Islands)
- William Stevenson - Regional Director, NMFS/SERO



Non-voting members:

- Kenneth E. Black - USVI Fish and Wildlife Service
- Captain Swain "Sam" Wilson – US Coast Guard
- Brian Hallman – US State Department

Today, the **Voting Council Members** are:

- Louis Anthony Blanchard - (US Virgin Islands)
- Juan Torres - (Puerto Rico; incoming)
- Roberto Sabater - Puerto Rico; outgoing)
- Carlos Farchette - (US Virgin Islands)
- Vanessa Ramírez - (Puerto Rico)
- Andrew Strelcheck - Regional Administrator, NMFS/SERO
- Hon. Jean-Pierre L. Oriol - (USVI DPNR)
- Hon. Waldemar Quiles Pérez - (PR DNER)

Non-voting members are:

- Lourdes Mena – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Rear Admiral Adam Chamie - Seventh Coast Guard District, Miami
- Deidre Wagner-Kramer - U.S. Department of State

2026 - CFMC STAFF



Miguel A. Rolón
Executive Director



Diana T. Martino
Assist. & Exec. Secretary



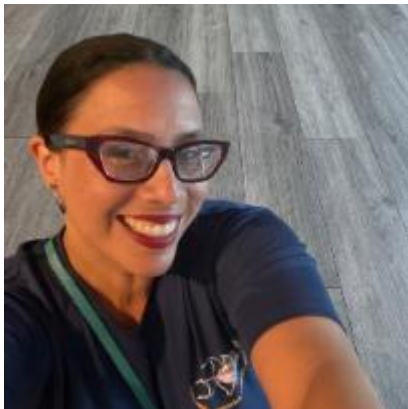
Maria de los A. Irizarry
Fiscal Officer



Graciela García- Moliner
FMP and Habitat Specialist



Vivian Ruiz Camacho
Accounting Technician



Cristina D. Olán Martínez
Social Media Network Coordinator



Kiara M. Matías Rojas
Administrative Assistant



Liajay Rivera García
FMP & EBFM Technical Assistant

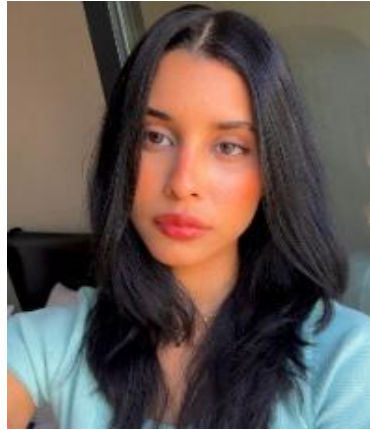


Luz E. González
Assistant to the Fiscal Officer

CFMC Interns



Natalia Perdomo

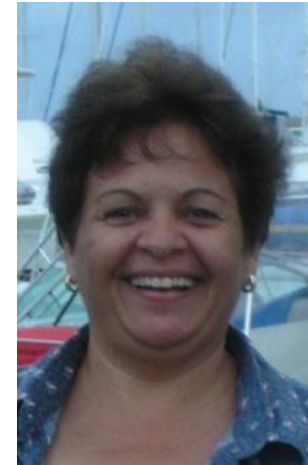


Taysha Ortiz Hidalgo
Accounting Clerk



Livia M. Montalvo
Office Automation Clerk

CFMC Retired Staff



Iris N. Oliveras
Secretary



Maria M. Pastrana
Secretary

Other former staff members:

Omar Muñoz - Executive Director

Mildred Algarín –Secretary

Fernando Castillo - Administrative Officer

Elizabeth Alsina – 1st Executive Secretary

Hilda Ramírez - Executive Secretary

Inés Vives

Ignacio Morales - Economist

Carmen González

Lucy Merced – Secretary

Carlos Ramos - Administrative Officer

Sandra Laureano - SEAMAP-C

Panel Chairs - recent years



Álida Ortiz Sotomayor
Former OEAP



Jannette Ramos
OEAP



Gerson Martínez
DAP St. Croix



Nelson Crespo
DAP Puerto Rico



Sennai Habtes
EBFM



Vance Vicente



Richard Appeldoorn



Julian Magras
DAP St. Thomas

CFMC Liaisons



Wilson Santiago - Liaison Officer, Puerto Rico

Olivia L. Walton - Liaison Officer, St. Croix, USVI

Anjolie La Place - Liaison Officer,

Helena Antoun - Liaison Officer, Puerto Rico

Liandry de la Cruz - Liaison Officer, St. Croix, USVI

Nicole Greaux - Liaison Officer, St. Thomas-St. John, USVI

Celebrating the Caribbean Branches



NOAA
FISHERIES

National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office (SERO)



Andrew Strelcheck
Regional Administrator, Sustainable
Fisheries Division



María del Mar López-Mercer
Fishery Biologist, Team Lead/ Council Liaison
Management Plan Coordination & Development

Heather Blough
Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division



Sarah Stephenson
Fishery Biologist/Data Analysis
Management Plan Coordination & Development

Celebrating the Caribbean Branches



Southeast Fishery Science Center (SEFSC) Caribbean Branch



Clay Porch
Director, SEFSC



Katherine Godwin
Research Associate II (Affiliate)



Adyan Rios
Research Ecologist



Kevin McCarthy
Branch Chief, SEFSC



Carly Daiek
Research Associate II (Affiliate)



Refik Orhun
Research Fishery Biologist



Stephanie Martinez Rivera, Ph.D.
Fish Biologist



Rachel Banton
Senior Research Associate I (Affiliate)



David Behringer
Senior Research Associate I (NOAA Affiliate)



Derek Soto
Research Associate I (Affiliate)

In memoriam



Joseph Kimmel



Jack Dammann



David Olson



Omar Muñoz

- David Andrews Olsen
- Louis "Lewie" Blanchard
- Mike Christensen
- Andrew Kemmerer
- Wally Berry,
- John Farchette
- Lorraine Berry
- Mr. Joseph Ledee,
- Ariel Melchior
- Ralph Christiansen, Jr.
- Teddy Bryan
- Mr. Robert McAuliffe
- Carlos Ramos
- Luis Alberto "Berto" Román
- Omar Muñoz-Roure
- Dr. Rolf Juhl
- Dr. Jack Damman
- Jose Campos

- Nicholas Sinkawsky
- Joseph LaPlace
- David Berry
- Wayne Swingle
- Daniel Santiago
- Mr. George Connel



Berto Román



Carlos Ramos

We have had some unforgettable
meetings,
activities and celebrations...

This was then ... at one of the earliest CFMC meetings



Find Miguel in these photos!
Hector Vega?

At Capitol Hill Ocean Week



2009 Fish Fry

2010 Fish Fry

2017 Fish Fry

2026 Fish Fry

CCC Meeting - May 2008

St. Thomas, USVI



CCC Meeting - May 2024

San Juan, Puerto Rico



St. Thomas Fisherman's Association celebrating the SFA 2005, St Thomas, USVI



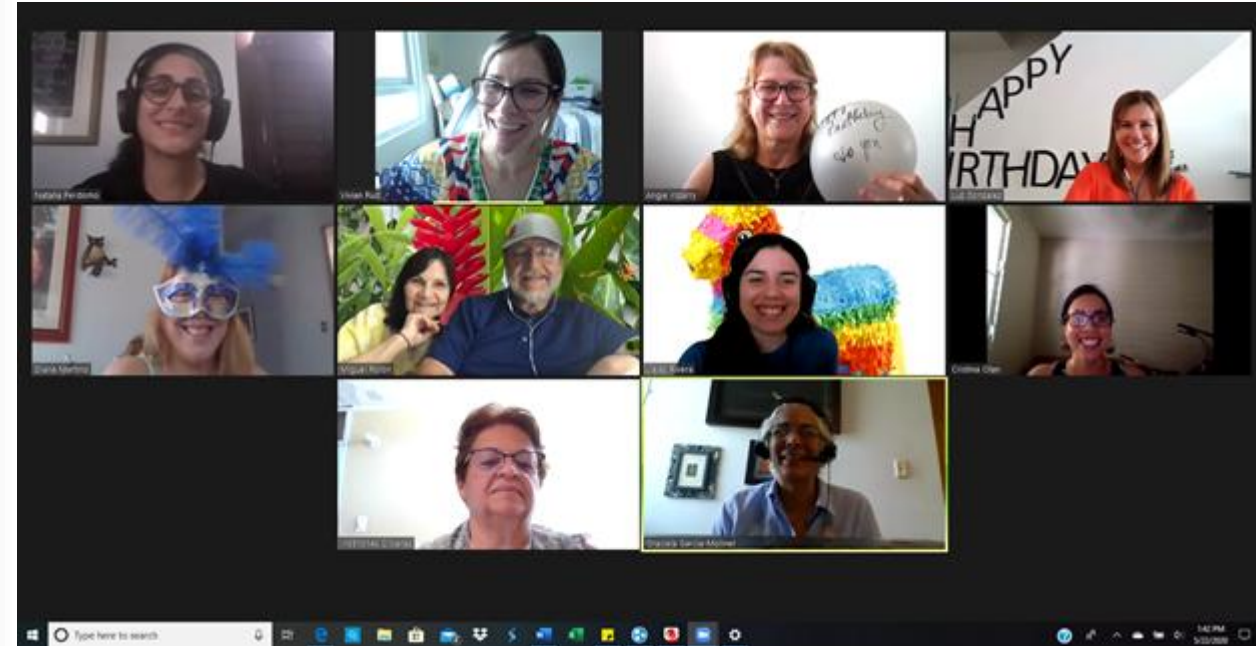
St. Thomas Fisherman's Association 2024, St Thomas, USVI



SFA workshops 2004-2005

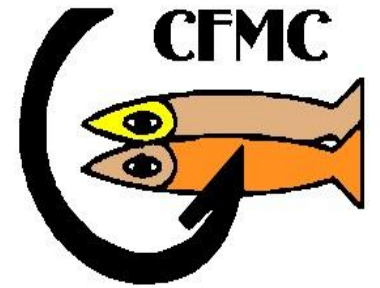


Birthdays, Christmas, Retirement, ... we celebrate everything!



Miguel's Birthday
2006 and 2020 (COVID times!)

HAPPY 50 YEARS CFMC



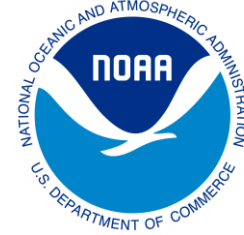
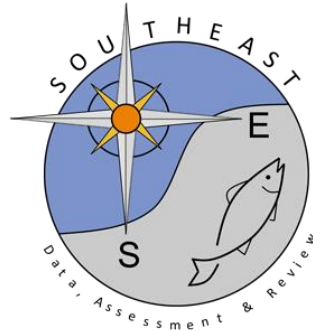
LET'S HAVE 100 MORE!



*To all those members,
participants, contributors,
hard working citizens
that belief in a better
future.*

Evolution...





NOAA
FISHERIES



University
of the Virgin Islands



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Sea Grant
PUERTO RICO

UPR
Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez

...and our apologies if we forgot to mention anyone...
You know who you are, and we thank you!