

**St. Thomas/St. John Island-Based Fishery Management Plan**  
**Goals and Objectives**

**Goal #1:** Prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery in the U.S. Caribbean taking into account and allowing for variations among, and contingencies in, fisheries, fishery resources, and catches.

**Goal #2:** Maintain long-term sustainable use of coral reef fishery resources while preventing adverse impacts to stocks, habitats, protected species, or the reef ecosystem as a whole.

**Goal #3:** Ensure the continued health of fishery resources occurring in U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone which will provide for the sustained participation of the fishing communities of the U.S. Caribbean as a major endeavor, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities.

**Goal #4:** Manage the fisheries within the limits of local ecosystem production so as not to jeopardize a wide range of goods and services provided by a healthy ecosystem, including food, revenue, and recreation for humans.

**Goal #5:** Account for biological, social, and economic differences among the islands comprising the U.S. Caribbean.

**Goal #6:** Foster collaboration among territorial and federal authorities in the management of fisheries of the U.S. Caribbean.

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**Objective #1:** Achieve optimum yield in the utilization of federal fishery resources to include the benefits of food production, recreational opportunities, and protection of marine ecosystems, minimizing impacts to non-target species.

**Objective #2:** reduce bycatch and waste in the fishery through the use of measures such as gear restrictions, seasonal closures or marine protected areas that reduce or minimize regulatory and /or economic discards, including measures to minimize the mortality of discarded bycatch that cannot be avoided.

**Objective #3:** Ensure the metrics upon which OY is based are derived from the best available scientific information and are updated to respond to changing ecological, biological, economic and social conditions.

**Objective #4:** Promote international cooperation in the management of Pan-Caribbean stocks.

**Objective #5:** Collaborate with domestic and international regional fishery management bodies in the management of coral reefs and reef-associated resources.

**Objective #6:** Promote fair and equitable use of fishery resources that recognizes the importance of fishing communities as well as differences in local environment, culture, markets, user groups, gears, and seafood preferences; habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) within EFH for more focused management.

**Objective #7:** Promote awareness of laws and regulations governing marine resources management and science, and to ensure informed public input into the management process.

**Objective #8:** Ensure through the best data collection practices, the socioeconomic health of the fishing communities dependent on federal fishery resources.

**Objective #9:** Ensure adequate evidence is established to demonstrate spawning aggregations and the habitats supporting those aggregations, in order to protect and ensure the future health of the resource, with the least restrictive measures.

**Objective #10:** Describe and identify EFH, adverse impacts on EFH, and other actions to conserve and enhance EFH. Adopt management measures that minimize adverse impacts on EFH and promote habitat conservation, including designation of specific habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) within EFH for more focused management action.

**Objective #11:** Ensure continued provision of ecosystems derived from living marine resources, including adequate abundance of forage resources to ensure a healthy and diverse trophic web.

**Objective #12:** To guide the development of new fisheries, require essential scientific data is gathered and analyzed to ensure sustainability, excluding invasive species.