



# Caribbean Fishery Management Council

## Goals and Objectives of the Outreach and Education Advisory Panel

The main goal of the OEAP is to produce an Outreach and Education Strategic Plan for the CFMC with the main objective of achieving a better engagement with the general public in the issues of fisheries management within the Council's jurisdictions. The OEAP has also advised the Council on the revision of its web page and the production of a newsletter.

The critical issues identified for O & E by the Council are: 1) Annual Catch Limits (ACL) and its application to the different species under management, 2) Essential Habitats (mangroves, hard bottoms, coral reefs and seagrass beds) where fish and seafood species are found, 3) Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and their importance for fish species and 4) The rules and regulations that apply to the species included in the FMPs. These are the most important issues where the Council promotes research to support the management strategies. The research results need to be explained in non-technical language to the stakeholders. All the outreach and education activities and products must address these issues, in different ways, depending on the targeted stakeholders.

An important component of any outreach and education activity is the evaluation of the process of implementation, of the product and of the effectiveness of the activity. Stakeholders, as well as Council personnel should be actors in the evaluation to maintain high quality standards in the products and in the processes. With the results obtained revisions and changes may be soundly implemented. This evaluation, revision and updating of the outreach and education plan, makes it a dynamic one that will be easily adaptable to new rules and regulations, new species under management and new ecosystem situations that may impact the fisheries resources within the management jurisdiction.