

# **Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) Technical Advisory Panel (TAP)**

## **Report to the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council**

**Sennai Habtes EBFM TAP Chair**

**173<sup>rd</sup> Caribbean Fisheries Management Council Meeting  
April 27, 2021**



# CFMC -EBFM TAP Virtual Meeting

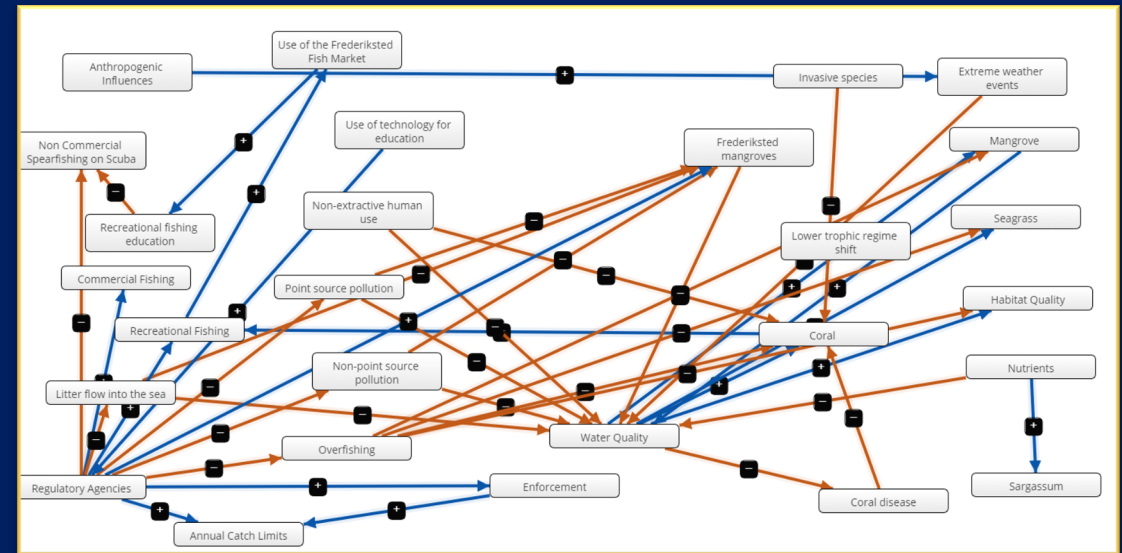
- Meeting held February 4-5, 2021
- Reviewed current updates from EBFM TAP partners - Data Collection and Conceptual Model stakeholder meetings
- Identified need for subgroup on data validation and hosting
- Need for Council's help inviting regional agencies to submit data
- Review and recommendation for approval by Council of FEP Goals & Objectives, Outline.
- Review and approval of Activity Timeline



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... Expected products = a centralized repository of data (e.g., MBON, Caricoos, etc.); summary analyses of pertinent datasets; potentially peer-reviewed publications Request a data repository sub group from the CFMC (April 2021)	April - December 2021
Complete all conceptual models	August 2021
Meld conceptual models to create island-specific conceptual models	December 2021
Use the conceptual models & additional products to create island-specific risk assessments	April 2022
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	August 2022
Develop strategic objectives, prioritize the objectives, and outline a vision for the use of the FEP in CFMC processes	December 2022
Develop operational objectives with concrete action items	December 2022
Develop performance measures and draft a management strategy that can be used situationally during CFMC decision making	April 2023
Develop a feedback mechanism for adaptive management	April 2023
Develop a draft FEP document	August 2023
Submit FEP for council approval	December 2023

# Conceptual Modeling for FEP's

- Efforts underway to conduct conceptual modelling stakeholder meetings
  - Melivora Consulting, Lenfest
  - 4/22 – St. Croix Environmental NGO's
  - 4/26 – St. Croix Business Community
  - 5/6 – St. Thomas/St. John Business Community
  - 5/10 - St. Thomas/St. John Environmental NGO's
  - 5/27 – Puerto Rico Environmental NGO's
  - 5/25 - Puerto Rico Business Community
- Planned stakeholder meetings summer of 2021 - Lenfest Project team
  - Regional scientific agencies & institution, fishermen



# Request for Council Approval – Data Request

The EBFM TAP is requesting the approval of the council to send letters to other agencies and institutions within the USVI and PR and nearby jurisdictions that have collected data that may be useful in understanding overall trends in the ecosystem, and inviting them to share their data with the EBFM TAP.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Outcome:

# Recommended Council Motion – FEP Goals Approval

**The EBFM TAP is recommending the approval of the FEP Goals and sub goals as presented to the council.**

**Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_**

**For:**

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Outcome:**

## **FEP goals and sub goals:**

- The overarching *goal* of the Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) is to promote ecosystem based approaches to ensure healthy, resilient and productive marine ecosystems and the fisheries resources dependent upon those ecosystems, within the context of the unique biological, ecological, economic, social and cultural characteristics of those fishery resources and the communities dependent on them.
- A corollary goal is to provide the framework that promotes the following sub-goals:
  1. Increase human community resilience within the context of changing ecosystems;
  2. Promote ecosystem resilience within the context of changing ecosystems;
  3. Define present ecosystem status/functionality;
  4. Understand dynamics of fisheries and ecosystem services;
  5. Describe key ecosystem linkages;
  6. Identify research priorities;
  7. Identify additional ecosystem-essential species in need of conservation and management;
  8. Understand the risks to the fishery ecosystem and tradeoffs from different management strategies;
  9. Improve the data and information needed to support marine ecosystem management;
  10. Prevent overfishing and/or ecosystem overfishing;
  11. Achieve optimum yield;
  12. Incorporate ecosystem considerations into stock assessments;
  13. Bring ecosystem considerations into the decision making process;
  14. Promote adaptive management policies (Revising MSA, National SSC, CCC).

# Recommended Council Motion – Data Repository Subcommittee

Council directs the EBFM TAP to create a subgroup of the TAP to provide guidance on data management policies and data repository options for the purpose of archiving data used for the development of the FEP.

Potential EBFM TAP subgroup members:  
Sennai Habtes – UVI/VI DPNR DFW  
Orlan Tzadik - PEW Charitable Trusts  
Stacey Williams – ISER, CSS  
Edwin Cruz Rivera – UVI

Potential members or invited Experts from outside the EBFM TAP:

Miguel G. Figuerola – CARICOOS

William Hernandez – UPR

Illiana Chollett

Socioeconomic data representative

SEFSC database developer personnel

CariCOOS DMAC personnel – (Jorge Capella/Jose Colon/ Julio Morell)

Tom Lombardi – UVI

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Outcome: