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SEFSC Update

December 5 and 6, 2023 | CFMC Meeting

Southeast Fisheries Science Center | Sustainable Fisheries Division | Caribbean Fisheries Branch

Overview

- Introduce new CFB member: Carly
- Strategic planning update
- Inflation Reduction Act funding in 2024
- Marine spatial planning



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New CFB member

Carly Daiek, CIMAS Research Associate

- MS and BS from Michigan State University in Biosystems Engineering
- Will quantify the process and costs associated with US data provision reporting requirements to WECAFC



carly.daiek@noaa.gov



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Collaboration is critical in all the work
we do in the US Caribbean

Every task completed sets a precedent

Each species assessed presents new challenges

The level of cooperation among the CFMC, SSC,
DAPs, SERO, other stakeholders, and the SEFSC to
meet those challenges has been exceptional



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Strategic planning update

- Multi-year collaborative exercise to identify optimal data collection programs and facilitate the development of stock assessment and EBFM strategies
- Collaboration among 10 federal, territorial, and commonwealth agencies



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Strategic planning update

Ongoing projects (5)

- Develop an inventory of data streams, identify spatial and temporal gaps, and prioritize research that fills gaps for:
 - Fishery independent data
 - Fishery dependent data
 - Life history data
 - Socio-economic data
 - Habitat data



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Strategic planning update

Ongoing projects (3)

- Toolbox: determine available data appropriate methods to inform management
 - LANTERN detail, student
- Improve communication of knowledge to better engage stakeholders in fisheries management processes
 - Process diagram for education and outreach
- Define the needs and mechanisms to streamline the process for establishing a funding governance structure



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Inflation Reduction Act Funding in 2024

Fishery independent survey for reef fishes

To be conducted as cooperative research with US Caribbean commercial fishers

- Extend existing Puerto Rico deep-water reef fish survey into US Virgin Islands
- Extend the existing Puerto Rico survey into shallow water to overlap with NCRMP diver survey
- This survey work will leverage existing Cooperative Research Program funding
- *This work is an outgrowth of key needs identified in the Caribbean Strategic Planning workshop funded through the Ecosystem, Climate, and Stock Assessment Improvement program.*



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Inflation Reduction Act Funding in 2024

Fishery independent lobster trap survey

This work will be conducted as cooperative research with US Virgin Islands commercial fishers.

- Extend existing Puerto Rico survey into the US Virgin Islands.
- This extended survey will leverage existing Cooperative Research Program funding for the Puerto Rico survey.
- *This work is an outgrowth of key needs identified in the Caribbean Strategic Planning workshop.*



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Inflation Reduction Act Funding in 2024

Provide funding for a University of the Virgin Islands student

- Develop methodologies to use remote sensing to estimate total fishing effort
- Develop ground truth and/or alternative methodologies for counting and classifying vessels
- This pilot study will be conducted in St. Thomas, USVI
- *This work is an outgrowth of key needs identified in the Caribbean Strategic Planning workshop.*



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Inflation Reduction Act Funding in 2024

Research Associate new hire; the job to be located in the US Caribbean

- Help integrate and coordinate fishery independent sampling surveys in the US Caribbean
- Work to identify and develop partnerships with Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands scientific consulting firms
- Work with survey design analysts to prepare existing data for developing future survey designs
- *This work is an outgrowth of key needs identified in the Caribbean Strategic Planning workshop.*



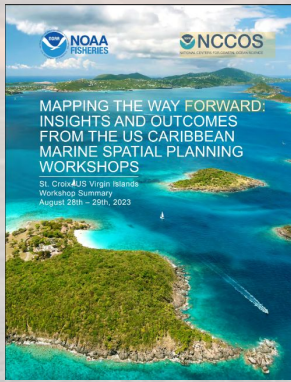
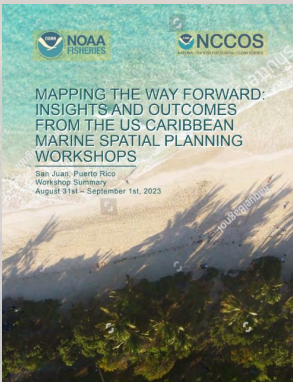
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US Caribbean Marine Spatial Planning Workshops

- August 28 - September 1, 2023
- US Virgin Islands & Puerto Rico

Goals

1. Inventory spatial data for US Caribbean
2. First step in regional ocean spatial planning to inform the Blue Economy for offshore wind, aquaculture and other ocean uses
3. Develop a community of stakeholders to inform future planning



Reports
in early
2024



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Questions

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