

Building successful linkages in support of the queen conch and fish spawning aggregation regional fisheries management sustainability

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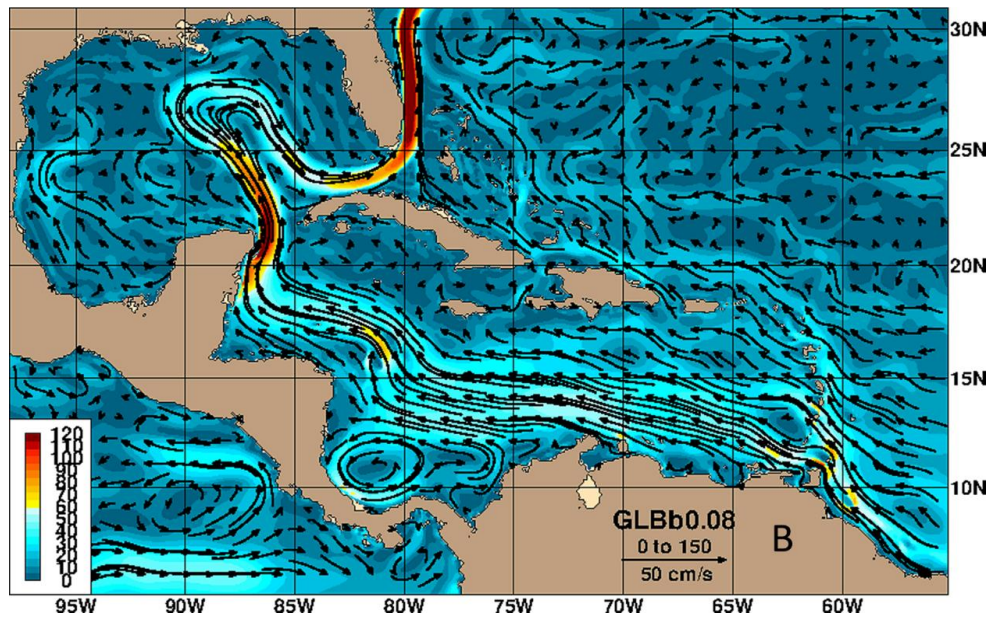
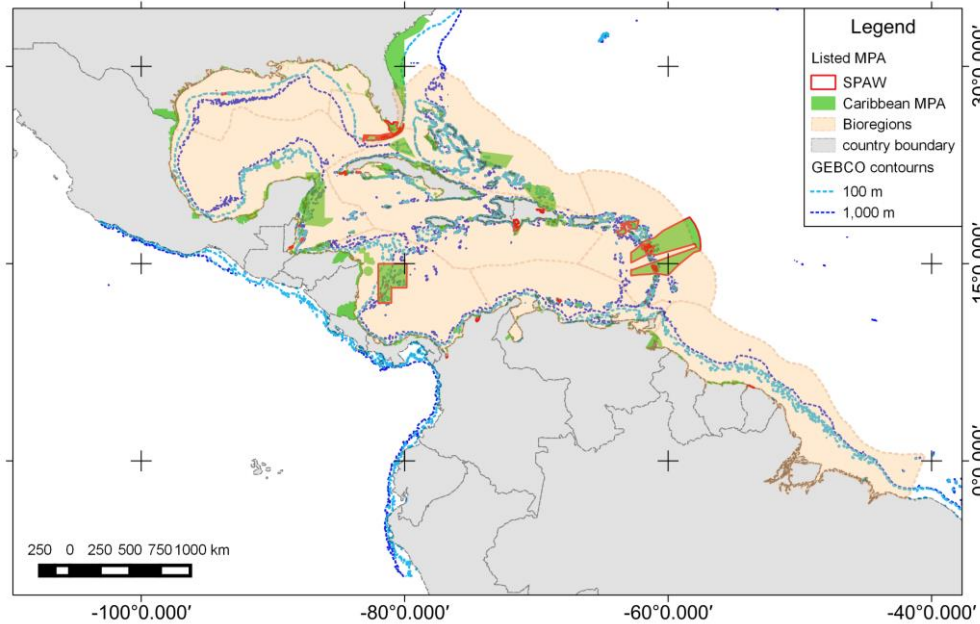
184th CFMC regular meeting

San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 23-24, 2024



The Wider Caribbean Region

High connectivity, transboundary resources



+ 134 million people in coastal areas

High cultural diversity (Europeans, natives, negro, etc.)

~ 6.7 million km² marine waters

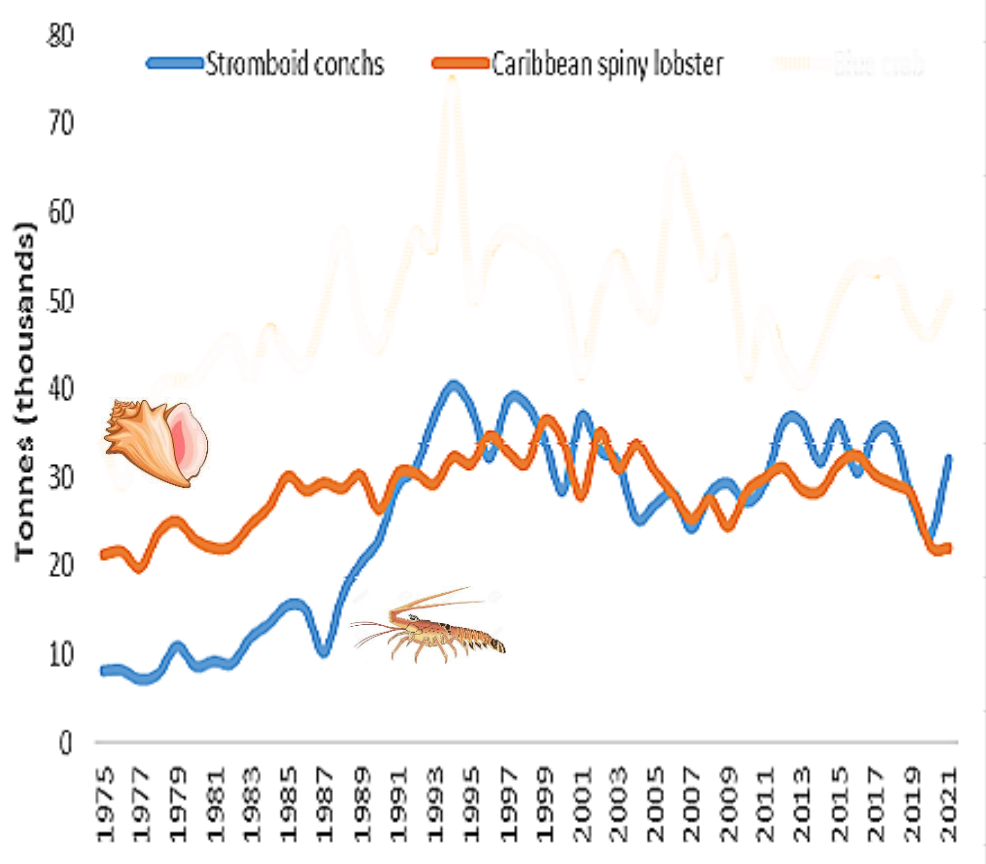
+7,000 islands, islets, cays, ~0.2 million km²

Coral reefs, mangroves, seagrasses

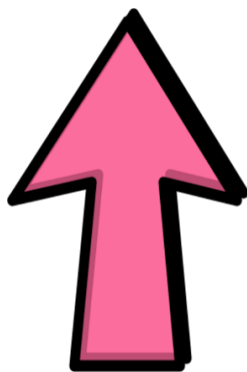
Complex interconnections

Significant species diversity, endemics, threatened

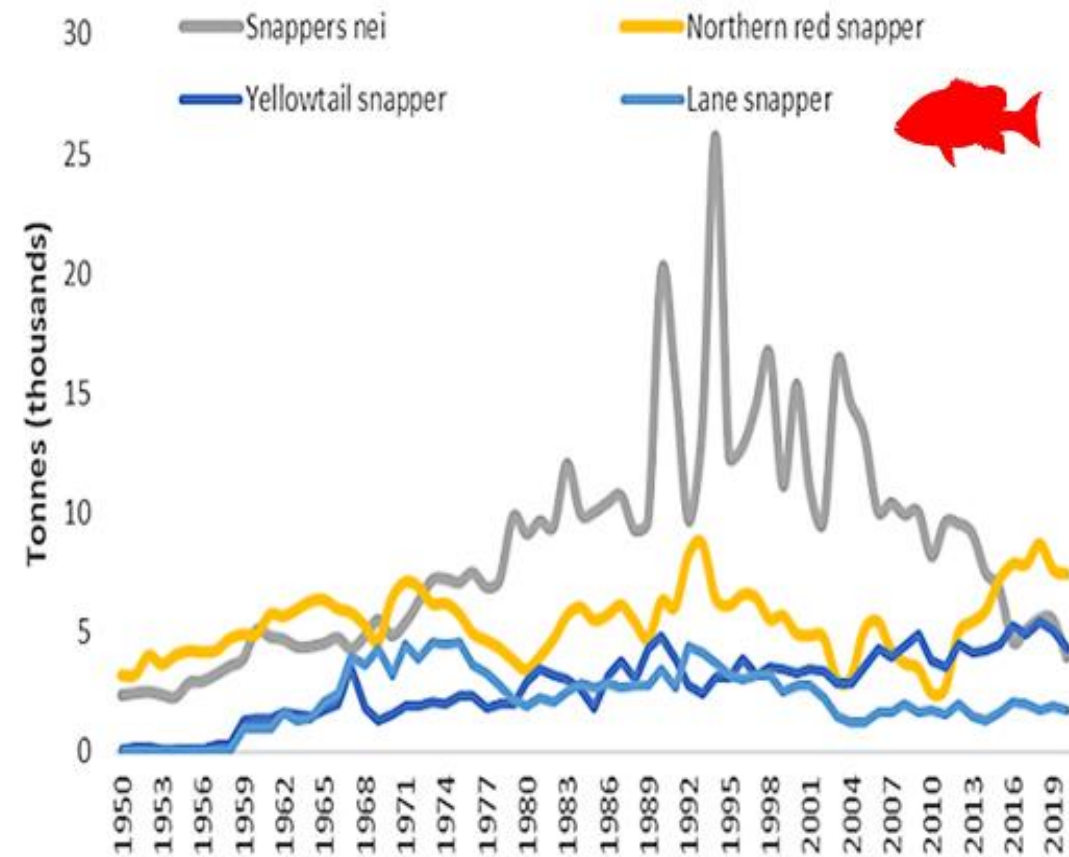
Heterogeneous productivity, riverine & upwelling



Conservation



Management



- Intense fishing pressure
- Increasing habitat degradation
- Increasing pollution
- Increasing IUU fishing

- Intensification climate change
- Higher frequency natural disasters
- Ecosystems & economies disruption

Regional strategies through Working Groups

1. OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on **Caribbean Spiny Lobster**
2. CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES Working Group on **Queen Conch**
3. WECAFC Working Group on the Management of **Deep-Sea Fisheries**
4. WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM/CFMC Working Group on **Recreational Fisheries**
5. CRFM/WECAFC/JICA/IFREMER Working Group on **Fisheries Using FADS**
6. CRFM/WECAFC Working Group on **Flyingfish/Dolphinfish in the Eastern Caribbean**
7. WECAFC/CRFM/IFREMER Working **Group on Shrimp and Groundfish in the Northern Brazil-Guianas Shelf**
8. CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on **Spawning Aggregations**
9. Regional Working Group on **Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing**
10. WECAFC Working Group for the Conservation And Management of **Sharks in the WCR**
11. WECAFC/CRFM/OSPESCA Fisheries **Data and Statistics Working Group**



Complex fisheries governance

- ✓ Large & multiple ecosystems
- ✓ Multiple species exploited
- ✓ Multiple stakeholders
- ✓ Multiple interests
- ✓ Multiple jurisdictions
- ✓ Multiple legal frameworks
- ✓ Multiple cultures
- ✓ Transboundary resources
- ✓ Increasing threats



Regional
WECAFC

Subregional
CRFM, OSPESCA

National
+40 countries +
overseas territories

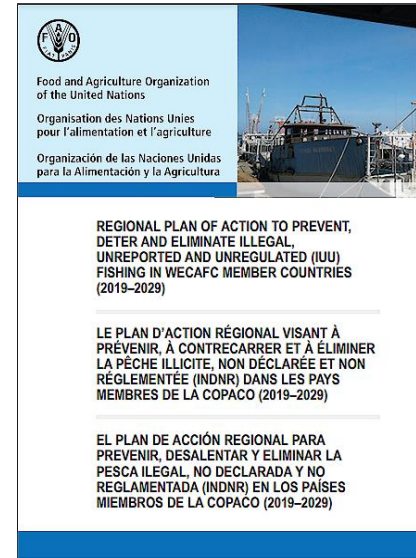
Adopted regional fisheries management plans



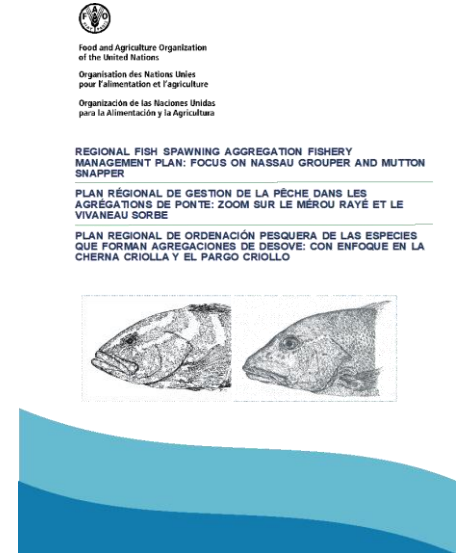
2017



2018



2020



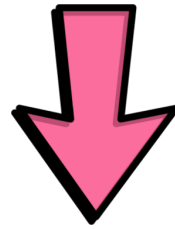
2024

Under development ...

1. Moored Fish Aggregating Devices Fishery
2. Caribbean Billfish Management & Conservation plan
3. Conservation of Management Sharks, Rays & Chimeras WECAFC
4. Regional Strategy on the Management of Bycatch and Discards in Latin American and Caribbean bottom trawl fisheries

What about plans implementation?

Implementation remains **voluntarily** and **given limitations** in resources (human, technical, financial) or political will, the reversal of negative trends are yet to be achieved.



2 task force committees to increase coordination & communication, technical advice & securing funding for Queen Conch and Spawning Aggregation WGs.

Who?

NOAA + CFMC
WG convener
WECAFC Secretariat
CITES representative
Strategic experts
Scientific liaison

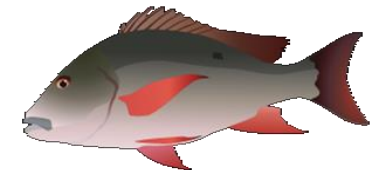
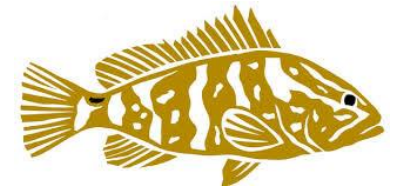
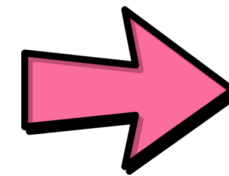
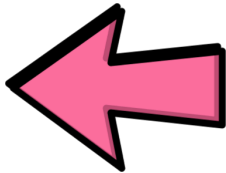
How?

Periodic meetings
Assignment responsibilities
Adaptative planning
Securing proposals
Coordination with Focal Points
Technical advice

Responses

Queen conch SST AG
Securing small grants:
- SPAW RAC (~\$10K)
- EU conch project (~\$60K)
- EU SA project (~\$175K)
- CITES NDF + genetics (~\$175K)

Coordination with other WGs
Technical advice



Queen Conch Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (QC/STTG)

Meetings:

1. April 23–25, 2019
2. November 25–26, 2019
3. April 11–12, 2023
4. April 30 – May 1, 2024

Recommendations 5th
QCWG, San Juan, Puerto
Rico and online, 13-14
December 2021.

First overview qualitative
country progress
implementation QC
Regional Fisheries
Management Plan (since
2019).

Re-analysis regional
estimation of QC
conversion factors (soon be
published ENG & SPA by
FAO).

Recommendations 6th
QCWG, San Juan, Puerto
Rico and online, 16 March
2023.

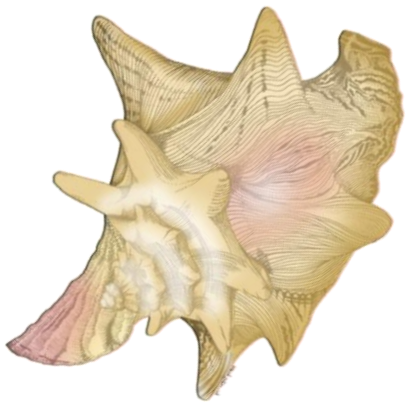
Updated CFMC QC three
training modules,
estimating population
status, densities, & annual
catch quotas.

First phase pilot improving
QC landings statistics
(Jamaica).

Recommendations 17th,
18th & 19th WECAFC
meetings 2019, 2011, 2023.

First phase QC genetic pilot
genetic library and support
counteracting IUU fishing in
trade.

Simplified guidelines to
develop NDF for QC
Exports - CITES.



Fish Spawning Aggregation Progress

Review parrotfishes in the Caribbean with recommendations for management.

Support to Big Fish Campaign & communication strategy.

Writing proposals

Meeting:

1. November 7–9, 2023

Informal meeting with experts, advise for coordination committee.

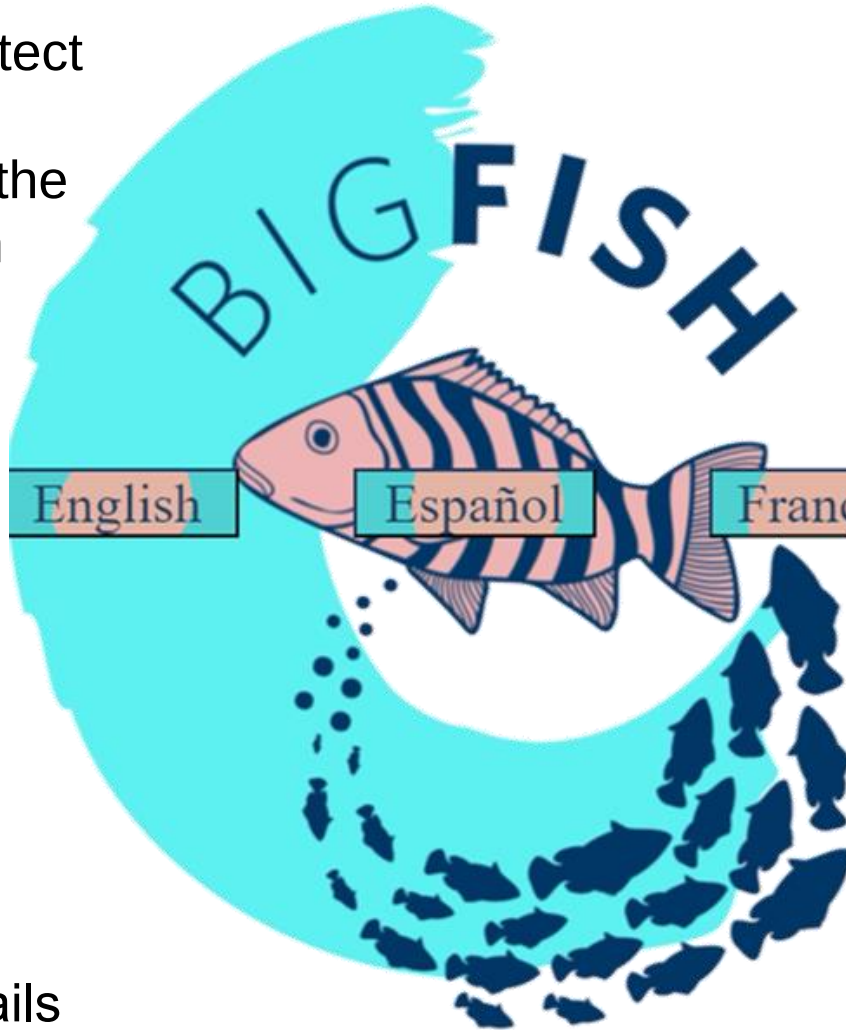
Informal meeting Big Fish Campaign.

Determining degree plan implementation

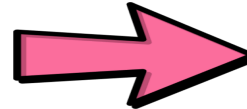
Radio kits!!!
(English & Spanish)

<https://linktr.ee/bigfishinitiative>

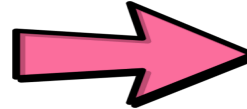
A collaborative
campaign to protect
fish spawning
aggregations in the
wider Caribbean



The hub

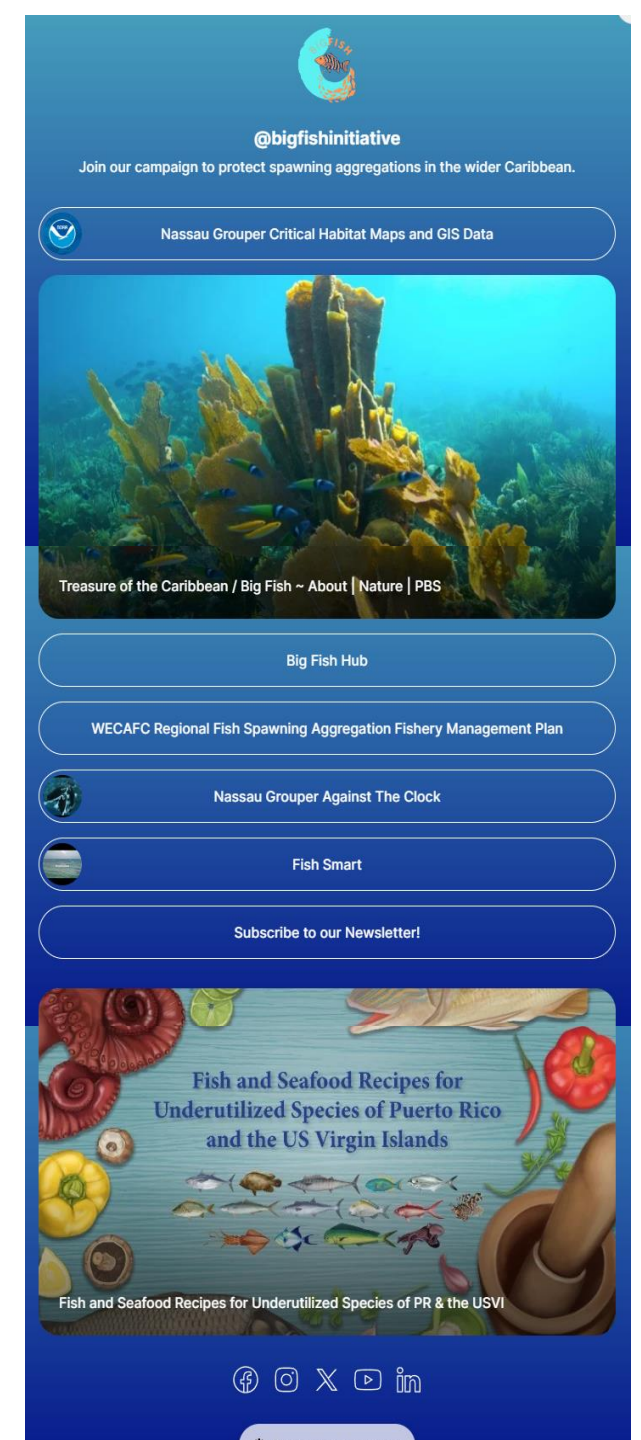


The plan



... Further details
next talk!!!

Social media





Lessons learned



- Better understanding complexity
- Addressing specific needs
- Improved communication & coordination
- Exchange information & ideas
- Reaching broader audiences
- Building trust
- Capitalizing voluntarily commitments & online tools

- Slow country's responses
- Overlaying multiple responsibilities
- Need support for translations
- Time differences



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