

# Update CFMC IRA Status

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188 CFMC Regular meeting  
Frenchman's Reef Hotel, St. Thomas  
December 3-4, 2025



**NOAA**

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Project	Allocated funds	Total payments	% Technical progress	% financial progress
CFMC-IRA-2024-001 Martha Prada	\$215,880.00	\$82,289.58	52	38
CFMC-IRA-2024-002 Consultores Educativos Ambientales	\$229,615.00	\$108,683.50	45	47
CFMC-IRA-2024-003 HJR Reefscaping	\$363,485.00	\$102,391.50	35	28
CFMC-IRA-2024-004 GCFI	\$349,035.00	\$65,788.36	30	19
CFMC-IRA-2024-005 Beyond Our Shores Foundation	\$372,921.00	\$201,743.00	45	54
CFMC-IRA-2024-006 Isla Mar Research Expedition LLC	\$384,082.00	\$94,233.10	30	24
CFMC-IRA-2024-007 - DPNR	\$575,929.00			
CFMC - Admin	\$169,492	\$61,656		36
Total / Average	<b>\$2,660,439.00</b>	<b>\$716,785.04</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>

Nov 30, 2025

# 1. Understanding extreme events and its impact on the fishery ecosystem and the fishers



Graphs and texts storybook being adjusted



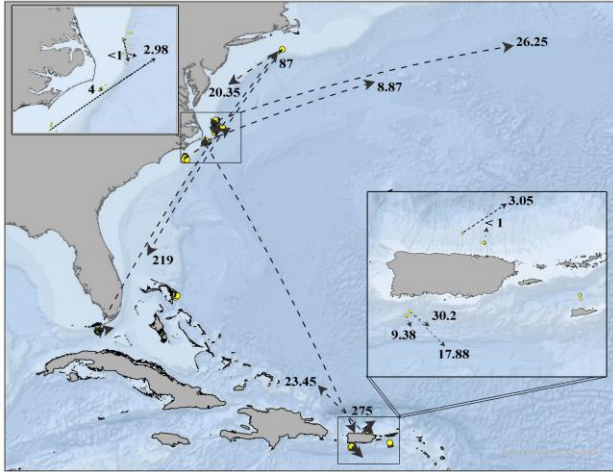
4 workshops in PR completed: Cataño, Ponce, Ceiba & Cabo Rojo (54 teachers, 90 fishers).

LEK annotations on environmental dynamics, effective collaboration PR Educational Department & fishing associations



*Upcoming work:* 2 workshop in USVI, 2 additional workshops in PR (Vieques & Culebra). Story book improved.

## 2. Understanding Impacts of changing environments and Fishing Pressure on Dolphinfish



Drifters (n=733, 2002 – 2022) showed daily variability, but seasonal patterns: contraction (fall/winter) and expansion (spring/summer).

GS moving twice as fast to the N as fish released outside the GS. Ongoing comparisons Charleston Gyre & Mona Passage.

15 offshore trips, 303 regular tags & 13 satellite tags.

Ongoing SST & Sargassum geospatial analysis.

*Upcoming work:* 2 trips STCX, 1 trip PR, & movement matrix will be developed.

### *3. Life history of priority managed species and evaluating their vulnerability to changing environmental conditions*



Species selected, reviewers recruited, species info compiled (24), training materials prepared.

Experts preliminary scoring .

Hybrid scoring workshop. Expert scores reviewed.

*Upcoming work:* post-scoring analysis, specific vulnerabilities & preparation fishers workshops & digital presentations for academia.

## 4. Environmental vulnerability to Assess the ecological under a recovery plan: queen conch & Nassau grouper



44 trips, 610 measurements, 2 depths, 12 sites weekly; since 20/05/25.

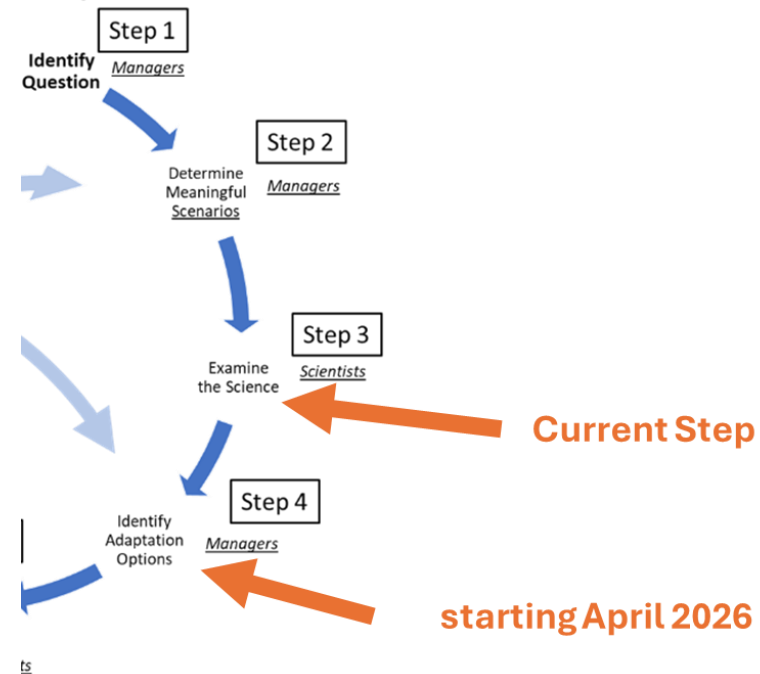
71 surveys completed with fishers, Cabo Rojo to Guánica. 354 juvenile conch & juvenile Nassau grouper registered.

6 meetings protocols, logistics, data collection & results. Ongoing LEK interviews perspectives on habitat changes.

18 radial surveys for adult conch completed. reproductive activity and seawater temperature at depth.

*Upcoming work:* Continue field surveys and divers training, 1 workshop in PR, 1 workshop in STCX.

# 5. Adapting to Extreme events in the U.S. Caribbean: Implementing a Smart Approach to Ensure Sustainable Red Hind and Lobster Fishing




Step 1 & 2 completed. 50% step 3. Progress on science, management and governance analysis.

Listed scientific topics require in-depth examination in step 3. Structure scenarios IPCC AR6 RCP 4.5, 6.5, 8.5 variables (minimum – aggressive).

ID experts & integration of data sets underway. Simulating conditions & predictions potential future outcomes. Reduce data gaps.

*Upcoming work:* finalize science & ID partners, develop maps & other materials adaptation workshop, secure logistics workshop. *Complete fishers interviews.*

## ***6. US Caribbean Community of Practice Hub to Operationalize Ecosystems Based Fisheries Management***



The project's administrative procedures within DPNR have now been defined, and implementation is expected to begin by the end of 2025.

# Highlights / Challenges during implementation



- ✓ Ongoing building trust and sharing relevant LEK!!!
- ✓ Most projects moving forward smoothly
- ✓ Securing new partners and information, higher understanding complex dynamics, involvement NOAA AOML (currents).

- ✓ Advancing sustainable fisheries window @ CMFC webpage!!!

<https://www.caribbeanfmc.com/advancing-sustainable-fisheries>

- ✓ Modeling capacity (Sea Level Rise impact on habitats) remains unconfirmed.
- ✓ Sargassum inundation reduces visibility in underwater censuses and ID as key factor in workshops with fishers.

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*Thank you*

Questions?