

# SEFSC Strategies for US Caribbean Stock Assessment & Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A facilitated virtual workshop occurred May 16th to May 19th, 2022 to prioritize and coordinate data improvement processes that benefit and inform stock assessment and ecosystem based fisheries management in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. During the week, 15 participants representing 5 SEFSC divisions and 11 branches followed the Hoshin Kanri method of strategic planning. Participants defined the values, vision, and mission that will guide the planned data improvement efforts. The identified strategy includes long-term first and second level goals and short term local projects to be addressed in working groups.

### VALUES

- Diversity
- Equity
- Inclusion
- Collaboration

### VISION

To have effective science and management partnerships and processes in the Caribbean Region

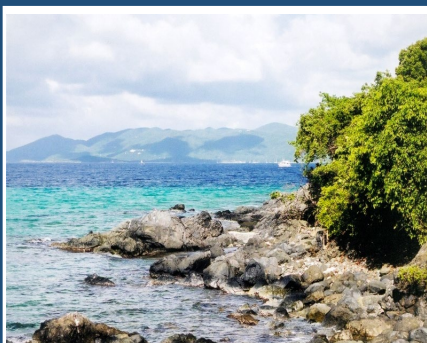
### MISSION

To conduct and communicate science to support sustainable and resilient fisheries, ecosystems, fishing communities, and economies in the US Caribbean Region

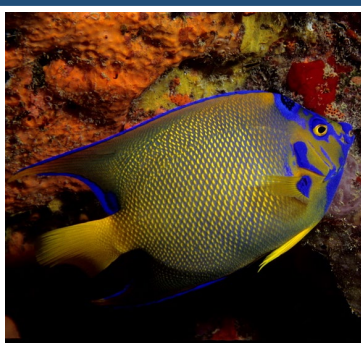
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## STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE FIRST LEVEL GOALS

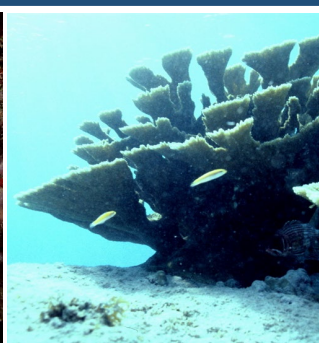
1. Improve data collection efforts
  - Develop and implement programs for fishery-dependent monitoring and fishery-independent sampling
  - Develop and implement environmental mapping and oceanographic data collection programs
  - Develop and implement life history studies of priority species
2. Accurately analyze data
  - Operationalize analytical product workflows
  - Operationalize assessment workflows
  - Conduct well aligned research to produce informed assessment inputs and methods
3. Efficiently manage data and automate data analyses
  - Implement agile project management procedures
  - Implement data automation procedures
4. Enhance internal culture and communication
  - Effectively manage staff resources
  - Invest time and resources into strategic planning for working groups, branches, divisions, and other NMFS offices
5. Increase external collaboration and communication efforts
  - Conduct collaborative science
  - Develop external communications strategies
  - Enhance education, communication, and outreach
6. Incorporate ecosystem based fisheries management and socioeconomic impacts
  - Develop a successful ecosystem based fisheries management strategy that eliminates overfishing and overfished status on key species and considers the multispecies nature of fisheries
  - Build trust, rapport, and relationships with local stakeholder groups
7. Address funding insecurities
  - Develop a funding governance structure
  - Develop a structure to identify and coordinate projects to better leverage limited funding
  - Obtain secured, long-term funding for programmatic projects



Julia Brownlee



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