



U.S. Regional Fishery  
Management Councils

# Council Member Ongoing Development

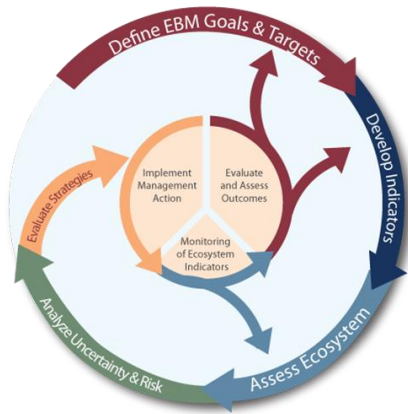
Steering Committee Report to CCC

May 2023

# What is CMOD?

*Council Member  
Ongoing Development*

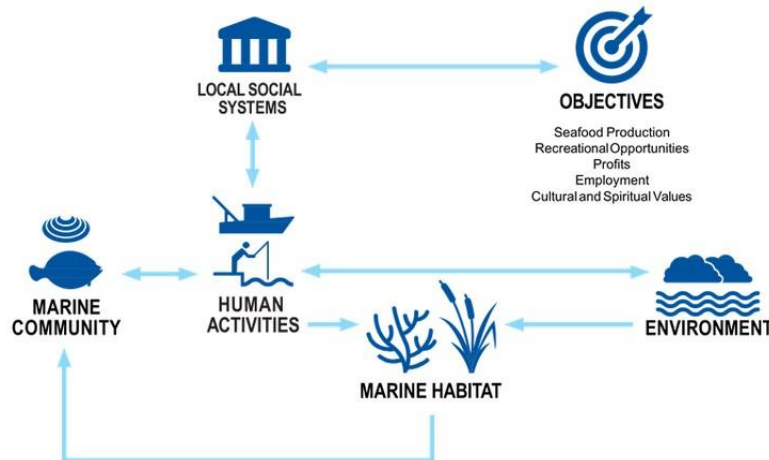
- Program is a new initiative of the Council Coordination Committee
- Goals: to support professional development and cross-regional exchange among Council members and Council/agency staff
- CMOD meetings are policy-neutral; do not result in decisions or recommendations
- Outline for today:
  - Overview of inaugural CMOD meeting in November 2022
  - Steering Committee recommendations for CCC



Levels	Scientific Advice					Management Framework
EBM Ecosystem Based Management	Fisheries	Development	Energy	Eco Tourism	Oil & Gas	Regional Ocean Plan
EBFM Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management	Conservation	Marine	Sanctuaries	Aquaculture	Etc.	Fishery Ecosystem Plan
EAFM Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management	Climate	Habitat	Predator			Fishery Management Plan
SS Single Species						Fishery Management Plan

## Inaugural CMOD meeting: New approaches to EBFM and EAFM

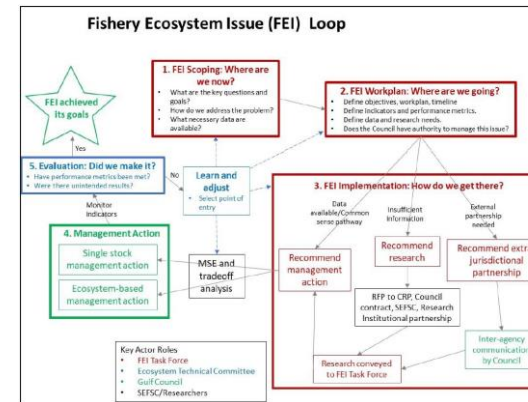
- 2-day meeting in Denver, CO in November 2022, hosted by NEFMC
- EBFM/EAFM Objectives:
  - Explore regional EBFM/EAFM approaches
  - Range of scientific inputs that support EBFM/EAFM and their “on-ramps” to Council processes
  - Explore tools to understand ecosystem dynamics, assess risk, and explore tradeoffs
  - Challenges and opportunities for building long-term capacity
- Skills training: effective development of successful motions
- Participants included Council members/staff from all 8 Council regions, plus NMFS staff from regional offices, science centers, and headquarters
- Summary report prepared by contracted facilitators, Kim Gordon and Katie Latanich captures ideas, opportunities, and challenges discussed at the meeting



# Build capacity within the Council process to support EBFM/EAFM

Participants discussed capacity-building in terms of 1) establishing a shared vocabulary and baseline level of knowledge, 2) integrating ecosystem considerations more fully into Council processes, and 3) building the bench of individuals and “champions” who actively engage in their Councils’ ecosystem work.

- *Begin with a shared baseline and common foundation in the basics of EBFM/EAFM*
- *Dedicate time and agenda space*
- *Identify objectives clearly at the outset for ecosystem projects or EBFM initiatives*
- *Build specialized capacity through technical teams and advisory groups*



**What is an ecosystem?**

- Ecosystem = a community or group of living things that interact with one another

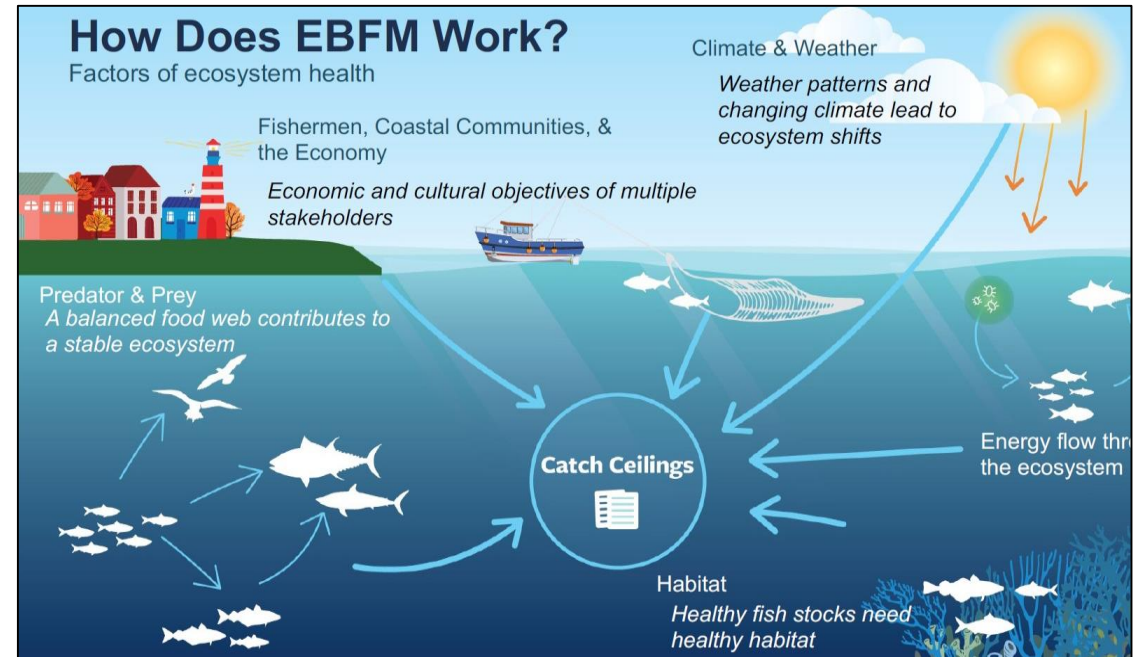
**What is a fishery?**

- Fishery = fish + people

**What is a fishery ecosystem plan?**

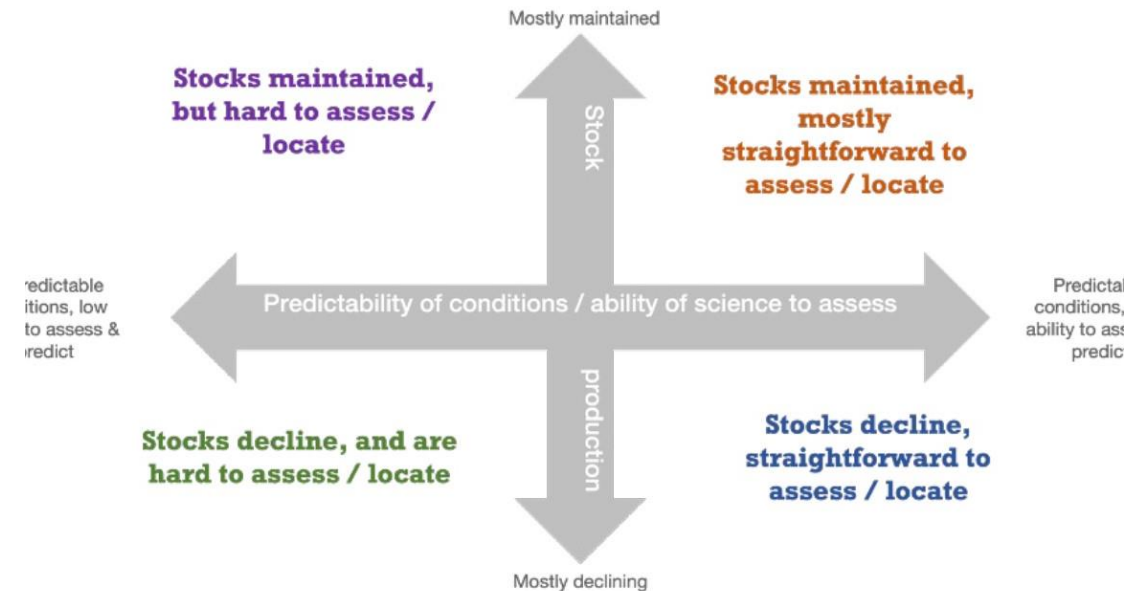
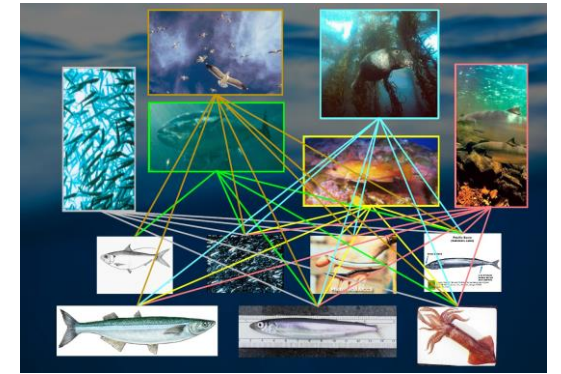
- Fishery ecosystem = linkages between a fishery and its components
- Fishery ecosystem plan = comprehensive management system based on the connections between human and biological components of fisheries

Photo: Jorge Salazar



# Build capacity within the Council process to support EBFM/EAFM (cont)

- *Encourage regional and internal communication, between Councils and NMFS*
- *Practice clear, direct communication about ecosystem information, using simple terms and messages*
- *Learn from crisis situations; opportunity to build trust among scientists, managers, and stakeholders*
- *Make EBFM/EAFM more tangible; translate big picture concepts into concrete issues and opportunities*
- *Continue sharing regional experiences; valuable to borrow and adapt ideas from other regions*
- *Concerns about funding to support EBFM/EAFM; while valuable, are resources available to support*

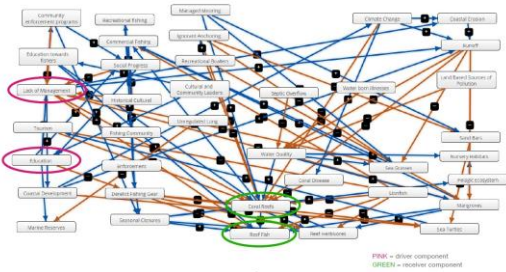




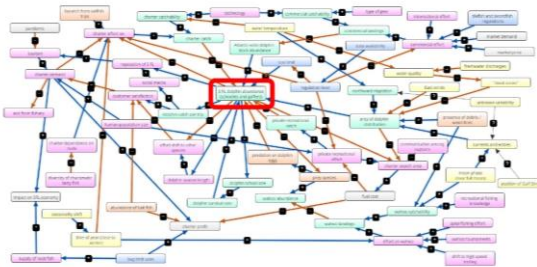


## Puerto Rico

Coastal Business Community



## Full conceptual model (South Florida)



# Build stakeholder capacity and support productive engagement in the Council process

Stakeholder input helps Councils articulate questions, concerns and objectives, and identify potential management responses aligned with fishery goals. Conceptual modeling and scenario planning activities provide a shared frame of reference for translating EBFM/EAFM concepts to implementation strategies.

Strong stakeholder relationships and communication can also help build trust to navigate difficult situations and changing conditions, and provide a basis to build relationships with people and agencies which are not routine participants in the Council process.

- *Connect stakeholders with education and training*
- *Expand the meaning of “engagement” to include e.g. other ways of communication such as videos, and meetings in community venues*
- *Relate EBFM/EAFM to stakeholders’ interests*
- *Recognize the unique opportunities and challenges of engaging stakeholders in EAFM/EBFM, particularly the relative priority of long-term initiatives vs near-term crises*

# Skills training: Effective motions



## Attributes of a successful motion

- Do your homework – read the materials, ask questions of staff, understand what the motion will accomplish, is it realistic for Council’s workload/resources
- Communicate and socialize your motion
- Use clear and specific language
- Clearly explain the rationale for your motion

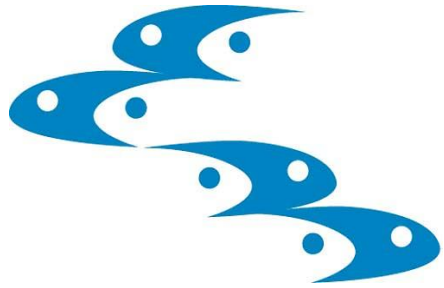
## Regional and issue-specific factors for effective motions

In addition to general attributes, note that the Councils also all have region-specific cultural norms and dynamics with respect to Council deliberations.

## Learning to make effective motions

- Learn from others – watch other Council members to understand context
- Enlist mentors – former as well as current Council members, and ask staff for help
- Develop reference guides as a tool for new members
- “Just do it” – begin building your experience!





# CMOD Steering Committee recommendations

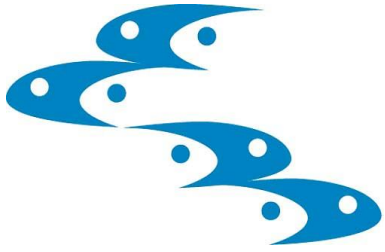
(1/2)

## First CMOD meeting was successful

- Met CCC goals – participant feedback positive
  - Valuable to share regional approaches, learn what others are doing
  - Opportunity to interact with colleagues from other regions
- Within budget
- Size of meeting allowed for informal discussion without mics
- Most Councils found members interested to attend

## Committee discussed future opportunities

- Feedback highlighted areas for improvement (e.g. more breakout groups, narrower topic)
- Pathways for building on meeting ideas - pursue opportunities at individual Councils as no consensus position
  - Other ideas: EBFM seminar series, effective motions flyer



# CMOD Steering Committee recommendations (2/2)

## Committee recommends CCC continue the CMOD program

- Caution: costs likely to increase in future
  - Benefited from locked-in pre-COVID contract rates
  - Need to budget more time for facilitator scoping (and/or narrow CMOD topic)
- Continuing financial support from NMFS is critical
  - Under current funding model, NMFS paid half of cost estimate in advance

## Next steps if CCC agrees to continue program

- Target next CMOD meeting for 2025 (alternating with SCS meetings)
- Host Council should calculate new cost estimate
- Steering committee can meet to recommend potential topics and improvements based on participant feedback for Oct 2023 CCC meeting