

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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Case Study Name:	Fishery cooperatives in Cuba: Potential benefits, legal feasibility, and governance pre-conditions		
Authors:	Jeffrey Wielgus, Sarah Poon, Esperanza Carballal del Río, Daylin Muñoz, Daniel Whittle, Rod Fujita		
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Region:	Caribbean		
Country:	Cuba		
Ecosystem Type:	Coastal marine		
Social Characteristics:	Community island		
Scale of Study:	National		
Resource Type:	Fisheries		
Type of Initiative:	Research-driven project		

Community-Based Work:	Conservation, resource management, fisheries regulations
Keywords:	Caribbean, Cooperatives, Cuba, Fisheries
Summary:	<p>Currently there is a strong interest in Cuba in improving the performance of the fisheries sector with respect to social, biological, and economic outcomes. Many important fishery resources appear to be over exploited, and previous fishery regulation shave had mixed success in restoring fishery stocks. The current fishing pressure could also have adverse impacts on other valuable ecosystem services that support economic activities such as dive tourism and recreational fishing. A new State policy to expand cooperative enterprises to non-agricultural sectors provides an opportunity for fishery cooperatives to be created for the first time since the early years of the Cuban Revolution. This paper explores the potential ecological, social, and economic benefits of adopting fishery cooperatives as a co-management scheme for Cuba's marine fisheries. It concludes that well-designed fishery cooperatives can offer substantial benefits to the management of the fishery sector. Based on an analysis of the relative success of fishing cooperatives worldwide, guidelines are provided for the design of fishery cooperatives in Cuba.</p>