

30 Years of Recommendations: A Review of Caribbean Marine Science & Management Workshops

Abstract prepared for workshop
Priorities for Caribbean Coral Reef Research
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Marine systems environment of the wider Caribbean has suffered from substantial habitat degradation and overexploitation. Concern about the implications of this deterioration has led to the formation of many workshops and initiatives ranging from local cooperatives to international programs. Valuable recommendations for research and management have emerged from the meetings of these groups. However, the sheer volume of documents generated can inhibit accessing relevant information. Furthermore, much of the information exists in proceedings and other publications that are not widely circulated. These factors can lead to duplication of effort, which inhibits the advancement of research and the timely implementation of effective management regimes.

A bibliographic database of meeting products (e.g., proceedings, web publications, reports) from the last 30 years is being constructed at NCORE. We have stratified the meetings into 4 broad Workshop Categories. Some summary information on range of dates and geographic focus has been compiled from the database to date (see

Table 1). Primary Recommendations were extracted from each source and assigned to a major Recommendation Theme. (see Fig. 1 and 2, next page). This is a preliminary effort to distill major themes for research and management of wider Caribbean marine resources and present them as a starting point for future discussions.

Table 1. Preliminary summary of workshop reports available, more to be added

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- Total Meetings = 34
 - Other Reports = 17

 - Meeting Date Range = 1980– 001
 - Other Reports Range = 1979–2001

 - Geographic Focus of meetings:
 - Caribbean Region = 22
 - Global = 12

Figure 1. Database Flow Chart

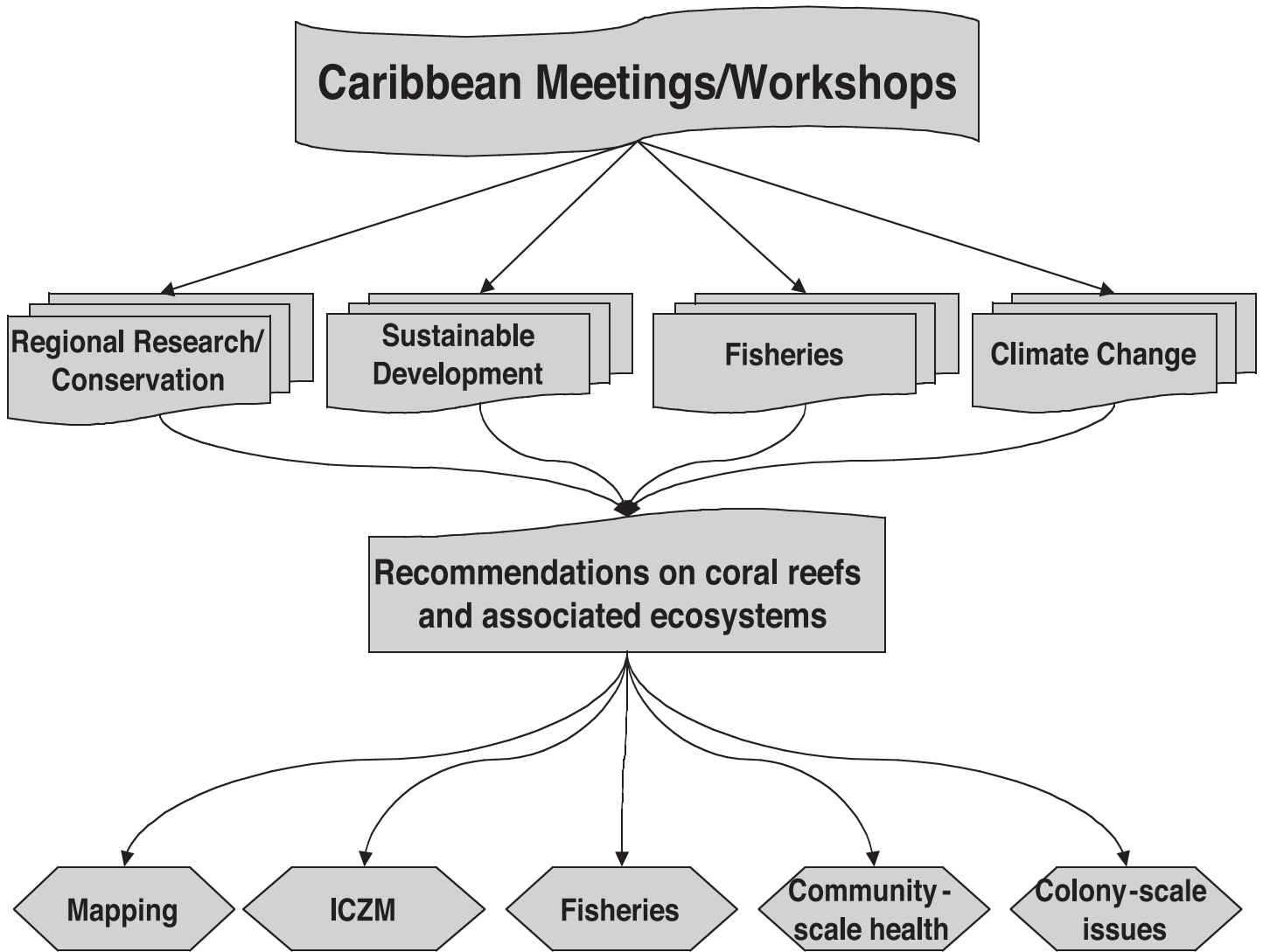


Figure 2. Recommendations for Caribbean Coral Reef Research & Management— To Date

Recommended Themes for Coral Reef Research and Management Priorities

Mapping

- Coastal habitats
- MPA /Critical habitat
- Distribution/Biogeography
- Causes & consequences of climate change

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

- Develop and maintain long term monitoring & assessment programs
- Increased regional interaction & planning through
- International cooperation and agreements
- Management based on scientific research
- Local community involvement in research & management studies
- Influx of nutrients, sediments & pollution
- Causes & consequences of climate change
- Carrying capacity

Fisheries

- Develop and maintain long term monitoring & assessment programs
- Increased regional interaction & planning through international cooperation & agreements
- Identify critical habitat
- Management based on scientific research
- Local community involvement in research & management studies
- Process oriented studies
- Ecological modeling
- Ecological connectivity & recruitment
- Carrying capacity
- Resilience & recovery
- Causes & consequences of climate change

Community Scale Health

- Develop & maintain long term monitoring & assessment programs
- Influx of nutrients, sediments & pollution
- Ecological connectivity & recruitment
- Process oriented studies
- Ecological modeling
- Carrying capacity
- Resilience & recovery
- Causes & consequences of climate change
- Causes & consequences of disease & bleaching

Colony Scale Issues

- Develop & maintain long term monitoring & assessment programs
- Causes & consequences of climate change
- Causes & consequences of disease & bleaching