### Case Study Name:
Fishery cooperatives in Cuba: Potential benefits, legal feasibility, and governance pre-conditions

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### Region:
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### Country:
Cuba

### Ecosystem Type:
Coastal marine

### Social Characteristics:
Community island

### Scale of Study:
National

### Resource Type:
Fisheries

### Type of Initiative:
Research-driven project
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community-Based Work:</th>
<th>Conservation, resource management, fisheries regulations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keywords:</td>
<td>Caribbean, Cooperatives, Cuba, Fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong></td>
<td>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 shaves 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.</td>
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