



Connections

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An electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus
Editors: Maria Pena, Dr. Patrick McConney

Tsunami awareness

CERMES is working in conjunction with the Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU), Barbados and the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) on a tsunami awareness and vulnerability demonstration project for the Bridgetown area. Nadia Gour, one of the 2007/2008 CERMES students, will be doing the data collection this summer as part of her Masters research, which will also be incorporated into the tsunami modeling done by NGI, and presented at a workshop in Barbados scheduled for December this year.



One of the workshop break-out groups: anti-clockwise, the Barbados contingent of Nadia Gour (CERMES MSc student), Renata Goodridge (CERMES Marine Technician) and Dr. Lorna Inniss (Deputy Director CZMU)

NGI hosted a workshop in Norway from 14-21 June in which Nadia participated. Renata Goodridge, CERMES Senior Marine Technician, was the lucky staff member who accompanied Nadia, along with Dr. Lorna Inniss and Fabian Hinds from CZMU. The team spent one very busy week in Oslo, working with the NGI team on all the data requirements for the project.

They also enjoyed a trip through some of the surrounding countryside, checking out Viking burial mounds and museums, taking a ferry trip across the Oslo fjord, and visiting old Fredrikstad. It never really became dark, so there were lots of opportunities to take pictures and stay wide awake – even in the middle of the night!



Sailboat modelled on the old Viking style

Community reef watchers – local dive community monitoring to make a difference

As the health status of Barbados' coral reefs remains a focus of concern, a local group of divers, known as the Community Reef Watchers, made a new step towards monitoring, and thus safeguarding, seven reefs within the Folkestone Marine Reserve on the west coast of the island in June. The Reef Watchers will monitor the abundance of fish, invertebrates and live coral cover in the marine reserve's waters using techniques based on the global coral reef monitoring programme Reef Check. Training was held at the Folkestone's land base by Ms. Renata

Goodridge, CERMES Senior Marine Technician who has been diving for over 20 years, and has witnessed the decline and regrowth of populations such as the black long-spined sea urchin *Diadema antillarum* on these very same reefs. She called the Reef Watcher Programme the Bajan version of Reef Check, as the Programme was modified to specifically reflect changes in our reefs. Ms. Goodridge stated that local divers should be more aware of the status of the reefs offshore of their own 'back doors', and was impressed with the enthusiasm and generosity of all the divers involved. Special thanks go to High Tide Watersports for providing tanks and dive boat for the monitoring sessions.



The Reef Watchers after a training session

For more information on the Reef Watchers programme at Folketsone, please contact Ms. Katherine Blackman, CERMES Research Assistant, [(246) 417-4827 or katherine.blackman@cavehill.uwi.edu] or Ms. Andree Griffith, Director, Caribbean Conservation Association [(246) 426-5373 or outreach@ccanet.net].

11th ICRS, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

The 11th International Coral Reef Symposium was held from 7-11 July in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and was the largest of all these symposia with over 3,500 coral reef scientists from 75 countries in attendance! CERMES staff, Prof. Hazel Oxenford,

Ms. Renata Goodridge and Ms. Maria Pena were in attendance flying the flag for the University of the West Indies making both oral and poster presentations. A list of the presentations made is provided below.

Oral presentations:

- Lajeunesse, T., J. Finney, R. Smith and **H. Oxenford**. *Proliferation of an opportunistic Symbiodinium sp. during the 2005 eastern Caribbean mass coral 'bleaching'*
- **Oxenford, H.**, A. Brathwaite and R. Roach. *Large scale coral mortality in Barbados: A delayed response to the 2005 bleaching episode*
- **Pena, M.** and **P. McConney**. *Lessons learned from socio-economic monitoring (SocMon) and Marine Protected Area Management Effectiveness (MPA-ME) evaluation in the Caribbean*

Poster presentations:

- Finney, J.C., T. Lajeunesse and **H. Oxenford**. *Environmental, ecological and biogeographic factors controlling the distribution of Symbiodinium diversity among coral reef habitats in Barbados, eastern Caribbean*
- **Goodridge, R.**, L. Brewster, **W. Hunte**, A. Brathwaite, **L. Nurse** and **H. Oxenford**. *Twenty years of reef monitoring in Barbados: Benefits to government and lessons learned*
- Schuhmann, P., J. Casey and **H. Oxenford**. *The economic value of coral reef quality to SCUBA divers in Barbados*



Renata Goodridge discussing her poster with Dr. Peter Schuhmann (CERMES visiting lecturer)

Generally the news was not so good. Coral reef ecosystems are being adversely affected by high temperatures and acidic ocean conditions due to

climate change. However, studies presented at the symposium indicate that coral reefs respond vigorously to protective measures and alleviation of stress. Therefore scientists, resource managers, stakeholders and conservationists, among others, are tasked with continuing to report on the threats that climate change poses to reef ecosystems, and with protecting reefs from stressors such as sewage, pollutants, overfishing, sediment, development etc.

For an overview of the outcomes of the symposium please visit <http://www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs/outcomes.html>.



The Barbados participants enjoying the warmth outside the Broward Convention Centre. Left to Right: Maria Pena, Renata Goodridge, Angelique Brathwaite (CZMU), Prof. Hazel Oxenford and Christine Finney (former CERMES student)

SocMon coordinators retreat to Pigeon Key, Florida

Following the 11th ICRS, Maria Pena (CERMES Project Officer) represented Dr. Patrick McConney at a retreat in Pigeon Key from 13-15 July for all regional socio-economic monitoring (SocMon) coordinators. The retreat provided the opportunity for regional coordinators from the English and Spanish-speaking Caribbean, South East Asia, Western Indian Ocean, South Asia and the Pacific, to share SocMon advice and experiences across regions, to get to know each other a bit better, and to discuss the way forward for SocMon. Special thanks to Dr. Christy Loper (Global SocMon Coordinator) and Marci Wulff from US National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (US NOAA) for organising and participating in the retreat.

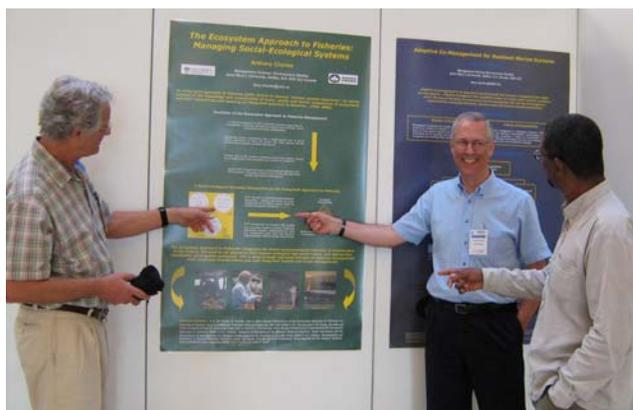


Coordinators talking 'shop'

Coping with Global Change in Marine Social-Ecological Systems

Prof. Robin Mahon and Dr. Patrick McConney attended the international conference on Coping with Global Change in Marine Social-Ecological Systems held 8-11 July 2008 in Rome. They were authors on two oral presentations and one poster, all of which can be seen on the conference web site:

<http://www.globec.org/structure/fwg/focus4/symposium/symposium.htm>.



Prof. Mahon (left) and Dr. McConney (right) making pointed remarks about the poster of colleague Tony Charles of St Mary's University, Canada

MarGov project update

This section has been specially added to our e-bulletin to inform, update and share lessons learned with partners, stakeholders, policy makers and other interested persons about the CERMES Marine Resource Governance in the eastern Caribbean (MarGov) project.

Small grant funds awarded

The MarGov Project is pleased to announce two new recipients of its small grant funds. In April, the Grenada Fisheries Division was awarded US\$8,500 to assist it in developing a draft fisheries management plan and governance arrangements for the Grenada sea urchin fishery, using ecosystem-based and sustainable livelihood approaches to fisheries management. In July, the Barbados Fisheries Advisory Committee was awarded US\$8750 to strengthen the role the FAC plays in the sustainable governance of fisheries resources in Barbados.

PhD researcher makes site visits

Between June and July, MarGov PhD researcher Kemraj Parsram made reconnaissance visits to Grenada and St Lucia in order to familiarise himself with the research sites he has chosen: the communities of Gouyave and Grenville in Grenada; and Vieux Fort and Gros Islet in St. Lucia. Kemraj used the opportunity to become familiar with the fishers, vendors, processors, and other stakeholders; and observe interactions among them. He also conducted stakeholder identification related to fisheries for large pelagic and shallow reef fish, and collected available secondary data to build on a profile of the fisheries for large pelagic and shallow reef fish. He was able to gather information on annual fish landings, and description of fishing methods, gears and vessels. These site visits were accommodated by the respective national fisheries authorities/divisions.

On the understanding of fisher folk organisations

In May, MarGov associate researcher Laura Tabet – a student of the Marine Management Program at Dalhousie University in Canada – travelled with Terrence Philips of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), and Mitchell Lay and Joslyn Lee-Quay of the regional fisherfolk network's coordinating unit to St Kitts and Nevis and St Vincent. These trips gave Laura the opportunity to gain more insight into local level understandings of the purpose and structure of national and regional fisher folk organisations. The remainder of her field research will be concentrated on communication and policy networks at the regional, national and local levels in Barbados and St Lucia.

Busy MarGov communications officer

In July, MarGov communications officer Carmel Haynes participated in a three-day awareness strategy initiative hosted by the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU) of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in St Kitts. As a member of the working group tasked with drafting a regional communications strategy for the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) Project, she was able to offer insight on the knowledge, attitudes and practices of the fisheries stakeholders in five out of the six territories that are part of the OPAAL Project. That same month, Carmel also participated in a one-day symposium on sustainable livelihoods hosted by Oxfam GB in Barbados, from which she was able to take lessons on collaborative approaches to tackling issues in small scale agriculture in the English-speaking Caribbean that could be applied to small scale fisheries in the eastern Caribbean sub-region.

More on MarGov?

For the most recent MarGov news, upcoming events and project reports, please visit the CERMES website at www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes and stay in touch via the *Connections*.