

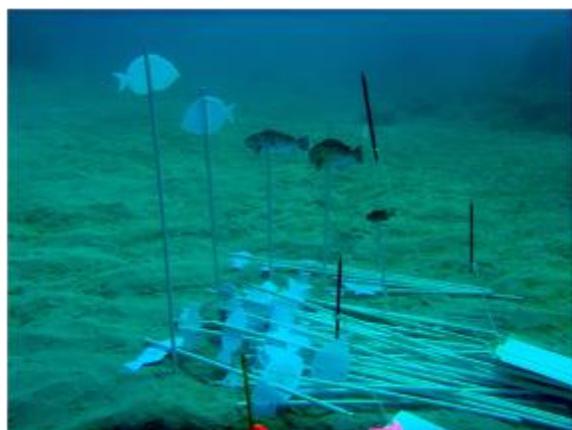


A bi-monthly electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
 Editors: Maria Pena and Dr. Patrick McConney

New collaborative research project on lionfish led by CERMES gets underway

By Hazel Oxenford

The New Year has seen the kick-off of a new research project funded by the Natural Heritage Department (NHD), Ministry of Environment and Drainage and led by CERMES in collaboration with the Barbados Fisheries Division (FD) and the Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU) looking at the possible impacts of the invasive lionfish in Barbados. The project will be primarily focused on investigating the impact of invasive lionfish on the ecological services of parrotfishes and other key herbivores on Barbados reefs, but will also be considering potential impacts to the nearshore reef fishery here.



Underwater 'fish sticks' used in rigorous training of team divers to ensure accurate estimation of size of fish on the reef

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This project comes as part of a coordinated response by Barbados to the arrival of the alien invasive species belonging to the scorpionfish family, the Indo-Pacific lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) which has been spreading throughout the wider Caribbean since the early 1990s, and appearing in ever increasing numbers in coral reefs and deeper waters across the region. Barbados, one of the last islands to witness the arrival of this species, recorded its first specimen in late November 2011.

The project, under co-principal investigators Prof. Hazel Oxenford (CERMES) and Dr. Henri Valles (Department of Biological & Chemical Sciences, UWI), is currently collecting baseline data on reef fish community composition (numbers and individual sizes of all species) across 10 reefs along the south and west coasts of Barbados, including shallow fringing and patch reefs and deeper bank reefs, as well as in Folkestone Marine Park. The project team is also working closely with reef fishers from Pile Bay and Oistins to record current levels of reef fish catch per fishing trip. The project is also

operating a Lionfish Hotline and hosting a Facebook page providing information and receiving reports from divers, fishers and the general public.

Lionfish Hotline: 824-8361

Link to facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lionfish-Barbados-hotline-246-824-8361/252570021471424>

Responsible fisheries video

By Katherine Blackman

The debut of the video “Applying the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in Barbados” occurred on 11 January 2012 during a meeting with fisherfolk, as part of the Conset Bay Pilot Project. The video promoted the 1995 Food and Agricultural Organisation’s (FAO) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, a tool to



On location for the video shoot

achieve sustainable and responsible fisheries worldwide. In sensitising fisherfolk about the Code, the video also highlighted how various stakeholders such as fishermen, boat owners and fish processors can each play a role in

responsible fisheries. The video will be later used to promote the Code around the island as the Conset Bay Pilot Project team begins to work on a Local Sustainable Fisheries Code to Promote Responsible Fisheries Development and Management. Special thanks to all those who made this video possible.

CERMES outreach

By Renata Goodridge

On 16 January, Renata Goodridge led a water quality field trip for four Harrison College Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) Environmental Science students and their teacher, CERMES alumnus, Ms. Allison

Pinder. The first site was the Hometown Hole where the students learned to do *in situ* water quality monitoring with a handheld meter and collect water samples for analysis in the CERMES Water Quality (WQ) Lab. Samples were collected from the Hole and then from the beach waters where the Hole waters exit into the sea. The second site was the Barbados Light and Power Company Ltd (BL&P) ‘Hot Pot’, where the cooling waters for the turbines exit into the sea. The students also sampled the canal to landward side of the BL&P, which leads down to the sea through the ‘Hot Pot’ channel. That afternoon and the next day, the students were in the WQ Lab, learning and running analyses to measure for Total Suspended Solids, Nitrates, Phosphates, Total Coliforms, Fecal Coliforms and Enterococci from all the samples collected during the field trip.



Collecting water samples at the Hometown Hole

More fieldwork for FORCE

By Rachel Turner

The Future of Reefs project social science team have been busy over the last few months entering and analysing data from our last field trip in the Bay Islands of Honduras in the summer of 2010. In February, the team (five researchers from CERMES, Barbados, and Newcastle University, UK) will be heading out again to spend ten weeks in St Kitts and Nevis, where we will be visiting three communities, two of which will be on St. Kitts and one on Nevis. On arriving in St. Kitts, the team plans to



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spend a week scoping and meeting with local organisations and individuals to identify three study sites with varying dependence on reef fishing and reef tourism. In these communities we will conduct interviews and community meetings with reef resource users and community members, as well as talking to reef managers and policy makers at a national level. St. Kitts and Nevis will be the third of four countries to be studied by the social science team and we are looking forward to engaging with the communities and learning about how the people of St. Kitts and Nevis depend on the sea.

Caribbean Challenge SocMon training complete

By Maria Pena

The final two SocMon training workshops for the Caribbean Challenge SocMon project were conducted in St. Lucia and Grenada in January and February, respectively. In each workshop, 12 participants representing the project's MPA sites, fisheries and community organisations were trained by Maria Pena and Katherine Blackman in the socio-economic monitoring methodology. Site monitoring plans for the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection

Area (PSEPA), Pitons Management Area (PMA) and Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA) in St. Lucia; and the Woburn Clarke's Court Bay MPA (WCCB), Molinère-Beausejour MPA (MB) and Sandy Island Oyster Bed MPA (SIOB) are currently being drafted by the project's SocMon teams with initiation of monitoring expected to begin in March/April.

To follow the project's progress, please visit the Caribbean Challenge SocMon webpage at http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/cc_socmon.html



Some of the participants at the Grenada SocMon training workshop being observed by Katherine Blackman



MarGov Project Update
by Patrick McConney
with contributions from
Shelly-Ann Cox and Kemraj Parsram,
PhD candidates

WECAFC gets word from MarGov

By Patrick McConney

The Fourteenth Session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) took place in Panama City, Panama, from 6-9



February 2012. Prof. Robin Mahon participated and shared with participants from around the Wider Caribbean an issue of CERMES Policy Perspectives entitled “How the CERMES MarGov Project may inform the Western

Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission ... lessons learned from complex adaptive systems”. This policy brief was requested as one of the final outputs of the Regional Policy and Planning Workshop on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in the Caribbean: Achieving Improved Fisheries Management and Utilisation in the Wider Caribbean Region which was held at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados from 6-9 December 2011. WECAFC is one of the three original organisational target audiences of the MarGov project. A similar output will be prepared for the CRFM and OECS, the two other fisheries organisations that MarGov has influenced.

Poverty agenda

By Patrick McConney

The CARISEC / CRFM / Kingdom of Spain Regional Workshop to Review the Report of the Diagnostic Study to Determine the Poverty Levels in Fishing Communities in Selected CARICOM / CRFM Member States held from 1 – 2 February 2012 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines offered an opportunity for the MarGov project to add more on governance to the poverty agenda. The CERMES participant at the workshop, Patrick McConney, assisted the CRFM Secretariat in examining the ways in which the poverty assessment could be better used for policy influence. Much of this was based on making better connections between the study and initiatives underway in the region, building upon the existing institutional arrangements. It is hoped that the final report and follow-up activities will acknowledge that poverty is as much an issue of multi-level good governance as it is of socio-economic conditions.

Small-scale fisheries guidelines

By Patrick McConney

MarGov engaged an international arena when Patrick McConney attended the FAO Workshop on International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries, 7-10 February 2012, Rome. During the workshop McConney found several opportunities for sharing the

MarGov project outputs and lessons learned with an international group of fisheries experts. In particular he raised the issue of scaling-up small-scale fisheries enterprises and organisations through networking. Governance issues featured prominently at the workshop, and it became obvious that the insular Caribbean (CRFM Member States in particular) need to pay more attention to this global initiative that should result in a negotiated set of guidelines specifically for small-scale fisheries by 2014.



Fisherfolk aim at sustainable fisheries governance

By Patrick McConney

The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), through its MarGov small grant for developing its adaptive capacity, has now completed most small grant activities. Local and national meetings to sensitise fisherfolk to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) were held in Grenada, St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Lucia and Antigua in January and February 2012. National meetings served to review local country meetings; discuss areas of concerns from meetings; create an action list; develop a fisherfolk representation mechanism and develop a strategy on how to promote the establishment of a Fishery Advisory Committee (FAC) wherever a FAC was not functioning.

The CNFO developed a Communication Strategy and Plan in January 2012. The strategy identifies four categories of target audience, identifies recommended actions specific to each target

group as well as specific messages to be communicated to each.

St. Lucia sea egg validation meetings completed

By Shelly-Ann Cox

CERMES PhD candidate, Shelly-Ann Cox returned to St. Lucia in the week of the 15 January to conduct validation meetings in her study communities and at the Department of Fisheries (DOF). From Monday to Wednesday she visited the communities of Bruceville, Laborie and Anse Ger and presented findings to date during the evening session. On 19 January all sea egg divers from the different communities and fisheries officials were invited to watch a documentary about the decline of sea eggs in Barbados which was produced under the MarGov project (visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUkmFywMyMA>). The documentary was well received and started a lively discussion about the similarities and differences between the sea egg fisheries in Barbados and St. Lucia. Divers shared traditional knowledge and all agreed that they enjoyed being able to interact with other divers. Someone also suggested an exchange visit between the islands to foster information sharing networks. On 20 January, Shelly-Ann presented at the DOF where an interesting discussion resulted from the findings to date. Fisheries officials were receptive to the concerns of the sea egg divers which were presented and admitted that they did not include the divers in making management decisions as they should have in the past and that they would make a more earnest effort in the future.

Shelly-Ann believes that she accomplished much more than what she had planned for in her validation meetings and looks forward to the change, no matter how small, that her work will bring to the sea urchin fishery in St. Lucia.