



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

## Vulnerability of fisheries in SIDS & enhancing fisheries stewardship to reduce instability

By Maria Pena

The vulnerability of fisheries to climate change in small island developing states (SIDS) and enhancing the stewardship of small scale fisheries to instability were the focus of CERMES presentations at the People and the Sea VII Conference - Maritime Futures, 26-28 June 2013, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Iris Monnereau, CERMES Post Doctoral Fellow gave a presentation on her current research on fisheries and climate changes, entitled, *Are SIDS really that vulnerable to climate change?*



Patrick McConney led a panel session entitled *Don't rock the boat: enhancing stewardship to reduce instability* within the conference theme *Coastal shocks, disasters and recovery* to address three components of Working Group 4 (WG4) of the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) project. TBTI is organized around regional issues and thematic research conducted by working groups. The theme "Enhancing the Stewardship" is the focus of WG4 and is

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led by CERMES.



The aim of the panel was to share ideas on how social-ecological systems function in fisheries, how

their interactions could be monitored and how the resulting shared learning could develop into sustainable stewardship. After a brief introduction, three presenters associated with WG4 –Patrick McConney and Maria Pena (CERMES) and Rodrigo Medeiros (Federal University of Paraná, Brazil) shared their insights in slide presentations, with the discussion broadly guided by the three WG4 research questions. CERMES Technical Report No. 52 (soon to be uploaded to the CERMES website) summarises the panel session providing extended abstracts of the presentations followed by a brief section on the discussion.

## CEM and CERMES team up to offer graduate course

By *Patrick McConney*

New ties have been formed between CERMES and the Centro de Estudos do Mar (CEM) of the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR) in Brazil. They collaborated to offer a one-week graduate course on “Coastal and marine resource governance: concepts and their practical application” in Pontal do Sul. The interdisciplinary course focused largely on resilience in small-scale fisheries and coastal management with emphasis on the human dimensions.



Rodrigo Medeiros of CEM-UFPR (front left in photo) organised the course that was delivered largely by Patrick McConney of CERMES-UWI. A memorandum of understanding between the two universities is being worked on as a means to formalise and further the mutually beneficial collaboration.

## SocMon workshop to bring Brazil into a global network

By *Patrick McConney*

A two-day workshop on Socio-economic monitoring for coastal management (SocMon) was held from 1-2 August 2013 in Pontal do Sul, Paraná, in Brazil. The aim was to raise awareness of SocMon amongst a wide cross-section of Brazilian researchers, students, officials and other interested parties. Participants were especially impressed with the presentations and engagement of Peter Edwards, the Social Science Coordinator

for the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program and the coordinator of SocMon globally. He strongly encouraged the formation of a SocMon node in Brazil that could be assisted in its initial stages by the SocMon Caribbean node led by Maria Pena.



The introductory SocMon event included a field trip for practical exercises that caught the attention of the Brazilian media (seen here filming students hard at work). Upon conclusion of the workshop several students indicated interest in the methodology. Rodrigo Medeiros (UFPR) and Cristiana Seixas (UNICAMP) agreed to lead the follow-up on implementation of the methodology as well as forming a Brazilian node for long-term support.

## SocMon in the Turks and Caicos Islands

By *Maria Pena*

From 5-13 August 2013, fourteen environmental and maritime staff from government, together with representatives of non-government organisations from the Turks and Caicos, and a representative from the Wreck of the Rhone Marine Park, British Virgin Islands, gathered at the Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs (DEMA) to learn about *Socio-economic monitoring for National Marine Parks in the Turks and Caicos Islands*. Park managers, staff and volunteers were trained to monitor and understand the social and economic dimensions of managing national marine parks.



This seven-day training workshop is one component of a project, *Socio-economic monitoring at National Marine Parks in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI SocMon)*, the objective of which is to increase capacity for effective marine protected area (MPA) management among Turks and Caicos MPAs through the use of social and economic monitoring data in MPA decision-making.

The TCI SocMon project is being implemented by CERMES in partnership with the Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs (DEMA) and the Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF). This project is supported by the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program.

More updates to come soon!

## MSc research projects are Too Big To Ignore

*By Patrick McConney*

CERMES includes short (2-3 month) research projects in its taught MSc degree. This summer five students are part of the Too Big to Ignore (TBTI) Working Group 4 (WG4) programme of activities. They are covering aspects of all three components of WG4 and, if all goes well, should be contributing to conference posters and the WG4 e-book in addition to completing their degrees.

For social-ecological interactions, Romel Forde is investigating changes in the Barbados deep-water snapper fishery. For monitoring, Jehroum Wood and Shanell Fernandez are helping to develop aspects of the SocMon methodology, addressing participatory GIS plus the indicators and decision systems,

respectively. For stewardship, Coretta Samuels is examining the concept to stewardship in fisherfolk organisations in Guyana. We wish these interdisciplinary scientists well in their ongoing fieldwork.

All of these projects are piloting what could develop into major research directions for WG4 if further funding was available. In addition to CERMES support, these students will be partially assisted by USAID, CCCCC, Government of Belize and possibly JICA. Patrick McConney, Kimberly Baldwin and Maria Pena provide research supervision from CERMES. In the background are others including Robert Pomeroy, John Parks, Nathalie Zenny and Rodrigo Medeiros who have an interest in these topics and collaborate with WG4. Drop me a line if you too want to collaborate with WG4 or have queries.

Find out more about TBTI WG4 at <http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/tbti.htm> and about the entire TBTI global research partnership at <http://toobigtoignore.net/>.

## Regional workshop in Brazil is Too Big To Ignore

*By Patrick McConney*

The Too Big to Ignore (TBTI) joint workshop of the Latin America and the Caribbean group with Working Group 4 took place 6-9 August 2013 in Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil. The workshop theme was: *“Enhancing Stewardship in Small-Scale Fisheries through Ecosystem Approaches and Other Means”*. It attracted over 30 participants mainly from Central and South America.



The workshop, conducted in Portuguese, English and Spanish, was an excellent forum for

intense information exchange and networking. Participants contributed suggestions for collaborative action on a variety of matters. CERMES was represented by Patrick McConney, one of the organisers and the leader of WG4. Stay tuned for the workshop report and news of follow-up activities.

## Caribbean Fisheries Learning Group set to work on governance issues

*(Adapted excerpt from CANARI press release, 20 August 2013)*



Over 35 fisherfolk leaders and resource persons from 17 Caribbean countries attended an inception meeting, 19-21 August, in Trinidad and Tobago to establish a regional Fisherfolk Leaders Action Learning Group to look at how fisherfolk can effectively contribute to food and nutrition security in the Caribbean.

The Action Learning Group will work to ensure that regional and national fisherfolk organisations participate in fisheries governance and management in the Caribbean. During the meeting, the Group worked on a four year plan of action that will take place under a project supported by the European Union EuropeAid programme.

The project which is titled, *“Enhancing food security from the fisheries sector in the Caribbean: Building the capacity of regional and national fisherfolk organisation networks to participate in fisheries governance and management”* is being implemented by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI). CANARI is working in partnership with the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies of the University of the West Indies (UWI CERMES), Panos Caribbean, the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CFRM).

## CERMES Post-Doc Fellow

*By Iris Monnereau*



Iris Monnereau is the most recent Post-doctoral Fellow at CERMES. Iris received her PhD at the University of Amsterdam, Department of

Geography, Planning and International Development Studies on the topic of lobster fisheries governance in the Wider Caribbean. Her research activities include fisheries governance; fish chains; lobster fisheries; fishers’ wellbeing; fishers’ job satisfaction; the impacts of climate change on fisheries and coastal erosion.

For CERMES she is currently working under the supervision of Robin Mahon, Patrick McConney and Leonard Nurse as a Post-Doctoral Fellow, a position sponsored by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) in Belize. The project investigates the vulnerability of national economies in the Wider Caribbean to the impacts of climate change on fisheries. The impacts of climate change are expected to be different among different regions and nations and it is important to investigate where climate change impacts on fisheries have greatest social and economic significance. In previous national level assessments Small Island Developing States and Wider Caribbean countries were largely absent from the analysis so this research aims to fill this gap in knowledge.

Iris started her Fellowship on 1 September 2012 and will be with CERMES at least until 31 August 2014.

### Read all about it!

Read all about our newly renovated building and incoming students in the next issue of the *Connections!!!*