



# 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  
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## Honing aquatic skills

*Submitted by Renata Goodridge*

The 2009/2010 CERMES cohort jumped into the sea with big splashes during this year's Aquatic Skills course. About half of the class are divers, the other half 'less confident in the sea', with a few good snorkelers mixed in the middle! The divers did a pre-check one day and Caroline Gooding (CERMES MPhil student) and Renata Goodridge (CERMES Senior Marine Technician) took them diving to Friar's Craig and the bank reef.

Michael Young from Underwater Barbados soon had the 'less confident' much more sure of themselves in the sea, and by the end of the course, most everyone swam and snorkeled at the wrecks in Carlisle Bay. The students also learned some knots and splicing from Shelly-Ann Cox (CERMES MPhil student), learned to row a boat guided by Professor Hazel Oxenford, and learned some basic boatman skills from Caroline on *UWI-CHILL*. All in all, it was a successful Aquatic Skills course, with students and staff enjoying the learning environment at the beach and on the sea.



On the way to snorkel and dive



Diving at Friars Craig

## Seminar on west coasts fringing reefs of Barbados

*Submitted by Shamal Connell*

On 9 September, MPhil student Shamal Connell presented his research proposal on the topic, "*Barbados west coast fringing reefs: A broad-scale assessment of their ecological condition and impacting environment*". In this his first MPhil seminar, Shamal presented the objectives of the study, the research question, as well as the methodology.

His research utilizes landscape photographs of fringing reefs taken from just below the water surface as well as fish and *Diadema antillarum* (long-spined black sea urchin) transects to collect data on reef health which will then be used to show potential relationships between reef health and different impacting factors in the coastal zone. He also provided some background information on fringing reefs in Barbados as well as their

ecological and socio-economic importance to the nation. The presentation was delivered at CERMES with a largely academic audience in attendance. The committee members for this research are Professors Robin Mahon and Hazel Oxenford.



Shamal Connell presenting his MPhil research proposal

## ***World Maritime Week celebrated***

*Submitted by Katherine Blackman*

"Climate Change: A challenge for IMO too" was the theme for World Maritime Day hosted by International Transport Division of the Ministry of International Business and International Transport. CERMES was represented on the Planning Committee by Ms. Katherine Blackman to develop the inaugural World Maritime Week of activities from September 21-25 2009.

During the week Katherine assisted Folkestone Park and Marine Reserve with a coral reef/climate change exhibit focusing on the effects on climate change, its impact on coral reefs and ways in which persons can reduce these impacts on coral reefs.



CERMES exhibit at World Maritime Week of celebrations, Coast Guard Headquarters

On World Maritime Day, 24 September, Dr. Adrian Cashman stole the audience's attention as he spoke vibrantly of the impact of climate change on health as part of the Climate Change Lecture and Panel discussion at the Barbados Yacht Club. On the final day of activities, CERMES staff participated in the Career Showcase which was held at the Coast Guard Headquarters HMBS Pelican. The exhibit was developed to guide the youth through the steps to the CERMES MSc programme.

## ***International Association of Facilitators conference***

The CERMES class of 2009/2010 attended the First Caribbean Conference of the International Association of Facilitators, September 23-25 at the Hilton Hotel, Barbados. They were exposed to a variety of training and interactive sessions on facilitation and professional development that is expected to improve their capacity to deal effectively with groups and to encourage participation in marine resource governance.



CERMES class at the IAF conference

## ***Trash, Turtles and Tourists***

*Submitted by Katherine Blackman*

CERMES hosted its first public lecture entitled "Trash, turtles and tourists: Visitors are willing to pay for coastal and marine quality", a paper written by CERMES-affiliated Resource Economist, Dr. Peter Schuhmann. The lecture summarised the results of this economic valuation study aimed at understanding tourist involvement in coastal

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recreation, perceptions of environmental quality, preferences for coastal amenities and willingness to pay for improvements in coastal and marine quality. The work illustrates the potential for significant economic gains to be realized through efforts to improve coastal and marine quality in Barbados. The lecture was hosted on 6 October in the Lecture Theatre of the Graduate Studies Complex.



Dr. Peter Schuhmann delivering the public lecture on his economic valuation study on visitor willingness to pay for coastal and marine quality

## New publication

LaJeunesse, T.C., R.T. Smith, J. Finney and H. Oxenford. 2009. Outbreak and persistence of opportunistic symbiotic dinoflagellates during the 2005 Caribbean mass coral 'bleaching' event. *Proc. R. Soc. B.* published online 9 September 2009.



"This paper describes how the symbioses of major reef-building species in the Caribbean respond to severe thermal stress before, during and after a severe bleaching event."

## Recycling bins completed

Submitted by Maria Pena

Earlier this month, while I was away on work duty, two colleagues, Neetha Selliah (CERMES Programme Coordinator) and Renata Goodridge along with some of our MSc and MPhil students assembled the remaining recycling bins for UWI departments. What a surprise I received on my return! Special thanks to all those kind-hearted people who assisted with this task. It was a wonderful gesture. Now the majority of UWI departments will be supplied with these indoor recycling bins as part of the campus recycling initiative.



Bin assembly line - L to R: Katherine Blackman, Vicki Maraj, and Arlene Maheia (CERMES MSc students)



L to R: Renata Goodridge (CERMES Senior Marine Technician) and Neetha Selliah (CERMES Programme Coordinator) team up to build the bins

## MarGov project update

by Carmel Haynes and Patrick McConney

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 IDRC-funded CERMES Marine Resource Governance in the eastern Caribbean (MarGov) project.

### ***Food security through responsible fisheries***

The MarGov Project played its part in Barbados's lead-up to celebration of World Food Day on 16 October with the hosting of a one-day workshop entitled: "In crisis and in calm — meeting food security needs through responsible fisheries" on 12 October.

While the theme for this year's World Food Day was: "Achieving food security in times of Crisis", the workshop, which was organized in collaboration with the Barbados Fisheries Advisory Committee (FAC), the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations and the government Fisheries Division, was a reminder that sustainable food production is needed in Barbados year-round.



Barbados Minister of Agriculture Haynesley Benn (centre) officially opening the workshop flanked by CERMES Director Professor Robin Mahon (right) and FAO Senior Fisheries Officer Bissessar Chakalall.

Over 20 participants from across the fisheries sector came together to explore how the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries can be used to ensure that fisheries production can be maintained at a level for the island that will continue to meet the needs of the people in the face of threats to some fish stock.

An expected output from the workshop will be a final report outlining suggestions on how fishers, fisheries authorities, and associate agencies can partner to implement the principles of the FAO Code of Conduct.



MarGov Principal Researcher Dr. Patrick McConney leading participants through a group exercise

### ***Researching "chadon" in St Lucia***

MarGov MPhil Researcher Shelly-Ann Cox has started her St. Lucia fieldwork in earnest. At the end of September Shelly travelled to St Lucia to observe the highly anticipated 2009 open season for the sea urchin ("chadon") fishery which occurred from 29 September to 1 October. She observed mixed feelings among some divers about the length of the season however heavy fishing



occurred over the three days, mostly concentrated in Laborie Bay, with divers harvesting from as early as 5 a.m. and making on average two dives per day.



Shelly-Ann with a sea urchin fisher on the beach in Laborie, St Lucia

This trip follows-on from an earlier scoping mission when she and her supervisor Dr Patrick McConney visited St Lucia on August 11 to 13. During this short trip she presented her research proposal to the communities of Laborie and Vieux Fort and the Department of Fisheries and made contacts for future research. The presentation of her proposal was an important step in securing the research permit required for her to start fieldwork in St Lucia. Over the three days, Shelly-Ann gained perspective from the Laborie fishermen on the sea urchin open season and about the St Lucia sea urchin fishery on a whole from representatives from the St Lucia Department of Fisheries.

### ***MarGov small grant approved for the Sustainable Grenadines project to work with fisherfolk***

The Sustainable Grenadines project has submitted a successful application for a MarGov small grant. SusGren project manager Martin Barriteau sought the opportunity to follow up upon a 2006 fisheries workshop held on Mayreau. The workshop looked at issues of concern to Grenadines fisherfolk and how they could be addressed through adaptive co-management and multi-partnership approaches. Unfortunately no funds were immediately available to follow up on the workshop recommendations.

Now the MarGov project is in a position to assist. The purpose of the small grant, according to the SusGren application, is to establish governance arrangements through which fisherfolk collaboration can be strengthened in the Grenadines at a multi-island, transboundary (across islands and two nations) scale to address shared fisheries issues.



The small grant application goes on to say that: the means to achieve the purpose include updating information on shared fisheries issues; improving the network of fishers on each islands and amongst islands; improving collaboration among fishers of the Grenadines and existing PFOs, NFOs and the CNFO; improving collaboration between Grenadines fisherfolk and the two governments; building the capacity of Grenadines fisherfolk to participate in any fisherfolk organisation that serves the Grenadines; and establishing a network fisherfolk organisation specifically for the Grenadines if this is warranted and feasible.

Over the next few weeks the MarGov team will work with SusGren on a letter of agreement for implementation and other details of follow-up.

### ***Visit from Renaud de Plaen of IDRC to get to know MarGov***

From 19-24 October the MarGov team hosted a visit by Renaud de Plaen of IDRC who has MarGov in his project oversight portfolio. It was Renaud's first visit to the Caribbean. He met with CERMES staff and the MarGov team. He also visited the local study sites of MPhil student Shelly-Ann Cox at Conset Bay and Silver Sands where he spoke to fisherfolk directly to learn about their views on governance.

One day was spent travelling to St. Vincent and to St. Lucia to meet with Terrence Phillips of the CRFM and Peter A. Murray of the OECS-ESDU respectively. They provided partner perspectives.