



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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IOI training module

Submitted by Katherine Blackman

CERMES in association with the Caribbean Law Institute Centre, UWI, Cave Hill; International Oceanographic Institute, Canada; and the Marine Affairs Program and the Marine Environmental Law Institute, Dalhousie University, Canada hosted an IOI training module entitled *Law of the Sea and Principled Ocean Governance* from 17-21 May 2010 at the at the Solutions Centre, UWI, Cave Hill Campus. It was attended by over 50 participants from more than 20 countries with a variety of backgrounds (fisheries, integrated coastal zone management, marine policy, ocean governance, marine pollution, maritime enforcement, marine protected areas management) and was funded by the PROGOVNET Project.

The module provided exposure to the range of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that are relevant to ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean Region, and to their related principles and legislative issues. It was adapted to the Caribbean ocean governance situation and was delivered by a combination of Caribbean, Canadian and American experts, as well as officials from the United Nations. The module targeted mid-career professionals with responsibilities for some aspect of marine management or ocean governance.

The five-day workshop comprised ten sessions focused on topics including ecosystem approach, principled ocean governance, environmental and social impact assessment, multilateral agreements on biological diversity, maritime boundary delimitation and maritime security.

In addition, the UN-Nippon Foundation Fellowship Alumni from Latin America and the Caribbean also

took advantage of the training course to hold their annual meeting.

Consett Bay Sustainable Fisheries Educational Expo

Submitted by Katherine Blackman and Neetha Selliah

Katherine Blackman (CERMES Research Assistant) and Neetha Selliah (CERMES Programme Coordinator), participated in the inaugural Consett Bay Sustainable Fisheries Educational Expo, on 2 June 2010 in Consett Bay, St. John. The Expo was the brainchild of the Environmental Unit of the Ministry of Environment, Water Resources and Drainage. The theme was climate change with the purpose of sensitising primary school students, from five schools in St. John, about the fishing industry.



Neetha Selliah providing visiting students with information on fish trap design and use

Students, invited guests and interested persons were given the opportunity to tour the Consett Bay market and learn about fish identification and processing. They were also invited to tour the boat yard, take a ride in the Solar Shuttle and sample new and creative ways of preparing local fish. The

event culminated in a ceremony where the highlights were cultural performances from the schools and Government's promise to support the event.

CERMES then participated in a roundtable discussion with government officers, NGOs and the Consett Bay fishing community on *sustainable fishing in a changing climate*. Fisherfolk expressed their issues and challenges faced in the fishing industry, and with input from other participants, solutions were recommended. The discussion was facilitated by Dr. Janice Cumberbatch of CERMES.

Caribbean fisheries lose a friend

Submitted by Patrick McConney

CERMES and many other agencies and individuals in the region were saddened recently by the death, after a brief illness, of Bisessar Chakalall the Senior Fishery Officer with the Food and Agriculture Organization Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean, based in Barbados.



Photo courtesy FAO

Chak or Chaks (as he was known to most) was the regional face and persona of FAO in fisheries circles, especially through the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC). He had a depth of understanding of the fisheries of the region, and the people involved in all aspects (language and livelihood were no barriers), that was exceptional. Combined with this was a pragmatic appreciation of how FAO, and other international agencies, functioned. The resulting insight was used to good advantage to match requests with resources to get things done well. The ability to get things done well (with equal attention to process and product) was important to him. We at CERMES share the feeling of loss, but we also share his optimism that there is a lot of potential in the fisheries of the Wider Caribbean

to be well managed and developed to sustain future generations.

The things one finds in conch shells

Submitted by Renata Goodridge

Working with students and staff underwater can be demanding, but it is definitely the most satisfying and rewarding part of my workday. There is always something new and exciting to peer at, and even the species you know well can give you a special glimpse into their lives when you least expect it. This was our treat over the last week - witnessing the life that goes on in a conch shell even after the original tenant is gone!

After bringing up a milk conch shell that had been harvested by its natural predator, the octopus, a small fish jumped out of the shell and into the bottom of the boat, where it promptly swam into the bilge. We were pretty sure it was a conchfish, but none had ever been seen in a non-living conch before. When he swam back out into daylight, I picked him up in the bailer, and put him back in the conch filled with seawater, in order to take a photo, then to put him back in the sea (a seawater bilge is no place for this fellow!). What we thought to be a conchfish (*Astrapogon stellatus*) was actually a close relative, the blackfin cardinalfish (*A. punctulatus*), distinctive, due to its overlarge ventral fin.



Blackfin cardinalfish

A few days later, another apparently empty milk conch shell was brought on board, after being collected by Professor Hazel Oxenford during a great 12 metre free dive. It looked

like it still had some dead meat left inside, but in a matter of minutes, a juvenile octopus came popping out! What a great surprise and treat to see. Most likely, one of its parents ate the milk

conch the night before, and the wee one perhaps stayed behind to eat up the last little bits and sleep in a safe niche. Talk about character and intelligence!



Juvenile octopus hanging out on milk conch shell

Is it any wonder that those of us who are stewards of the reefs and nearshore marine environments are so fierce about protecting these habitats? I like that my favourite office space has no walls!!



Renata under the sea where she is happiest!

CERMES exhibit at Folkestone

Submitted by Katherine Blackman

Folkestone Park and Marine Reserve celebrated International Council of Museums' International Museums Day under the theme "Museums for social harmony" from 17-22 May 2010. CERMES participated in the week-long activities which included a research diver exhibit, the popular touch screen quiz on the marine environment and a component of the lecture series "Climate change and fisheries" delivered by Professor Hazel Oxenford.



Katherine Blackman (right) engaging primary school children in the CERMES environment quiz

Congratulations Lisa-Ann!

CERMES Secretary, Lisa-Ann Rollins, has successfully completed her BSc Degree in Management Studies and will be graduating in October 2010. Lisa-Ann pursued her degree on a part-time basis for the past six years through the UWI Open Campus while being a new mother.

Here's what Lisa-Ann had to say about her UWI experience, "With regards to my experiences, all I can say is that every accomplishment starts with the decision to try, and even though it was a very long and challenging journey, I still tried my best at it and I made it to the end. I also thank God for giving me the strength, determination and perseverance to keep at it and for never giving up despite the challenges encountered. It was definitely worth it, and I feel very happy and relieved to be finally finished."

MarGov project update

by Carmel Haynes, Lyn-Marie Deane and Patrick McConney

MarGov shares with the Caribbean

When the 35th Annual Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) conference took place in Barbados on 26 May 2010 at the Almond Beach Resort, the MarGov researchers were well represented at the gathering. PhD student Shelly-Ann Cox presented aspects of her research under the title: *Governing Small Scale fisheries through Adaptive co-management: The case of the Barbados sea urchin fishery*. MarGov Principal Investigator, Dr Patrick McConney, presented a paper co-authored with MarGov PhD student, Kemraj Parsram, (who is currently in Grenada conducting field work), on the subject *Research framework used in a project on Marine Resource Governance in the Eastern Caribbean (MarGov)*.



Alexcia Cooke presents her PhD research

MarGov Co-investigator Professor Robin Mahon delivered a paper: *Developing and applying a governance framework for Large Marine Ecosystems*. The session attendants varied in background as there was a good mixture of graduate students, lecturers, consultants, government officials and members of the fishing industry. Dr McConney also participated as a

panelist in a round-table discussion on the topic: *Regional governance for sustainable development*.

As part of the conference activities, participants were taken on an outreach field trip on marine governance and the environment that started on the west coast in Speightstown and ended on the southwest coast in Oistins. The Oistins Fisherfolk Association, Barbados Marine Trust, Coastal Zone Management Unit and Oistins tour guides were sources of information during the field trip.



Excursionists enjoyed dinner at Oistins

Network concepts included in advanced leadership training workshop for CARICOM chief fisheries officers

Patrick McConney participated as UWI co-organiser and resource person at the Advanced Leadership Training Workshop for Heads of Fisheries Departments in CARICOM States from 25-30 April in Belize City, Belize. The training course provided an opportunity for Chief Fisheries Officers in CRFM Member States to learn more

about networks and multi-level networked governance.



Working group discussing leadership

McConney delivered part of a presentation on "Cooperation and networks", analysed the social networks of participants and presented the graphically illustrated findings to the workshop for discussion and learning following a networking field trip to Hol Chan marine reserve.



Networking field trip to Hol Chan

If the number of times participants subsequently used networking concepts in their interventions and final workshop presentations could be taken as an indicator of success or uptake, then it seems as if the importance of networks and network analysis was clearly communicated! This is a significant accomplishment for the MarGov project. As a bonus, resource persons from the United Nations University in Iceland and the University of Belize became keen to incorporate network analysis in other training and research. Some immediately downloaded the software and started to explore its potential.

Strengthening fisherfolk collaboration in the Grenadines

An initiative to strengthen the collaborative power of the fisherfolk in the islands of the Grenadines is making great progress through the support offered to the Sustainable Grenadines Project (SusGren) by a MarGov Small Grant. According to a workshop report recently released by SusGren, the initiative first mooted in 2006 has seen some real advances thanks to the Small Grant and the participation of MarGov Principal Researcher Dr Patrick McConney at an April 10, 2010 workshop. One of the key decisions made was to have a tripartite grouping for the fisherfolk of the 11 isles, arranged in clusters as the: Northern, Central and Southern Grenadines Fisher Folk Organisations. The workplan outlined in the report noted that the fisherfolk organisations involved are currently in the process of dividing themselves into the three clusters and this will be followed by the establishment of a steering committee between now and August.

Parting perspective



The MarGov Project has bid farewell to its Communications Officer, Carmel Haynes. After almost three years with the project, Carmel is returning to the private sector to pursue a career in business but not without many fond memories of her time at CERMES: "I have

enjoyed my stint with CERMES immensely. Despite coming from a liberal arts background, without any foundation in the natural sciences, I was pleased to find that the rest of the department readily embraced and supported my ideas and perspectives without suggesting that they were any less valid. My work with the MarGov project also provided me with the invaluable experiences of not only allowing me to deepen my knowledge of the eastern Caribbean, but to meet and forge relationships with fellow Caribbean nationals that will continue long into the future. This stint with CERMES has also made me acutely aware of the

threats faced by our marine resources from natural and man-made hazards and I am now more circumspect in my actions as I try to consider what impact my actions will have on these finite resources."

We miss you already Carmel!



Carmel's send-off party

Sponsors facilitate sharing of the MarGov team's vision of sustainable marine resources

Island Heritage Insurance Company Ltd and the Simpson Oil (SOL) Group, are corporate sponsors of the Marine Governance (MarGov) Project. With the aid of these two pan-Caribbean private sector companies, the MarGov Project in association with its NGO partners is currently in the process of providing the people of the eastern Caribbean with a vision of sustainable marine resources and resilient governance practices.

The financial contributions that the SOL Group and Island Heritage Insurance Company Ltd presented to CERMES Director Professor Robin Mahon in 2008 brought several MarGov Project initiatives to fruition. These initiatives included a series of public outreach activities. Additionally, it enabled the successful undertaking of a series of workshops through which the ties between fisheries managers and fisherfolk were strengthened, and fisherfolk given the opportunity to voice their thoughts, ideas and concerns through the use of clearer,

stronger messages on policy decisions which affect their livelihood.

The contributions of these private sector sponsors, along with other supporters, were recently acknowledged in a MarGov project report on the sponsorships and what they helped to achieve.

Meet the new MarGov Communications Officer

Earlier this month, CERMES welcomed Ms. Lyn-Marie Deane to the family and the MarGov Project as the newest MarGov Communications Officer. Lyn-Marie joined the project following Carmel's departure (see earlier article).

When asked about her interest in working for the MarGov Project Lyn-Marie stated, "One of my major goals in life is to help others. Working here at CERMES offers me an opportunity to do so specifically through the work I will be doing as a part of the MarGov team. I have always had an interest in working to educate and inform others about the dangers of pollution and other problems made or exacerbated by man. In the capacity of Communications Officer I have now been given a rare chance to promote and encourage behavioural change as it relates to these issues. Therefore, I believe through working with CERMES I can make a greater difference and be a part of the solution."

Lyn-Marie is a graduate of the University of the West Indies Mona Campus having completed a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Media and Communication.



Her interests are eclectic and include but are not limited to sporting activities, the arts and advocacy.

Welcome Lyn-Marie! We are all looking forward to working with you.