

# Coastal and Marine Management and Education in the South Eastern Caribbean (CaMMESEC) Bulletin

May/June 2009

CaMMESEC is a collaborative effort between the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and the Buccoo Reef Trust (BRT) in Tobago that seeks to improve the Southeastern Caribbean's marine environment, through enhanced access to research and education facilities and expertise, and the exchange of sustainable practices for tropical islands.

The last two months have been very busy for the CaMMESEC team as you will see in the following stories. We hope the information provided will be useful to all our readers. We would also like to extend an invitation to our regional partners to use this bulletin as a forum to highlight your work.

## **Reef Check EcoAction Diver and Monitoring Programs**

Following a visit earlier this year, Reef Check founder Gregor Hodgson, Ph.D., returned to Tobago in May (4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>) to conduct a Reef Check EcoDiver Training of Trainers workshop with local dive operators, non-profit organisations and government agencies. The first three days were spent training participants in Reef Check survey procedures and protocol. Considerable time was spent in the water allowing participants to become comfortable with the identification of indicator species and conducting surveys.



**Reef Check Tobago 2009**

The final day of the workshop was used to develop a tentative monitoring programme for the island. Approximately 25 initial monitoring sites were identified based upon existing sites that are being mapped and monitored under the Tobago Coastal Ecosystem Mapping Project (TCEMP), Speyside Marine Area Community-based Management Project (SMACMP) and the Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) project. As the Reef Check programme grows additional monitoring sites will be added. 20 individuals participated in total, of which 15 passed the exam and were certified EcoDiver Trainers. Members of the Association of Tobago Dive Operators were key participants as the Eco Diver Training offers them the opportunity to provide an additional specialised certification to their clients. Coordination of the Reef Check programme will be shared between the Buccoo Reef Trust and the Tobago House of Assembly's Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries.

## **IMCC and AMLC Conferences**

From May 17 to 24 CaMMESEC participated in the International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC) 2009 in Washington D.C. hosted at George Mason University. The IMCC highlighted conservation issues and threats to coastal and marine systems, and facilitated the development of solutions by

bringing together an international group of natural and social scientists, resource managers, conservation practitioners and policy makers. The IMCC also facilitated a range of pre-congress workshops covering a wide range of hot topics including planning for climate change in the coastal and marine environment, communication skills for MPA practitioners, principles and practices for establishing resilient MPA networks, the role of arts and protecting special areas and how to make conservation science meet policy requirements. These workshops were also designed to provide participants with an opportunity to discuss and describe the workshop relevant concerns and to share experiences, and by extension to develop best practices. The workshops were well received and offered resources, tools and best practices, which were flexible enough to address marine conservation and management concerns worldwide.

The key theme highlighted throughout the workshops and congress was the need for increased communication among stakeholder groups, conservation science and policy makers, which was further reinforced by renowned guest speaker, Daniel Pauly. Overall the IMCC was seen as a success allowing for the vast networking of professionals, the exchange of ideas on similar issues, best practices and policies, funding sources and creating potential for collaborative projects.

Following the IMCC, CaMMSEC attended the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AMLC) in Dominica. This conference brought together some of the leading academics in the region, allowing them to present current research, and resource management issues. The AMLC illustrated the current mode of scientific research by many countries within the wider Caribbean, whose outputs should be integration into resource management.

### ***Coral Reef Crime Scene Investigation***

Coral Reef Crime Scene Investigation found its way to Tobago from June 10-14, 2009. Dave Gulko (Chief Instructor), Patricia Ramirez Romero, Angelique Brathwaite and Hyacinth Armstrong, (Assistant Instructors), and Alvin Douglas and Richard Parkinson (Assistant Dive Masters) trained eighteen participants in how to successfully conduct underwater natural resource injury investigative techniques which could be used to hold a Responsible Parties accountable for an injury event. Participants hailed from, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the USA and covered a range of professional natural resource trustee and enforcement backgrounds.



**Tobago CR CSI Instructors and participants**

The CR CSI course material was delivered via lectures and in-water scenarios that took into account issues identified by participants as being critical to their particular experiences. The course relied heavily on hands-on interactions that included participants making their very own CSI slates. Participants also experienced the importance of evidence collection when they were drilled in a mock trial on the final day. Although the five days were long, and rigorous, the participants benefited greatly from the interactions and appreciated the knowledge that they received. Many were eager to begin applying some of the techniques to their daily activities.

This was the 8<sup>th</sup> regional CR CSI workshop being held since CR CSI and CaMMESEC is honoured to have been able to host it in Tobago. Readers that are interested in learning more about CR CSI can visit [www.icran.org/action-csi.html](http://www.icran.org/action-csi.html) or email [info@icran.org](mailto:info@icran.org).

## Associated projects/activities

### **Speyside Marine Area Community-based Management Project**

The Speyside and Charlotteville communities continue to show support for the SMACMP. On June 19, 2009 the students of the four schools within the area, parents, teachers and concerned community members participated in a rousing early morning Marine Awareness March through the community. Banners, placards and posters were designed by the students and paraded through the community while chanting “Protect the reef, save our seas”. Over 60 community members participated with guidance and support for Buccoo Reef Trust, Environment Tobago and Coral Cay Conservation.



**Speyside community strive to conserve their marine environment**

The march ended with some educational games and community members making pledges to “protect the reef”. Future plans for the SMACMP include a wetland restoration

programme, coastal erosion monitoring and stabilisation programme and biodiversity assessment and education programme with the high school, tour guides and support from the Tobago House of Assembly’s Department of Natural Resources and the Environment.

## Tools/Techniques for improved management

The following insights were obtained by the CaMMESEC team from workshops attended at the recently held IMCC meeting. We hope you find them useful:

### **Communication Skills for MPA Practitioners**

- As best as possible use a bottom-up approach to management and work intimately with stakeholders
- Mass Media has changed, and as best as possible new media should be used to communicate with a new generation (Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, RSS feeds, websites, blogs, twitter etc)
- Maintaining media relations are important to generating community buy-in to MPA establishment
- “Scientist and media do not speak the same language”. There needs to be greater effort to translate sound conservation science into lay-speech.



**Communication skills team**

### ***Principles and practices for establishing resilient MPA Networks- Making it happen”***

- MPA networks should meet ecological design criteria such as representativeness, viability, connectivity etc)
- Successful MPA networks utilise best practices such as the establishment of clearly defined objectives, majority stakeholder participation etc
- Broader considerations must be factored in such as political will and leadership, economic and social consideration etc)
- A useful checklist for assessing your MPA or MPA network can be found at: [http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa\\_work/wcpa\\_biomes/wcpa\\_marine/wcpa\\_mpachecklist/](http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/wcpa_work/wcpa_biomes/wcpa_marine/wcpa_mpachecklist/)

## **Upcoming Events**

### ***GCFI – call for papers reminder***

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) (<http://www.gcfi.org/>) will be hosted by the Instituto Oceanografico de la Universidad de Oriente in Cumaná, Venezuela from **November 2 - 6, 2009, at the Nueva Toledo Suites and Hotel, Cumaná, Venezuela**. The opening address and keynote speaker for the event is Dr. Daniel Pauly (<http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca/members/dpauly/>). The 62<sup>nd</sup> GCFI will be comprised on oral sessions and poster sessions. All oral presentations will be simultaneously interpreted into English and Spanish (French is pending). Two special sessions will be conducted on the following topics **“Are Tropical Bottom Trawl Fisheries**

**Sustainable? Implications and Alternatives”** and **“Success Stories in Marine Resource Management and Conservation in the Wider Caribbean – Applying an Ecosystem-based Approach and Facing the Climate Change Challenge”**. A special workshop will all be conducted “The Gladding Memorial Award Fishers’ Summit”, which will bring together all past winners of the Gladding Memorial Award to participate in a facilitated workshop focusing on developing priorities for the long-term sustainability of the marine resources in the region from their perspective.

Abstracts for the 62<sup>nd</sup> GCFI are due July 31, 2009. Abstracts will be accepted in English, Spanish, and French. Each abstract must also be accompanied by a title, abstract, and key words. For additional questions please contact the Program Committee ([abstract@gcfi.org](mailto:abstract@gcfi.org)).

## **Share your information**

Regional partners please feel free to submit any activities, events, workshops or information that you would like to share with readers. Send information to email addresses below by 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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