

**Large Pelagic Fishes in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico:  
Current Status and Integrated Management  
A Symposium held as part of GCFI in Belize City, Belize  
November 7, 2006**

**First Call for Papers**

Oral and poster presentations are solicited for a large pelagic fishes symposium to be held November 7, 2006 in Belize City, Belize as a special session at the annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (November 6-11 2006). Authors are encouraged to submit abstracts of original research or synthesis papers related to the biology and/or management of large pelagic fishes in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico. Multi-national, multi-author papers are particularly encouraged. Species to be addressed in the symposium include billfishes (marlins and sailfish), swordfish, tunas, large pelagic sharks, dolphin, wahoo and ocean sunfishes.

Abstracts of 300 words or less should be submitted electronically at the GCFI web site (<http://www.gcfi.org/Forms/AbstractSubmissionEng.php>). Authors should indicate their abstract is part of the pelagics symposium at the time of submission. Authors must state if they prefer an oral or poster presentation at the time of abstract submission. Abstract format should follow GCFI format as indicated on the web site. **ABSTRACT DEADLINE is July 31, 2006.** Abstracts received after this deadline will not be included in the pelagics symposium, but may be included in the general GCFI program.

All authors making an oral presentation are required to submit a manuscript of their presentation at the meeting; poster presenters are encouraged to submit a manuscript as well. Participants in the Symposium have the option of submitting their manuscript to the special peer-reviewed symposium issue of *Gulf and Caribbean Research* or to the *Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute*. Manuscript preparation guidelines for the *GCFI Proceedings* can be found at <http://www.gcfi.org/Conferences/RefMats/AuthorGuidelines.htm>. Guidelines for the peer-reviewed *Gulf and Caribbean Research* can be found at [http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/gulf\\_caribbean\\_research/index.php](http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/gulf_caribbean_research/index.php).

Authors will be notified by August 15 of acceptance of their abstracts for the Symposium, and will be asked at that time to which journal they plan to submit their manuscript. Authors submitting posters for the Symposium will also present their posters during the general GCFI poster session on Tuesday evening, November 7.

Registration fees for the Symposium will be included in the GCFI preregistration fee of US\$150 (US\$75 for students). A daily registration fee for the Symposium only is available at a cost of US\$75 (US\$50 students). All participants should register at the GCFI website (<http://www.gcfi.org/Forms/Registration59Early.php>) by September 15, 2006 to guarantee the preregistration rates. Additional information on the Symposium, including details regarding travel, visas, and accommodations, can be found on the GCFI web site at <http://www.gcfi.org/Conferences/59th/Belize59.htm>.

## **Program Agenda**

### **Opening Keynote Address**

Robin Mahon, University of the West Indies, Barbados

### **Session I. Fisheries Ecology**

Invited Theme Speaker: Eric Prince, National Marine Fisheries Service, Miami  
Contributed papers on biology and life history stages, spawning areas, habitat requirements, etc.

Session chair: Nancy Brown-Peterson (University of Southern Mississippi)

### **Poster Session** (during break)

### **Session II. Movements and Population Structure**

Invited Theme Speaker: Jan McDowell, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, USA  
Contributed papers on migrations, dispersal of life stages, genetics, etc.

Session chair: Jim Franks (University of Southern Mississippi)

### **Session III. Management: Strategies, Problems and Solutions**

Invited Theme Speaker: Patrick McConney, University of the West Indies, Barbados  
(in collaboration with Milton Haughton (Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism) and Hazel Oxenford (UWI, Barbados))

Contributed papers on transboundary issues, international trade, conservation, fishing technology, socio-economics, etc.

Session chair: Hazel Oxenford (University of the West Indies, Barbados)

### **Closing Keynote Address**

Nancy Thompson, National Marine Fisheries Service, Miami

### **Poster Session** (during break)

### **Afternoon Panel Discussion**

A discussion session that is open for all GCFI conference and symposium attendees. Questions from the audience will be entertained. The discussion will conclude with a synthesis of critical issues of regional concern and development of a list of recommendations pertaining to future research and management of large pelagic fishes in the region.

Panel members: Robin Mahon (Barbados), Nancy Thompson (USA), Susan Singh-Renton (CARICOM, St. Vincent & the Grenadines), Gerry Scott (NMFS Miami, USA), Anderson Kinch (pelagic fisher, Barbados). Discussion moderator/facilitator: Brian Luckhurst (Division of Fisheries, Bermuda)

For additional information regarding the symposium, contact Jim Franks ([jim.franks@usm.edu](mailto:jim.franks@usm.edu)), Nancy Brown-Peterson ([nancy.brown-peterson@usm.edu](mailto:nancy.brown-peterson@usm.edu)) or Mark Peterson ([mark.peterson@usm.edu](mailto:mark.peterson@usm.edu)).