



**FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS
OF THE 60TH GULF AND CARIBBEAN FISHERIES INSTITUTE
NOVEMBER 5 - 9, 2007. PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

The 60th annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute will be held at the Ocean Blue Hotel (www.oceanhotels.net) and resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. **Papers and posters are solicited in the following themes:**

- Biology, Ecology, and Assessment of Reef Fishes,
- Biology, Ecology, and Assessment of Invertebrate Marine Fisheries
- Fish Spawning Aggregations
- Management and Socio-Economics of Marine Fisheries/Recreational Fisheries
- Marine Protected Areas Science and Management
- Marine Science Education
- GIS and Fisheries Science
- **Special Sessions/Workshops:**

There will be a special session entitled: *The Status of Goliath Grouper: Finding a Common Conservation and Management Solution through a Regional Scientific and Fisheries Framework*". This symposium is dedicated to scientific presentations and discussions on the biology and management of Goliath Grouper in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico region. Through this symposium, GCFI and the organizers aim to bring together researchers, managers and conservationists from the species' distributional range to identify immediate and future common priorities with a scientific and conservation focus. The symposium will consist of a mix of invited and contributed papers covering a range of topics that include population structure, life history, fisheries, traditional knowledge, and conservation and management. For more information on the symposium, visit the Goliath Grouper Symposium page on the GCFI website.

- Two additional collaborative sessions are being planned in cooperation with the *Seafood Science and Technology Society of the Americas* (<http://sst.ifas.ufl.edu>) during their concurrent SST Conference (November 7-9.) These will focus on spiny lobsters and aquatic species identification. Please see the GCFI website for more information.
- **The poster session/reception will be on the evening of Tuesday 6 November.**

Abstracts

Abstracts for the 60th GCFI are due August 15, 2007.

Abstracts will be accepted in English, French, or Spanish. ALL ENGLISH ABSTRACTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH SPANISH TRANSLATIONS. French and Spanish abstracts must also be accompanied by a title, abstract, and key words in English. Only 250 words (275 in Spanish) will be saved.

To submit an abstract, you will need to use the online GCFI user registration page (no cost). We are requiring this new procedure so that users can update their information (this is very important for mailing the Proceedings) and to simplify abstract submission and conference registration. It also allows you to edit your abstract online until the abstract deadline date and simplifies confusion when developing the Book of Abstracts. Permission to present at an oral session requires submission of a full and complete abstract using the online abstract submission form and a full and complete manuscript in the proper format prior to presentation at the meeting. Poster presentations do not require submission of a manuscript (although they are enthusiastically accepted). Students wishing to compete for the student awards are required to submit a manuscript for publication in the GCFI Proceedings at the meeting. Manuscript preparation guidelines are available at <http://www.gcfi.org/Conferences/RefMats/AuthorGuidelines.htm>

Student Awards

GCFI is offering two Travel Awards and two Student Achievement Awards.

Travel Awards

Two awards of \$750 each to eligible students to help offset travel costs to the 59th GCFI in Punta Cana. **The deadline for students applying for the travel awards is July 1 for abstracts and all supporting paperwork.** Students will be notified of acceptance/rejection by August 1. Complete instructions and eligibility requirements for the travel awards are on the GCFI web page at: <http://www.gcfi.org/StudentAwards/StudentAwards.htm>. Students may apply for a travel award and for consideration for the Student Achievement Award in the same year. Students who received a Student Achievement Award at the 59th GCFI are not eligible for a travel award to the 60th GCFI.

Student Achievement Awards

GCFI will also offer two Student Achievement Awards which will cover all expenses to the 60th GCFI conference. Students must meet the abstract deadline of August 15, 2007 to be eligible for the Student Achievement Awards. Students wishing to be considered for these awards must indicate their interest at the time of abstract submittal on the abstract submittal form. Eligibility criteria for the Student Achievement Awards can be found at: <http://www.gcfi.org/StudentAwards/OutstandingAward.htm>). Note that a manuscript of the talk/poster must be submitted at the meeting to be eligible for this award. Students who applied for the award when submitting their abstract may withdraw from consideration of the award by the first day of the conference.

Winners of these awards will be announced on Friday at the end of the conference.

Please check the [GCFI website](#) for other Student Awards.

Registrations

Registrations can be made online using the [User Portal](#). Early registration (until 15 September) for the meeting is US\$150 (\$75 for students); late registrations after 15 Sept are \$200 US (\$100 Student). Registrations at the door are \$225. Check the [GCFI website](#) for registration rates for daily participation.

Everyone registering automatically is a member of GCFI and will receive a copy of the GCFI Proceedings from the meeting when published. Registration is available online. Onsite registrations may be made with a credit card, check, money order, or US currency. Other arrangements may be made by contacting registrations@gcfi.org.

The Venue

The meeting hotel will be at the [Ocean Blue Hotel](#) in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. For conference rates visit the [GCFI webpage](#).

For additional information about the 60th GCFI, please visit the [Dominican Republic conference web page](#) on the GCFI website. Information will be updated continuously regarding the hotel, transportation, GCFI student awards, etc. As the meeting comes closer, more information about the venue and program will be posted.

We look forward to seeing you in PUNTA CANA in November for the 60th GCFI!