

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS OF THE 61ST GULF AND CARIBBEAN FISHERIES INSTITUTE

NOVEMBER 10 - 14, 2008
GOSIER, GUADELOUPE, FRENCH WEST INDIES

The 61ST Annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute will be held at the [ARAWAK HOTEL](#) in Gosier, Guadeloupe, French West Indies.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

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: Contributions on the following two topics are proposed. These are not exclusive of other subjects:
 1. Economic assessment of reef uses: small scale commercial, recreational fisheries, ecotourism and other services provided by the reefs ecosystems.
 2. Fisheries management plans: examples and perspectives for the management of ecosystem in the Gulf and Caribbean area.
- ❖ Marine Protected Areas Science and Management
- ❖ Pelagic and Recreational Fisheries
- ❖ Essential Fish Habitats
- ❖ Marine Aquaculture

POSTER SESSION

The poster session/reception will be held on the evening of 11 November.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Two special sessions are planned for the 61st GCFI:

- ❖ *Coastal Resources versus Habitat Degradation* – This special session will be comprised of scientific presentations and discussions on issues focusing on coastal resources and habitat degradation. The questions addressed by this session will be:
 1. in what way and to what extent does habitat degradation affect the resources?
 2. Conversely, what impact does over-exploitation of the resources have on the stability of coastal habitats? (more information about this session may be found on the conference web page.)
- ❖ *Reef fish spawning aggregations* — Sponsored by the Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations (www.scrfa.org), this half-day session on spawning aggregations and aggregating species will specifically focus on

management experiences and problems, and outreach and education needs in relation the management and conservation of aggregating species. Presentations are open to all participants.

SPECIAL WORKSHOP

ParFish (Participatory Fisheries Stock Assessment) — this recently developed fisheries assessment method is aimed at obtaining information on stock condition in situations where data are limited or completely absent. The ParFish method has particular utility for small, artisanal coastal fisheries and where fisher input into management is desired. Participation in this workshop will be limited to the first 35 registrants. Please see the GCFI website for registration and more information. This workshop is sponsored by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and MRAG Americas.

ABSTRACTS

Abstracts for the 61st GCFI are due July 31, 2008. Abstracts will be accepted in English, French, and Spanish. **THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF THE ABSTRACT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY TRANSLATIONS OF THE TITLE, ABSTRACT AND KEY WORDS IN THE OTHER TWO LANGUAGES.** If obtaining a French translation is problematic, please contact the Program Committee (abstracts@gcfi.org) so that alternative arrangements can be made. Abstracts must not exceed 250 words (275 for Spanish and French). Abstracts must be submitted using the secure Online abstract Submission Form found in the [User Portal](#).

Acceptance to present within an oral session requires submission of 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). However, students wishing to compete for the student awards and who are presenting an oral *OR* poster presentation 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 of \$750 each to eligible students to help offset travel costs to the 61st GCFI in Gosier, Guadeloupe. The deadline for students applying for these 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 60th GCFI are not eligible for a travel award to the 61st GCFI.

GCFI will offer two Student Achievement Awards which will cover all expenses to the subsequent conference. Students must meet the abstract deadline 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 website (www.gcfi.org) for other Student Awards.

REGISTRATIONS

Registrations can be made online at <http://www.gcfi.org> . Early registration (until 15 September) for the meeting is US\$150 (\$75 for students); late registrations after 15 Sept are \$200 US (\$85 Student). Registrations at the door are \$225. Check the GCFI website (www.gcfi.org) 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 [Arawak Hotel](#), Gosier, Guadeloupe, French West Indies.

For information about the 61st GCFI, please visit the [Guadeloupe conference web page](#) on the GCFI website. Information includes transportation information, hotel information, GCFI student awards, and guidelines for submitting abstracts and manuscripts as well as other important information. As the meeting approaches, more information about the venue and program will be posted.

We look forward to seeing you in GUADELOUPE, FRENCH WEST INDIES in November for the 61st GCFI!