



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS 62ND GULF AND CARIBBEAN FISHERIES INSTITUTE

**NOVEMBER 2 - 6, 2009
CUMANÁ, VENEZUELA**

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute will be hosted by the Instituto Oceanográfico de la Universidad de Oriente in Cumaná, Venezuela from November 2 - 6, 2009. GCFI is honored to be part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Instituto Oceanográfico. The meeting will be held in Cumaná, Venezuela.

GCFI is pleased to confirm that the opening address will be presented by **Dr. Daniel Pauly**, Professor and former Director, Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia; Principal Investigator, Sea Around Us Project.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Papers and posters are solicited in the following themes:

- ❖ Biology, Ecology, and Assessment of Reef Fishes
- ❖ Biology, Ecology, and Assessment of Marine Invertebrate Fisheries
- ❖ Fish Spawning Aggregations
- ❖ Management and Socio-Economics of Marine Fisheries
- ❖ Science and Management of Marine Protected Areas
- ❖ Pelagic and Recreational Fisheries
- ❖ Essential Fish Habitats
- ❖ Marine Aquaculture

POSTER SESSION

The poster session/reception will be on the evening of 3 November.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Two special sessions are planned for the 62nd GCFI:

- ❖ ***‘Are Tropical Bottom Trawl Fisheries Sustainable? Implications and Alternatives’*** – Tropical bottom trawl fisheries are an important economic activity in many countries in the world. However, this fishing method has been strongly criticized due to technical and biological interactions with other fisheries, especially small-scale, as well as concern for the environmental impacts associated with gear effects on bottom habitats and the high degree of removals of non-commercial marine organisms. Bottom trawling in tropical ecosystems represents a challenge to fishery agencies, fisheries managers, and technology specialists. A permanent ban on bottom trawling was initiated in Venezuela this year, and a presentation entitled ‘The Venezuelan Experience’ will be part of this session. Contributions on the following topics are proposed. These are not exclusive of other subjects:

1. Biological and management problems associated with bottom trawling in tropical ecosystems.
2. Technical interactions, gear (bycatch reductions) and management alternatives.
3. Ecosystem-based management for trawl fisheries

- ❖ ***‘Success Stories in Marine Conservation in the Wider Caribbean: Applying Ecosystem-Based Management and Facing the Climate Change’*** – Sponsored by the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) ([CaMPAM](#)), this half-day session will be comprised of scientific presentations and discussions on issues which highlight marine conservation efforts that are making a difference in the Caribbean region, particularly those practices based on an ecosystem-based approach and that have adapted management to address climate change. The goal of the session is to allow scientists, conservation practitioners and policy-makers from the Wider Caribbean (including the south Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico) to share and reflect upon success stories in marine conservation and identify best practices and lessons learned.

SPECIAL WORKSHOP: *The Gladding Memorial Award Fishers’ Summit*

The purpose of the Fishers’ Summit is to 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. The summit recognizes that sustainable use of marine resources in the region depends upon fishers being ‘at the table’ during discussions on how best to achieve this goal. GCFI and its partners are convinced that effective management should be guided in-part by the concerns of fishers and be implemented with their assistance. The outputs from the workshop will be developed solely by the fishers and made available for distribution and online throughout the network of fishfolk organizations, NGO’s and fisheries offices in the region.

ABSTRACTS

Abstracts for the 62nd 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. **ALL ENGLISH ABSTRACTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH SPANISH TRANSLATIONS. ALL SPANISH AND FRENCH ABSTRACTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS.** For additional questions please contact the Program Committee (abstracts@gcfi.org). 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). 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 [Author Guidelines](#).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

TRAVEL AWARDS

GCFI is offering two travel awards of \$750 each to eligible students to help offset travel costs to the 62nd GCFI in Cumaná, Venezuela. The deadline for students applying for these awards is July 1 for abstracts and all supporting paperwork. Students will be notified of acceptance by August 1. Complete instructions and eligibility requirements for the travel awards are on the [GCFI Student Awards](#) web page. Students may apply for a travel award and for consideration for an Outstanding Student Achievement Award in the same year.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

GCFI will offer two Student Achievement Awards which will cover all expenses to the subsequent conference, i.e. 63rd GCFI. 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 on the GCFI web page at: [GCFI Student Awards](#). 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. Students who received an Outstanding Student Achievement Award at the 61st GCFI are not eligible for a travel award to the 62nd GCFI.

RON SCHMIED SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship honors Ron Schmied who was a colleague, friend and avid supporter of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute for many years. Students with a social,

economic, biological, ecological, or management perspective on recreational fisheries is eligible to apply for the travel scholarship which is awarded on an annual basis. The scholarship of \$1,500 seeks to cover the costs of airfare, lodging, and meals to enable the student to attend the GCFI annual meeting. Complete instructions and eligibility requirements for the award are on [GCFI Student Awards](#) web page.

REGISTRATION

Registrations can be made online at [GCFI main page](#) . Early registration (until 15 September) for the meeting is US\$150 (\$75 for students); late registration after 15 Sept is \$200 US (\$85 Student). Registration at the door is \$225. Check the GCFI website ([GCFI](#)) for registration rates for daily participation.

Everyone registering for the meeting is automatically considered a member of GCFI and will receive a copy of a CD of the GCFI Proceedings from the meeting when published. 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 is the [Nueva Toledo Suites &Hotel](#) Cumaná, Venezuela.

For information about the 62nd GCFI, please visit the Cumaná 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 CUMANA,
VENEZUELA IN NOVEMBER FOR THE 62ND GCFI!**