



Gladding Memorial Award Regional Fishers Summit:
Fishers Working for Sustainable Fisheries

2-4 November within the 62nd Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
Cumaná, Venezuela, 2-6 November 2009

Purpose

The purpose of the Gladding Memorial Award (GMA) Regional Fishers Summit (hereinafter called the Fishers Summit) is to bring together all GMA recipients and other fishers that represent the wide cultural diversity of the region with managers, scientists, educators, students, and members of the private sector to:

- (a) develop priorities for the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources and fisheries-related livelihoods, and
- (b) develop specific strategies and plans to follow up and act on the identified priorities.

The Summit will provide the unique opportunity to address major issues of regional concern from the bottom-up, by highlighting the experiences and opinions of respected fishers from around the region. The goal is to develop priorities and actions to address the identified issues, again, by fishers and in consultation with other stakeholders. The long-term goal is that fishers will play an increasing role in local and regional fishery management decision-making which will improve the status of both the resources and the fishers' livelihoods.

Process and Schedule

- Fishers Field Trip: (Monday 2/11; afternoon) to fishing industry sites and organisations in the Cumaná area.
- Fishers Summit: (Tuesday 3/11; 8:30 am – 12:00 pm) a general session in which fishers raise issues of general concern about the sustainable management of Caribbean marine resources. Fishers will serve as keynote speakers, presenters and panelists. The session will be attended by at least 200 leading fishers, marine scientists, fisheries and coastal managers, and other stakeholders. Simultaneous interpretation (English, Spanish, French) will be provided.
- Fishers Forum: (Wednesday 4/11; 8:30 – 10:30 am) an intimate session that will be attended by up to 20 leading fishers who will make decisions on priority issues and actions raised at the Fishers Summit general session.

Outputs (by year end)

1. Priorities for Caribbean marine resource conservation action identified using a bottom-up, fisher-lead process.
2. Specific follow-up strategies and action plans for implementation developed following the priorities identified above. At a minimum, these will include:
 - a sustainable fishery ambassador program
 - an expanded fisher exchange program
 - a media campaign to promote the priorities and actions identified during the Summit.

Outcomes (within 3 yrs)

1. Better involvement of leading fishers in local to regional scale decision-making on fisheries resources.
2. Evidence of improvement in the health of coastal and marine ecosystems and in the prosperity of the fishers that rely on them.

For further information on the Fishers Summit, the GMA and the 62nd Annual Meeting of the GCFI see: www.gcfi.org



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Fishers Summit Draft Program (9 Sep 09)

Monday 2 November: Fishers Summit Field Trip

Afternoon excursion for fishers to visit fish plants and harbours, fishing cooperatives and fishing villages near Cumaná

Tuesday 3 November: Fishers Summit Plenary

0830	Welcome and introduction -- Anderson Kinch, Chairman and GMA winner, Barbados with Will Heyman, Co-chairman and scientist, USA
0840	Keynote: Challenges and opportunities for sustainable fisheries -- Jaime Medina, GMA winner, Mexico
0900	Ecosystem Based Management and fishers' vision for sustainability -- Mitchell Lay, GMA winner, Antigua and Barbuda
0920	Enforcement and compliance: priority issues for fishers -- Claudio Gonzalez, GMA winner, Dominican Republic
0940	Opportunities to diversify fisheries to sustain fishers' livelihoods -- Eloy Cuevas, GMA winner, Belize
1000	BREAK
1020	Fishers involvement in fisheries management and policy -- GMA panel of keynote speaker, topic presenters and other GMA winners Harvey Robinson (Colombia) Ceylon Clayton (Jamaica), Carlton 'Jack' Young (Belize), Toribio Mata (Venezuela) plus Anderson Kinch (Barbados and panel chair)
1050	Discussion between panel and audience on presentations, priority actions and partnerships -- GMA winners panel with discussion moderated by the Chair and Co-chair
1150	Closing summary and follow-up action -- Chair and Co-chair
1200	Close

Wednesday 4 November: Fishers Summit Forum

0800	Introduction to Forum aims, outputs and organization
0810	Summary of main discussion topics from summit plenary and field trip
0830	Small group discussions for final fisher agreement on priorities, actions and means of implementation
0930	Summary presentations; recording all recommendations for the report
1000	Close

Friday 6 November: Summit summary report

About 10 minute summary of summit highlights and decisions shared with the general GCFI audience in plenary

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