



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

72nd GULF AND CARIBBEAN FISHERIES INSTITUTE
4-8 November 2019
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

GCFI is pleased to announce that the 72nd Annual conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI 72) will be held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic from 4–8 November 2019 at The Now Larimar Hotel. GCFI is partnering with the El Consejo Dominicano de Pesca y Acuicultura (CODOPESCA), Fundación Grupo Punta Cana, and Reef Check Dominican Republic to host GCFI 72.



**GULF AND CARIBBEAN
FISHERIES INSTITUTE**

CONFERENCE THEME

The theme for GCFI72 is **Scaling up public-private government partnerships for sustainable fisheries and innovative science.**

Public-private partnerships have been heavily promoted in the education, health, infrastructure, and community-development sectors to improve efficiency in the generation and performance of public services. This has also been the case in the conservation and fisheries sectors in which government, public, private and civil-society sectors are encouraging the use of partnerships to generate and spread innovations that would otherwise be difficult to develop independently.

Bringing together diverse sectors is particularly useful to address specific issues requiring an effective approach for dealing with complex topics of national or global importance that require different fields of expertise. This is the case with fisheries in the Caribbean region which are increasingly facing natural and anthropogenic factors that impact their sustainability. Among them are the global challenges of providing enough sustainable seafood, meeting the growing and changing demand of fisheries products, development of coastal areas, increase in tourism, and the impact of natural events such as storms, influences of climate change, and in the case of Punta Cana, the Sargassum influx.

Although much has been written in support of public-private partnerships as a mechanism by which to foster natural resources research and innovation, they are still underutilized and perhaps little understood. Therefore, the purpose of this session is to present experiences of the government/public/private/civil society partnerships approach to generating innovation focused on sustainable fisheries and marine resources conservation. To address this theme we will bring together experts, academics, policymakers, managers, and relevant organizations interested in marine issues, natural resources, sustainable fisheries, and tourism. We encourage presentations on topics including:

- Case studies of existing partnerships that
 - support fishermen and communities as they work to meet the sustainable fisheries goals
 - promote safety, fishery conservation and management.
 - develop and enhance markets for fishers' communities and business.
 - promote research, training, to build capacity and improve sustainability of local and regional fisheries.
 - promote and provide innovation support at the local and regional level

- Understanding how partnerships can be jointly financed by various public and private partners in collaborative ventures,
- Examining the regulatory framework surrounding public–private partnerships,
- Tourism as a sustainable livelihood option for fishing communities,
- Climate change and tourism,
- Recreational fishing as a tourism activity.

THE VENUE

The meeting venue will be the Now Larimar in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, located 25 minutes from the Punta Cana International Airport. The resort has been awarded the Certificate of Excellence by TripAdvisor, thanks to its new all-inclusive service, as well as for its design and privileged location.



Check the GCFI conference registration page for information on transportation, travel and accommodations. As the meeting approaches, more information about the venue and program will be available on the website. **Reservation information will be posted very soon**

REGISTRATION

GCFI 72 includes technical sessions, the Fisheries for Fishers forum, special thematic sessions, a poster session, the CINEFISH film festival, field trips, and social events.

Registration can be completed online at this [link](#).

The registration rates are as follows:

GCFI Members	Rate USD
Regular Early-Bird (through 30 September)	200
Regular	250
Regular Onsite	300
Student Early-Bird (through 30 September)	75
Student	95
Student Onsite	125
Non-members	Rate USD
Regular Early-Bird (through 30 September)	300
Regular	350
Regular Onsite	400
Student Early-Bird (through 30 September)	125
Student	145
Student Onsite	175

Check the GCFI website (www.gcfi.org) for registration rates for daily participation.

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.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS (TECHNICAL, SPECIAL & POSTER SESSIONS)

Abstracts for GCFI 72 are due 15 August 2019. Abstracts will be accepted in English, French, and Spanish. ALL ABSTRACTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ENGLISH, SPANISH AND FRENCH TITLES. Abstracts are only required in one of the three. Abstracts must be submitted using the secure online [Abstract Submission Form](#).

Acceptance to present within an oral session requires submission of a full and complete manuscript or extended abstract in the proper format (MS Word and jpg or PowerPoint figures). 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 [online](#).

The Book of Abstracts will be available online in page-flipping and PDF formats. No printed Book of Abstracts will be distributed at the conference. Authors of accepted presentations will be notified via e-mail in September 2019. Time limitations necessitate that not all submissions for the oral presentation will be accepted for oral slots. Submissions intended for the oral presentation not granted an oral slot would automatically be considered for poster presentation.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The conference program features multi-disciplinary thematic sessions. Each session may have a mix of natural and social science, management, and technology related to the ecosystem or fisheries, highlighting the conference theme. Papers and posters are solicited in the following areas (other subjects not listed below will also be considered):

- Governance, livelihoods, and organizations
- Reefs and associated ecosystems fisheries
- Shallow and deep reef fishes
- Snapper and grouper fisheries
 - Fish spawning aggregations
- Lionfish and other invasive species
- Biology, ecology and fisheries of marine invertebrates including Queen conch, lobster and octopus
- Marine Protected Areas Science and Management
- Pelagic ecosystem and recreational fisheries
- Continental shelf ecosystem fisheries
 - shrimp and demersal trawl fisheries

- Habitats, climate change, and coastal management
 - Biodiversity
 - Essential fish habitats
 - Integrated coastal management
 - Climate change science and adaptation
 - Sargassum
- Aquaculture
- Marine Debris
- Communication and Environmental education

SPECIAL SESSIONS

In addition to the technical sessions, GCFI 72 will feature the following special sessions:

1) Science, Management, and Solutions to address Marine Litter in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico

Organizers: Cartagena Convention Secretariat UN Environment and Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute.

Conveners: The Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GCFI and Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention)



The session will bring together scientists, researchers, managers, fishers, government officials, partners, and other stakeholders to share current state of the science, lessons learned, ongoing activities, and other issues related to marine litter management in the Wider Caribbean region. The GPML-Caribe will roll out the new strategic plan for marine litter for the region, provide promotional and awareness materials to participants in the conference and outline upcoming projects and activities.

The intent of the workshop is to bring together collective perspectives and expertise from stakeholders to demonstrate the mutual benefits of an integrated approach for marine litter management and priorities for action.

Scholarships: Student scholarships up to \$1,500 US will be awarded to selected participants who submit a request for consideration with justification of need for the scholarship and how this workshop will advance ongoing research and professional

endeavors in marine litter research, management, or solutions. Students wishing to be considered for this award must submit a request for consideration with justification of need for the scholarship and how participation in the conference will advance ongoing research and development of solutions in the field of marine litter. More information about this award may be found at this [link](#). **The deadline for students applying for the award and submitting an abstract and all supporting paperwork is 31 July 2019.**

Contact: For more information, please email gpml-caribe@gcfi.org

2) Effective fisheries management redefining fisheries policies in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean region

Organizers: Environmental Defense Fund and Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute,

Conveners: Eduardo Boné-Morón and Valerie Miller
Environmental Defense Fund.



Several countries in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico region are successfully implementing innovative fisheries management strategies to address overarching challenges such as overfishing, illegal fishing and climate change. Countries such as Cuba and Belize are leveraging the lessons learned from these practices to drive new fisheries policies that facilitate and promote the continuity of these achievements.

The objectives of this session are (1) to share the development and implementation of different fisheries management strategies and (2) discuss how these can help redefine policies in the region to address priority challenges. The objectives will be addressed via two panels with presentations from representatives of several countries in the region and will conclude with discussions that are open to session attendees. The panelists will include fishermen, managers, scientists, decision-makers and NGOs.

During the session, we will identify attributes and trends in fisheries management that contribute to effective governance in the region. We expect to produce a report with these findings to share with the GCFI community.

Target audience: Cuba and Belize are currently redefining their fishing policies to adapt to changing national and international conditions. These policies have a strong

foundation in successful fisheries management practices, which aids in creating favorable conditions to strengthen and promote these efforts. Certain attributes in these new legal frameworks highlight critical components for successful governance of marine resources, including the importance of continuing to use science to guide management, promotion of participatory processes, and highlighting the sustainable use of resources to ensure national production, social, and conservation goals.

Under this context, this session will prioritize the participation of fishermen in the management and redefinition of fisheries policies. This approach will allow other fishing stakeholders to identify mechanisms to bring fishermen closer to management and decision-making processes for the future of their fisheries.

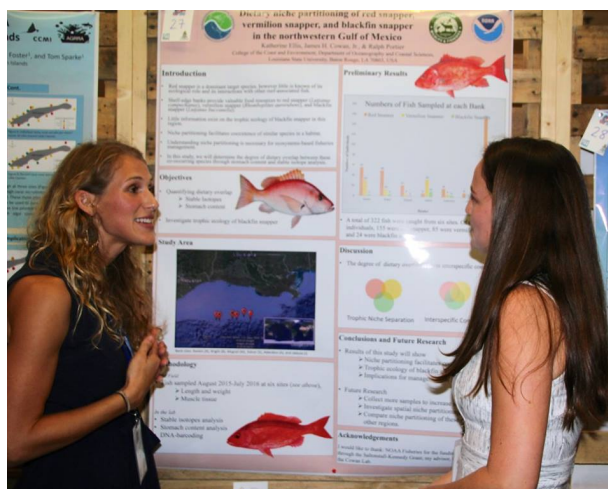
The session will have a special focus on challenges faced by small-scale fisheries. We expect that the discussions will also allow us to identify how various international agreements such as the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines are improving the effectiveness of management and policies.

Contacts: Eduardo Boné-Morón; ebone@edf.org and Valerie Miller; vmiller@edf.org.

POSTER SESSION

The poster session/reception will be on the evening of 5 November 2019. See the poster specification guidelines on the GCFI web site [link](#). The preferred poster size is: 46" high - by - 34" wide or 34" high by 46" wide, for either portrait or landscape orientation.

A special part of the poster session will be on **Gender in Fisheries, Fisher Women and Tourism**. Topics of interest include: value chains, social networks, organizations, roles in science, equality, and equity. Kindly submit your abstracts according to GCFI instructions, but please also indicate '**Gender**' as your poster session preference. For further information contact Maria Pena (maria.pena@cavehill.uwi.edu) or Martha Prada (pradamc@gmail.com).



WORKSHOPS

1) Workshop to Improve the Scientific Information of Fish Spawning Aggregations (FSAs) for Fisheries Management. (Sat 2nd – Sun 3 Nov, 1-5 pm, *Pre-registration required*)

Organizers: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute

Conveners: Mandy Karnauskas (NOAA Fisheries), Michelle Scharer-Umpierre (HJR Reefscaping), Chris Taylor (NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science).



Scope of workshop: The workshop will bring together collective expertise to identify the priorities, gaps, and requirements to improve monitoring and assessment methods on fish spawning aggregations (FSAs). Recognizing wide diversity of species, environments, and socioeconomic situations in which FSAs occur throughout the region, participants from a wide range of perspectives will collectively examine case studies and provide recommendations on improving the quality and timeliness of scientific products for the conservation and management of FSAs. Potential FSA theme areas may include:

- Identifying scientific products from FSA monitoring programs for fisheries management;
- Improving abundance and biomass estimation, and addressing uncertainties in relation to:
 - Measuring spatial and temporal variability at various scales,
 - Potential effects of behavioral variability on measurement,
 - Detecting influence of environmental fluctuations and ecosystem changes,
 - Evaluation and forecasting of anthropogenic influences;
- Characterization and delineation of habitat use, migratory corridors, staging area, and core spawning areas of FSAs;
- Evaluating statistical survey design and standardizing operations for FSA monitoring;
- Improving surveys operations and data collections with cost-effective technologies with:
 - Remote sensing (e.g., optical, active and passive acoustics, tags, environmental sensors),
 - Platforms (e.g., autonomous vehicles, gliders, landers, moorings, aerial, satellite),

- Data accessibility, analyses and processing efficiencies (e.g., machine learning analytics for automated detection and classification);
- Use of fishers' local traditional knowledge and participation to better locate and characterize FSAs.

Registration: Workshop registration and invitation will be limited to 40 participants, and the registration deadline is **August 15, 2019**.

Scholarships: Scholarships up to \$2,000 US will be awarded to selected participants who submit a request for consideration with justification of need for the scholarship and how this workshop will advance ongoing research and professional endeavors in the sustainability of living marine resources. Please send your request for registration, and statement for scholarship consideration if needed, to the following contacts before August 15, 2019.

Contacts: Please send your request for registration, and statement for scholarship consideration if needed, to the following contacts: William Michaels William.Michaels@noaa.gov, and Chris Taylor Chris.Taylor@noaa.gov before **August 15, 2019**.

2) Workshop on the Techniques for Direct Aging of Caribbean Spiny Lobster. (Wed 6th Nov, 2 - 6 pm, *Pre-registration required*)

Organizers: Old Dominion University, Department of Biological Sciences; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute/FWC, and Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute

Conveners: Dr. Mark Butler (ODU), Tom Matthews, & Emily Hutchinson (FWC/FWRI)

Scope of workshop: There is no fishery more iconic or valuable to Florida and the Caribbean than that for the Caribbean Spiny Lobster, *Panulirus argus*. Yet, proper management of lobsters has been hampered by our inability to directly determine their age. Standard techniques for fishery stock assessment are largely age-based but unlike in fishes and mollusks, whose age can be determined from annual growth bands deposited in calcified structures, determining age in crustaceans has until recently proved elusive. Determining age in crustaceans is difficult because growth occurs through ecdysis or "molting" of the calcified exoskeleton. It has long been believed that molting results in the loss and replacement of all internal and external calcified

structures precluding the use of conventional ageing methods. Therefore, assessments and management of crustacean fisheries have relied on approaches that assume a relationship between age and size. Yet, this assumption is not broadly applicable because of individual variability in growth and regional differences in environmental conditions (e.g., temperature, food availability) that influence growth, which can lead to large errors in age estimation. However, it has recently been demonstrated that age could be accurately estimated from growth bands deposited in the ossicles of the gastric mill of decapod crustaceans, and our research team has investigated and verified the use of the technique for the Caribbean spiny lobster.

Workshop Goals: A 1/2 day workshop targeting fishery managers and technical staff responsible for the management and stock-assessment of the Caribbean Spiny lobster in the USA, Caribbean, and Central America. The workshop will begin with presentations on the development and use of the direct-aging technique. Then workshop participants will be offered hands-on instruction on the proper application of the technique, including the dissection, embedding, and microscopic preparation of gastric ossicles along with computer-based visualization and counting of age bands. The workshop will conclude with a discussion of potential regional applications of the technique for size-at-age determination of Caribbean Spiny Lobster populations, and the logistical and fiscal mechanisms necessary to do so.

Registration: Workshop registration and invitation will be limited to 25 participants, and the registration deadline is **August 15, 2019**.

Contacts:

Dr. Mark Butler (mbutler@odu.edu), Tom Matthews (tom.matthews@myfwc.com) & Emily Hutchinson (emily.hutchinson@myfwc.com) before **August 15, 2019**.

3) Introduction to FishPath: Tools to Promote Sustainable Fisheries Management in Data Limited Situations. (Sat 9th – Sun 10th Nov, 1- 5 pm, *Pre-registration required*)

Organizers: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute,

Conveners: Josh Nowlis (NOAA Fisheries) and Jason Cope (NOAA Fisheries)



Scope of workshop: Fisheries managers often feel that inadequate data prevent them from actively managing their fisheries. This perception can manifest itself in lack of clarity to move forward, feelings of hopelessness and management paralysis. Although many data-limited methods exist, they were previously scattered through the literature and not clearly linked to data collection schemes and management measures. FishPath is a decision-support tool developed by The Nature Conservancy, NOAA Fisheries, and CSIRO Australia to guide managers through the full range of data-limited options for fisheries management. It helps identify fisheries-specific options for effective data collection, assessment models and indicators, and systems of management response to stock status. FishPath provides an objective and transparent tool to develop robust harvest strategies regardless of data and management impediments in order to make the most of available data and other resources. It also provides pathways for adaptive management and strategic thinking. The GCFI workshop will provide an overview of this powerful new tool, including hands-on exercises so that participants can explore the potential to improve their sustainable fisheries management practices. Theme topics will include:

1. Overview of the Management System
 - a. Data collection
 - b. Assessment methods
 - c. Management methods
2. FishPath Questionnaire
 - a. Walk through specific example while encouraging attendees to follow along and answering questions with respect to their own fisheries.
 - b. Review results from our example
 - c. Review results from participants
 - d. Demonstrate how to identify the most relevant options
 - e. Highlight some common issues and opportunities:
 - i. Size-based assessment methods
 - ii. Harvest control rules and addressing uncertainty
 - iii. Compliance and enforcement

Registration: Workshop registration and invitation will be limited to 40 participants, and the registration deadline is **August 15, 2019**.

Scholarships: Scholarships up to \$2,000 US will be awarded to selected participants who submit a request for consideration with justification of need for the scholarship and how this workshop will advance ongoing research and professional endeavors in the sustainability of living marine resources. Please send your request for registration, and statement for scholarship consideration if needed, to the following contacts before August 15, 2019.

Contacts: Please send your request for registration, and statement for scholarship consideration if needed, to: Josh Nowlis: Josh.Nowlis@noaa.gov, and William Michaels: William.Michaels@noaa.gov, before **August 15, 2019**.

4) Training-of-the-Trainers Training Workshop “Transdisciplinarity in Fisheries & Ocean Sustainability. (Fri 8th – Sun 10th Nov, 1- 5 pm, Pre-registration required)

Organizers: Too Big to Ignore (TBTI) and Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute,

Conveners: Maria Pena and Ratana Chuenpagdee



Scope of workshop: Why transdisciplinary approach? The transdisciplinary approach argues that the problems and priorities in fisheries, ocean and environmental governance require a broadening of perspectives that cut across academic disciplines, bridge division between scientific and local knowledge, and bring about innovation in teaching and learning. This is especially the case where small-scale fisheries play a prominent role in the production and supply of fish and seafood, as well as in supporting livelihoods and providing jobs to the local communities. The transdisciplinary perspective is particularly important when dealing with the ‘wicked problems’ in small-scale fisheries governance, due mostly to insecure tenure rights, lack of livelihood options, poor access to markets, and marginalization of small-scale fishers in decision-making. When adding other uses of the ocean and the tendency for governments to support development agenda that may not be sustainable, the problems become ‘super wicked’. Thus, building transdisciplinarity capacity at local, national and international levels is imperative in order to overcome these challenges, as well as to help promote viability of coastal communities, and the overall sustainability of fisheries and ocean. Specifically, the transdisciplinary approach is also required to facilitate the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing

Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

About the TD training program: The transdisciplinary (TD) training program is developed by the 'Too Big To Ignore' Global Partnership for Small-Scale Fisheries Research (TBTI; toobigtoignore.net). The objective of the training is to expose participants to a range of issues, challenges and concerns related to fisheries, ocean and environmental sustainability, especially those affecting small-scale fisheries, as well as to deepen the understanding about their causes and effects, and to broaden the perspective about how to address them. Since transdisciplinarity is mostly about process, participants will learn leadership, problem-solving, facilitation and conflict resolution skills, learn to lead discussion and recognize group dynamics, as well as any power imbalance, and learn to communicate effectively with different stakeholders from various background. Some of the personal traits that the training will promote among participants are respect, empathy, fairness and open-mindedness.

This workshop is the 'Training-of-the-Trainers' (ToT), aiming for people who have certain expertise and experience in interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary or participatory action research and practice. The 3 days training workshop will begin with theories and main concepts used in the TBTI TD program but the real focus is on fine-tuning the course elements and building training materials. The outputs of the training will be incorporated in the "TD Online", which is an open access learning platform that TBTI is developing.

The workshop will be facilitated by a team of researchers and instructors associated with TBTI, who have a broad range of expertise on fisheries and ocean governance. The book "Transdisciplinarity for Small-Scale Fisheries Governance: Analysis and Practice" (Chuenpagdee & Jentoft (eds) (2018) will be used as the main textbook.

Target group: The ToT TD workshop is taking place in conjunction with the GCFI in order to make it possible for GCFI conference participants to attend. It is not restricted, however, to GCFI participants. We welcome individuals from around the world who are interested in being part of the 'TD Online', which will be launched in 2020 to participate in the workshop.

Registration: Workshop registration and invitation will be limited to 20-25 participants, and the registration deadline is **August 15, 2019**.

Contacts: Maria Pena: maria.pena@cavehill.uwi.edu, and Ratana Chuenpagdee: ratanac@mun.ca, before **August 15, 2019**.

CINEFISH

Are you interested in submitting a short film for this year's CINEFISH film festival at the GCFI conference? If so, please email the following information to CINEFISH at cinefish@gcfi.org

- Title of film
- Brief description of film (2-3 sentences)
- Film makers(s)
- Duration of film (specify) – Note films should be 10-15 minutes or less
- Film still shot (jpg)
- Link to the film (YouTube, Vimeo, GoogleDrive etc)
- Type of film
 - Documentary: A non-fictional motion picture to document some aspect of reality.
 - Animation: A short, hand-drawn, stop motion, character animations or computer animated production.
 - New media: This includes Music Videos and Public Service Announcements (PSAs).

Please note that filmmakers are allowed a maximum of 15 minutes and can choose to submit a single, longer film or two shorter films. Films should be submitted in mp4 format. ***The deadline for submission is September 30, 2019.***

AWARDS

GCFI STUDENT AWARDS

Student Awards For Academic Achievement

GCFI, through partnerships with NOAA's Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, and the Sea Grant College Programs of the Gulf States, is awarding two \$1,500 scholarships to individuals competing for these awards at the annual meeting. The awards are presented to the best oral and poster presentations. The award winners will receive their scholarship at the following year's meeting to help support participation at that meeting. More details may be found at this [link](#).



GCFI Travel Awards

GCFI is offering two travel awards of US\$750 each to eligible students to help offset travel costs to GCFI 72 in Punta Cana. Eligibility criteria for the Student Achievement Awards can be found [here](#). **The deadline for students applying for the award and submitting an abstract and all supporting paperwork is July 31, 2019.** Complete instructions and eligibility requirements for the travel awards are on the [GCFI Student Awards web page](#). Note that a manuscript of the talk/poster must be submitted at the meeting to be eligible for this award. Students will be notified of acceptance/rejection of their application by August 31, 2019. 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 71st GCFI are not eligible for a travel award to GCFI 72.

GPML-Caribe Scholarship

GCFI is also pleased to announce that the Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter will be offering two Student scholarships up to \$1,500 US will be awarded to selected participants at the conference who are working on marine litter research, management, or solutions. Students wishing to be considered for this award must submit a request for consideration with justification of need for the scholarship and how participation in the conference will advance ongoing research and development of solutions in the field of marine litter. More information about this award may be found at this [link](#). **The deadline for students applying for the award and submitting an abstract and all supporting paperwork is 31 July 2019.** Students will be notified of acceptance/rejection of their application by August 31, 2019

Ron Schmied Scholarship

The Ron Schmied Scholarship, a GCFI initiative supported by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) and private individuals, will be offered to a qualified graduate student in support of their travel to GCFI 72 in Punta Cana. The Scholarship is in the amount of US\$1,500, and graduate students with an interest in social, economic, biological, ecological, or management perspectives on recreational fisheries are eligible to apply.



The deadline for students applying for the award and submitting an abstract and all supporting paperwork is July 31, 2019. Students will be notified of acceptance/rejection of their application by August 31, 2019. Complete instructions and eligibility requirements for the Ron Schmied Scholarship are on the [Ron Schmied Scholarship page](#). Students may apply for the Scholarship and for consideration for the Student Achievement Award in the same year. Students may also ask to be considered for the Ron Schmied Scholarship and a GCFI Travel Award in the same year but will only be awarded one of these sources of funding.

SCRFA Award

The [Science and Conservation of Fish Aggregations Association \(SCRFA\)](#) will offer a Student Travel Award of US\$800 to a student in the Caribbean Region to attend GCFI 72, Punta Cana. Originally formed in 2000 and known as the Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations with the mission of promoting responsible stewardship of fish aggregations, in particular, reef fish spawning aggregations, the Society modified its name in 2012 to reflect its focus on science and the inclusion of all aggregating fish species. The [SCRFA Student Travel Award](#) is to encourage and help students to work in this important area and showcase their ideas and work at GCFI. **The deadline for students applying for the award and submitting an abstract and all supporting paperwork is July 31, 2019.** Students will be notified of acceptance/rejection of their application by August 31, 2019. Applications and further information enquiries are to be sent to [Martin Russell](#) (SCRFA Chair/CEO).

GLADDING MEMORIAL AWARD

As a component of the Fisheries for Fishers (F4F) Initiative, the GCFI Gladding Memorial Award (GMA) committee is requesting nominations of outstanding fishers for GCFI 72. This annual award is presented to select fishers (male or females) who demonstrate, as Peter Gladding did, significant commitment to the sustainable use and long-term conservation of marine resources in the Gulf and Caribbean region. The winner will be sponsored to attend the GCFI meeting in Punta Cana to receive his or her award, and to participate in the entire conference including the Fisheries for Fishers Forum and field trip.

You are invited to submit award nominations to the GMA committee at gma@gcfi.org. All nominations must be received by **31 July 2019**. Background information on the GMA, nomination forms with award criteria, and details of the process are available on the [GCFI website](#).

FISHERIES FOR FISHERS FORUM AND FIELD TRIP

The Fisheries for Fishers forum comprises a themed session in the main conference ending in the presentation of the Gladding Memorial Award (Monday 4th November) and a field trip especially for fishers (Tuesday 5th November). Fishers and other GCFI participants with experience of fisheries exchanges who are interested in sharing information in the Fishers Forum should contact Will Heyman (heymanwill@yahoo.com) or Mitchell Lay (mitchellay@yahoo.co.uk) by **31 July 2019**. Details of the Forum session and field trip will be in the second GCFI announcement.



CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP AND TOURS

On the afternoon of Wednesday 6th November, choose from various activities and tours that have been specially designed with GCFI members in mind. A contribution to some tours might be required from participants. Please check the GCFI website for updates on tours.

VISA APPLICATION

For GCFI 72, all participants travelling by sea or air will require a passport or other accepted official form of identification to enter the country.

Participants from a number of countries will require visas to travel to Dominican Republic. Please contact your local Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Immigration Department for enquiries or to obtain one.

Visas requirements for the Dominican Republic can be found at this web address:

<http://www.domrep.org/consulates.html>.

https://www.migracion.gob.do/Content/main_side_banner_01.pdf

Remember, advance planning can smooth your visa application process. Apply for your visa well in advance of your travel!

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC IN NOVEMBER FOR GCFI72!**