



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

75th GULF AND CARIBBEAN FISHERIES INSTITUTE 7-11 NOVEMBER 2022, FORT WALTON BEACH, FL

GCFI is pleased to announce that the 75th Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI 75) will be held in Fort Walton Beach, FL from 7 – 11 November 2022 at The Island Resort. GCFI is partnering with the Okaloosa County, the Destin – Fort Walton Beach Convention Center and Visitor Bureau to host GCFI75. We intend to host a [hybrid in-person event in Florida with options for virtual participation](#). We are monitoring the status of COVID19 within the region and the safety of our GCFI Family is our priority. Thus, if the status of the pandemic changes, and it is no longer safe to host an in-person meeting, a fully virtual event will be convened. Regardless of the format, we encourage everyone who is interested in participating to submit an abstract.

CONFERENCE THEME

The theme of this year's conference is *"Understanding connectivity of coastal and estuarine ecosystems: Highlighting Successes & Learning from Challenges"*.

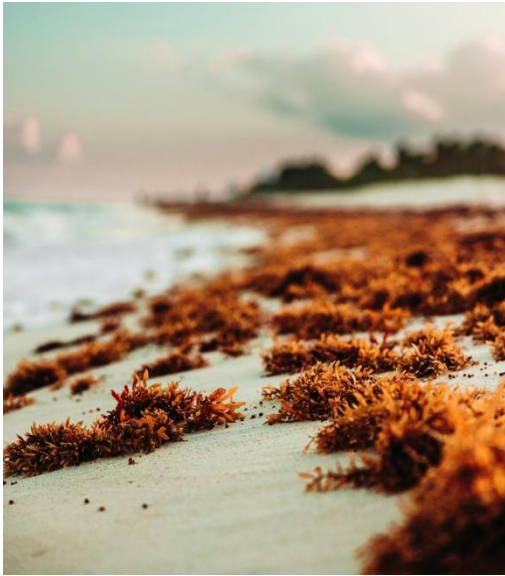
THE VENUE

The Island Resort will serve as the main hotel while the meeting will be hosted across the street at the Destin – Fort Walton Beach Convention Center. The Island Resort is a 329 room beachside resort that has multiple resort-style amenities, bars, onsite restaurants, and complimentary parking. More information will be posted on the [GCFI75 Conference Page](#) related to transportation, travel, accommodations and reservations.



SPECIAL SESSIONS

1) Living With Sargassum: Current Scientific Perspectives And Future Outlook For Fisheries, Coastal Managers And Entrepreneurs.



Organizers: Global Ocean Institute, World Maritime University, Sweden in association with CERMES, University of West Indies, Barbados, Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute.

For over a decade, influxes of the floating sargassum seaweed to the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico have caused major environmental and socioeconomic problems for fisheries, tourism and coastal communities. In the early years responses were reactive, uncoordinated and inefficient leading to environmental degradation. Millions of dollars were channeled into emergency efforts to deal with the problem, regional coordination, research to understand the problem and innovative ways of using sargassum for commercial purposes. With the realization that sargassum influxes will persist into the foreseeable

future, proactive and coordinated management responses across the region are essential. However, as highlighted by the 2021 UNEP white paper on sargassum, it is a complex problem with inevitable trade-offs between clean-ups, harvesting initiatives and environmental impacts. The session will present a current state of understanding, with a particular emphasis placed on what the future holds and what research will be needed to resolve the key challenges.

Format: This session will feature a series of brief presentations highlighting the latest research findings, experience of management interventions and evaluate the prospects for utilization and economic gain.

The Goals of the Session are to:

- Current understanding of the ecological causes and consequences of sargassum influxes.
- Management interventions/clean-up operations. What has worked, what has not? What the impacts have been; what is best practice?
- Fisheries responses and future prospects under continuing sargassum influxes.
- Social and economic challenges of sargassum influxes.
- Potential uses of sargassum. What are the most promising opportunities?

Target audience: Marine and social scientists, coastal managers, entrepreneurs and local stakeholders.

Contacts: Global Ocean Institute, World Maritime University Prof Francis Neat (fn@wmu.se) and Dr Aleke Stofen O'Brien (aso@wmu.se)

2) Linking The International Year Of Artisanal Fisheries And Aquaculture To Sustainable Blue Economy Development In The Gulf And Caribbean Region.



Organizers: Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) through financing from the European Union, Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute.

The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in the Western Central Atlantic Region is being celebrated under the theme of Recovery and Resilience. Across the region, a cross-section of stakeholders in artisanal fisheries and aquaculture has been mobilized to bring awareness to the importance of these sectors at the national, regional, and global scales. This special session welcomes presentations from scientists, researchers, managers, fishers, government officials, and other stakeholders that span research and practice on artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in the region. Presentations that address one or several of the following themes will be prioritized: Social Resilience, Innovation, Intersectoral Linkages, Artisanal fisheries, Aquaculture/aquaponics, Gender, and Youth in the Gulf and Wider Caribbean region. The intent of this session is to bring together collective perspectives and expertise from stakeholders on artisanal fisheries and small-scale

aquaculture in the region. At the end of this session, we aim to identify opportunities to contribute to the continued development of the sector and integration into the blue economy dialogue in the region. At the same time, discussions from this section will contribute to ongoing work in the region on the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Guidelines for Small-Scale Fisheries and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Contact: For more information, please email Dr. Eric Wade Eric.Wade@fao.org or wadee21@ecu.edu

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

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

- Coastal and estuarine connectivity
- Governance, livelihoods, and organizations
- Reefs and associated ecosystems and fisheries
 - Shallow and deep reef fishes
 - Snapper and grouper fisheries
 - Fish spawning aggregations

- Lionfish and other invasive species
- Artificial Reefs
- Marine protected areas science and management
- Pelagic ecosystem and recreational fisheries
- Continental shelf ecosystem fisheries
- Shrimp and demersal trawl fisheries
- Habitats and coastal management
- Climate change science and adaptation
- Sargassum science and management
- Aquaculture
- Communication and environmental education
- Marine litter science and management
- Queen conch, spiny lobster, oysters and other invertebrates

E-POSTER SESSION

Instead of printed posters, we will be showcasing dynamic electronic posters (e-posters). An e-poster is a collection of multimedia resources related to the author's research. E-posters will be available one week before the conference and they will be accessible even after the conference. Poster specification guidelines will be available on the GCFI website.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR TECHNICAL, SPECIAL AND POSTER SESSIONS

Abstracts for GCFI75 are due by July 31, 2022. 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 languages; titles must be in all three languages. Abstracts must not exceed 250 words (275 for Spanish and French). Abstracts must be submitted online via the secure online Abstract Submission Form.

Acceptance to present within an oral or poster session requires submission of an extended abstract. Extended abstract preparation guidelines are available online. Members of GCFI are encouraged to submit full manuscripts or short communications based on presentations given at GCFI meetings to [Gulf and Caribbean Research](#) for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published open access at no charge to the authors through the GCFI-GCR partnership. Full manuscripts will also be accepted for publishing in the GCFI Proceedings.

Authors of accepted presentations will be notified via e-mail in September 2022. Submissions intended for the oral presentation, but not granted a slot, would automatically be accepted as a poster presentation. Regardless of the format, we encourage everyone who is interested in participating to submit an abstract.



WORKSHOPS

1) Advancing the Science of Fish Ageing Workshop

Organizers: NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute

Purpose: Demonstrate and teach the range of techniques from simple to advanced tech that might be used to improve the capacities of local agencies as well as improve the quality of age data needed in fishery assessments. The goals would be to familiarize attendees with various methods to age fish, including less traditional alternatives that might be accomplished in simplified ageing labs as well as advanced techniques that offer improvements and efficiencies over traditional visual ageing.

Format: The workshop will be presented by staff of the NOAA/NMFS/Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Biology & Life History Branch based in Panama City, FL. Invited speakers will be included in each session to demonstrate real-world examples of the presentation material. Workshop report will consist of manuscripts from staff presenters and invited speakers so that all material is covered. The report could be produced as a NOAA Tech Memo or in another preferred format.

Target audience: For fisheries scientists and managers interested in building local capacity for ageing or just gaining a better understanding of how ageing is done and how ageing affects assessments, the workshop should be of interest. Graduate students interested in potential research projects could benefit, as well.

Contact: For more information, please email Dr. Ron Hill, Chief, Biology & Life History Branch: ron.hill@noaa.gov

2) Regional Women in Fisheries Forum



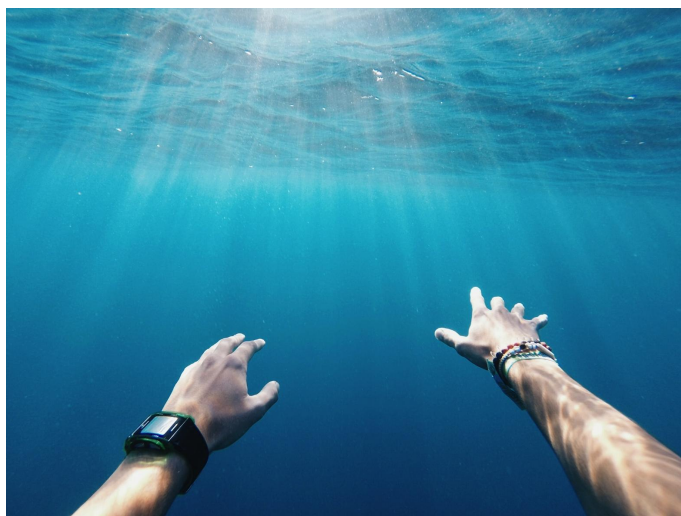
Organizers: Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), University of West Indies – Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI-CERMES), Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute.

As part of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAF 2022), we will be hosting a Regional Women in Fisheries Forum. This special session aims to acknowledge, celebrate, and recognize the important role women play across the small-scale fisheries and aquaculture value chain. In this session, women from across the

region will have the opportunity to network and learn from each other based on experiences in their respective countries. This session will aim to identify current best practices across the region on the integration of gender in fisheries and fostering an arena for equal participation of women in policy and practice. This workshop will feature small-group discussions, keynote presentations, and scenario planning.

Contact: For more information, please email Dr. Eric Wade Eric.Wade@fao.org or wadee21@ecu.edu and Ms. Maria Pena: maria.pena@cavehill.uwi.edu

THE GCFI STORY SLAM – STORIES FROM THE FIELD



GCFI75 will continue with our story slam focused on compelling stories from the field. We encourage submission of 5-minute contributions that will be performed via a story-telling format. There is no restriction on the topic of the story except that it cannot be a scientific-only presentation, unless it relates to some entertaining experience you may have had. Some examples of story topics are experiences from field-work, unexpected interactions with a person or animal, a mentor who influenced you, or any other memorable experiences. Details for participation are available on the GCFI Website.

Relive the GCFI73 Story Slam [here](#).

CINEFISH

Are you interested in submitting a short film for this year's CINEFISH film festival at the GCFI conference? If so, please submit the following information via this form: <https://forms.gle/ZGWjJLWXEduQFYGx6>. The submission deadline is September 1, 2022 and films should be submitted in mp4 format prior to the conference.

- Title of film
- Brief description of film (2-3 sentences)
- Film makers(s)
- Duration of film – Note: films should be a maximum of 15 minutes
- Image for film (png or jpg) – To be used for promotion
- Link to preview the film (YouTube, Vimeo, GoogleDrive etc)
- Type of film (Documentary, Animation or New Media)



GCFI STUDENT AWARDS

Outstanding Student Achievement Award

GCFI will award \$1,500 scholarships to the best oral and poster presentations (both virtual and in-person presentations are eligible). The content of the presentation must be related to final research done by the student related to their thesis or dissertation. If already submitted, this thesis or dissertation must be no older than one year. A manuscript of the oral/poster presentation must be submitted to be eligible for this award. The award winners will receive their scholarship at the following year's conference, to help support their participation in this meeting. Complete instructions and eligibility requirements are on the [Outstanding Student Achievement Awards web page](#).



GCFI Travel Awards

GCFI will offer 2 travel awards of US\$750 each to eligible students to help offset travel costs to GCFI75. ***The deadline for students to apply for this award is July 31, 2022.*** Complete instructions and eligibility requirements are on the [GCFI Student Travel Awards page](#). Students will be notified of acceptance/rejection of their application by September 1, 2022. Students may apply for a travel award and for consideration for the Student Achievement Award in the same year. Students who received the GCFI72 Student Achievement Award are not eligible for a travel award.

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 GCFI75. 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 to apply for this award is July 31, 2022.*** Students will be notified of acceptance/rejection of their application by September 1, 2022. Note that a manuscript of the oral/poster presentation must be submitted to be eligible for this award. 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 receive one award.

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 GCFI75. 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 Fort Walton Beach, Florida 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 August 15, 2022. Background information on the GMA, nomination forms with award criteria, and details of the process are available on the [Gladding Memorial Award Page](#).



SOCIAL MEDIA

To stay informed of all GCFI75 updates, we encourage you to follow GCFI on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) and use the Conference Hashtag #GCFI75.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA
FOR GCFI75