



MARTIN RUSSELL

Martin has been working for over 25 years on marine protected area and fisheries management, has an applied science degree in fisheries, and has extensive research and management experience working on coral, reef fish and fish spawning aggregations. He is the manager of the Coral Sea Marine Park in the Australian Government, and worked previously as a fisheries/MPA manager with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. He is the Chair of Science and Conservation of Fish Aggregations (SCRFA), with projects in the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean. He has been an active participant in GCFI meetings since 2000, a GCFI Board Director since 2013, and served as the Chair of the Board for three years (2017 to 2020). Martin brings long-term experience in working on GCFI Board committees including Executive, Performance, Nominations, and Historic Committees, with an in-depth understanding of GCFI, and is keen and willing to serve as Chair of the Board.

GCFI BOARD CHAIR NOMINEE



DR. ERIC WADE

Eric Wade is an environmental social scientist at Oregon State University, originally from Belize. His research interests lie in human dimensions of conservation, environmental governance, and conservation and development. His current work explores the decision-making strategies and behaviors of small-scale fishers in the Caribbean and its link to informing sustainable fisheries management. He has worked in communities across Belize, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Panama. Eric has worked across sectors, including local non-governmental organizations, governmental departments, and regional bilateral agencies in the Caribbean. Eric will bring to GCFI's Board an injection of regional diversity. He has sound knowledge of Caribbean fisheries and his work experience comes from government (Belize Fisheries), non-governmental organizations (Oceana) and multilateral agencies (FAO and WECAFC). He has a strong track record in student representation and he brings a great enthusiasm to enhance GCFI's student-centered programs.

GCFI BOARD VICE-CHAIR NOMINEE





DR. ALEJANDRO ACOSTA

Alejandro is a research administrator at the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in Marathon, Florida, U.S. A fisheries biologist with a background in reef ecology and management. In his work, he has examined tropical reef fisheries, community structure, and stock assessment of reef, mangrove, and estuarine fishes. His research uses a blend of innovative field, laboratory, and analytical techniques, focusing on fundamental and applied issues related to fishes and fisheries that range in scale from individual species to entire ecosystems. Alejandro's research is tailored to meet current and anticipated management needs which regularly result in management recommendations in the face of increasing climate and anthropogenic impacts. Alejandro has been involved with GCFI for many years and has been on the Board for over 15 years serving as the Chair and Vice-Chair of GCFI, and currently Senior Editor of the GCFI Proceedings and Chair of the Program Committee since 2005. Alejandro is enthusiastic to continue contributing and dedicating time to developing GCFI initiatives.

GCFI BOARD NOMINEE



FREDERIQUE FARDIN

Frederique has been participating in GCFI since 2015 and became a Board member 2017 (while working as a technical officer at CANARI: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute). She started the GCFI education ad-hoc committee to develop and strengthen a long-term education strategy for the organisation, developing educational content and implementing activities with kids during the GCFI annual meeting. Frederique is enthusiastic about GCFI bringing together professionals from different sectors (e.g. academia, non-profit organisations, governments, and fishers) as well as students. As an early-career researcher, currently a final-year PhD candidate in Coastal Geography at the University of Cambridge, Frederique is keen to continue to be on the Board and help support early-career ocean professionals and inclusion and effective integration of younger voices from the Caribbean region in the ocean conservation field.

GCFI BOARD NOMINEE



DR. HOLDEN HARRIS

As a former dive instructor and commercial fisherman, Holden has a deep and complex relationship with the marine environment. His recent PhD work examined the ecological and socioeconomic conditions for developing a commercial fishery for invasive lionfish by better understanding population and community effects from lionfish removals and their removal efficiency, the emerging pathogen in lionfish, the potential for lionfish traps to control deepwater lionfish, and the bioeconomics of commercialized invasive species. As a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Florida Nature Coast Biological Station, his current focus areas include reducing fisheries discard mortality via gear innovation and management strategies, and developing ecosystem models to value coastal reef restoration. Holden was the 2019 recipient of GCFI's Student Academic Achievement Award and brings dynamism, creative strategies and new ideas to the Board, which will be invaluable especially in current circumstances where there is a recognized need to adapt to new technologies and alter approaches.

GCFI BOARD NOMINEE



DR. KELLY KINGON

Kelly is an Assistant Professor at the University of Trinidad and Tobago Centre for Maritime and Ocean Studies, and involved in undergraduate and graduate teaching programs. She has been an active participant in GCFI since attending as a graduate student in 2009, and now encourages her own students to attend. Kelly has a broad range of experience working on a variety of topics across a range of habitats in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. Her research background includes artificial reefs, habitat ecology, invasive species, sargassum, turtles, fish ecology and fisheries. She has worked with local fishers on several of these projects and understands the value that comes from collaboration across sectors, so she is keen to contribute to the Fisheries for Fishers Program. Kelly's enthusiasm for participatory marine conservation and her contacts throughout the region would provide a valuable contribution to the GCFI Board.

GCFI BOARD NOMINEE



CECIL MARQUEZ

Cecil Marquez is an artisanal fisher from Gouyave, Grenada. In 2018, he received GCFI's Gladding Memorial Award in recognition of his contributions to sustainable management of Grenada's fisheries and marine resources. Cecil is an inspirational leader for many young fishers; they have followed his lead by adopting the use of manual longlines from small vessels to target swordfish and yellowfin tuna. More recently, Cecil popularized "Safety at Sea" by training and equipping fishers with safety equipment. Cecil was instrumental in establishing the Gouyave Marine Protected Area. Subsequently, the Grenada Fisheries Division delegated its management to the local community. Since 2019, Cecil has worked with GCFI to reduce abandoned, lost, discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and distributed information to fish houses across Grenada. He attended a workshop in Panama representing GCFI where he learned methods to recover lost gear. Cecil continues to be a leader in the GCFI Fisheries for Fishers Initiative.

GCFI BOARD NOMINEE



EDUARDO 'LALO' BONE MORON

Lalo's work focuses on understanding, managing, and communicating ecological and social processes in marine fisheries across the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. He manages a multi-national team of scientists, experts, and stakeholders for the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) to develop fisheries management projects in Cuba and the region. He has been participating at GCFI for several years and hosted several technical workshops. He has been instrumental in developing the synergy between EDF's and GCFI by sponsoring and funding fishers' activities and participation in GCFI. He works in the implementation of sustainable fishing management practices through multi-stakeholder collaboration. His participation in the GCFI Board will increase diversity and bring the NGO's perspective to the Board. Lalo's work in organizing activities for GCFI he has shown a strong commitment to the GCFI and his interest to be a Board Director.

GCFI BOARD NOMINEE



DR. HENRI VALLÈS

Henri is a marine ecologist interested in marine resource management and conservation with focus on Caribbean coral reefs and artisanal fisheries. He lives in Barbados and has been attending GCFI since 2008. He has served on the Board of Directors since 2013, actively taking part in various committees including the Communications committee, Student Awards committee, Performance committee, ExCom, and Publications committee. His contributions include translating GFCI communications to French, helping draft the 2015-2020 GCFI Strategic Plan and the 2015 GCFI By-laws, preparing judging rubriques for the student award presentations, judging students' oral and poster presentations, evaluating GCFI student travel awards, and serving as Vice-Chair (2015-2017). Between 2020 and 2022, Henri has served as Chair of the Board. Henri would like to continue serving as part of the Student Awards committee and the Publications committee, as well as helping draft the 2020-2025 GCFI Strategic Plan and the By-Laws revision.

GCFI BOARD NOMINEE