

PROGRAM



GCFI **76**

NASSAU

THE BAHAMAS

NOV 6 - 10, 2023

ABOUT GCFI

The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) was founded in 1947 to promote the exchange of information on the use and management of marine resources in the Gulf and Caribbean Region. From its beginning, GCFI has endeavored to involve scientific, governmental, and resource-use sectors in providing a broad perspective on relevant fisheries issues. The GCFI membership comprises over 40 nations and territories representing university faculty and students, governmental agencies, policy-makers, private sector, fishers, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

GCFI is partnering with the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of the Bahamas to host GCFI76. The theme of this year's conference is "Linking science and society towards a vision for sustainable fisheries". GCFI76 is an Endorsed Decade Action Program with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.



SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN HUMAN ACTIVITIES AND MARINE MEGAFUNA OF THE CARIBBEAN: PROGRESS MADE THROUGH THE CAMAC PROJECT AND POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE ACTIONS SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER, 2023 | 8 AM - 5 PM

This workshop aims to bring together the CAMAC partners and other Caribbean stakeholders working on fisheries, megafauna conservation, and environmental education, to discuss and validate the major outputs of CAMAC phase 1. These outputs (review of available information, partnership building and identification of protocols and needs for phase 2) will first be presented and the attendees will then split into 4 thematic round tables to discuss and validate the protocols for phase 2.

Provisional workshop program

8:30: Welcome Coffee

9:00 – 10:00: Presentation of the CAMAC project and the outputs of phase one (2023):

- Synthesis of available data on fishing effort and interaction with marine megafauna.
- Stranding network trainings report
- Workplan for phase 2 regarding marine mammal and sea turtle stranding networks enforcement.
- Hub of Caribbean educational tools on marine megafauna.
- Regional protocols for megafauna knowledge enhancement during phase 2.

10:00 - 10:30: Coffee Break.

10:30 - 12:00: Round table workshops I (*4 round tables organized simultaneously*)

- Fisheries interactions: discuss workplan, protocols and partnership for phase II (knowledge enhancement), taking into account the results of phase one and related regional projects (e. French AP, Leatherback AP, REBYCIII).
- Regional-based scientific knowledge protocols for marine mammals: discuss and validate the regional protocols developed with partners during CAMAC phase 1
- Regional-based scientific knowledge protocols for sharks: discuss and validate the workplan developed with partners during CAMAC phase 1.
- Marine mammal and sea turtle stranding networks: discuss workplan for phase II

12:00 – 2:00: Lunch Break

2:00 - 3:30: Round table workshops II *The same thematic round tables as in the morning will be organized, so that workshop attendees will be able to attend a second round table on the topics of their choice.*

3:30 – 4:00: Coffee Break

4:00 – 5:00: Presentation of workshop major outputs and discussion

5:00 – 5:30: Closing session.

Organizers: The Agoa Sanctuary and the SPAW-RAC



SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

DEVELOPING HARVEST STRATEGIES USING FISHPATH & USING ADAPTIVE IMPLEMENTABLE MANAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE HUMAN & ECOLOGICAL WELFARE OBJECTIVES

SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER, 2023 | 8 AM - 5 PM

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. This 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:

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

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



SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

THE CARIBBEAN HUB OF THE GLOBAL CORAL REEF NETWORK (GCRMN-CARIBBEAN) (INVITATION ONLY)

SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER, 2023 | 8 AM - 5 PM

The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) is a network of scientists, managers and organisations that monitor the condition of coral reefs throughout the world, aiming to provide the best available scientific information on the status and trends of coral reef ecosystems for their conservation and management. The GCRMN-Caribbean is led by a Steering Committee (SC) composed of fifteen regional experts, assisted by members-at-large. The members of the SC represent a variety of technical, scientific, and policy expertise. They include both institutional and individual representation.

REGISTRATION | 15:00 - 18:00 (EST)

Grand Foyer, Atlantis Paradise Island Conference Centre

STUDENT-BOARD SOCIAL | 19:00 - 21:00 (EST)



MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

GCFI76 OPENING CEREMONY | 8:30 - 9:00 (EST)

Opening Remarks

- Bob Glazer (GCFI Executive Director)
- Alejandro Acosta (GCFI Program Chair)
- Martin Russell (Chair GCFI Board of Directors)



GCFI76 KEYNOTE: DR. ANA SPALDING (9:00)

A global tropics perspective on making ocean science and governance more equitable and effective

Dr. Spalding is the Founding Director of the Adrienne Arsht Community-Based Resilience Solutions Initiative and Staff Scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI); and affiliated as Associate Professor at Oregon State University. Dr. Spalding has an applied interdisciplinary social science background in economics, marine affairs and policy, and environmental studies; and approximately 20 years of applied experience in international development, conservation, and environmental consulting in Panama

and the US. Broadly, her research group studies drivers of global change, impacts of that change on the most vulnerable communities, and what we as a society can do to better respond to those changes and impacts. At STRI, she is advancing interdisciplinary approaches to resilience science and community-based solutions to pressing environmental problems through research, training, and engagement. At OSU she offered several US Ocean Policy courses and guest lectures, and supervised graduate student research related to ocean uses and management across a variety of themes such as marine protected areas (MPAs), offshore renewable energy, fisheries and aquaculture, and adaptation to climate change. Her current research includes locally led conservation, adaptation as a pathway to resilience for marine resource-dependent communities in California and Oregon, and the role of ocean governance tools (e.g., Marine Protected Areas) in achieving just and equitable goals for people and nature. Dr. Spalding is committed to interdisciplinarity and collaboration as a critical framework for co-creating innovative and just solutions to coupled social-environmental crises facing our oceans.

Question & Answer Period

OPENING BELL | 9:45 (EST)

COFFEE BREAK | 10:00 - 10:30 (EST)



MONDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

GOVERNANCE | 10:30 - 11:40EST)

- 10:30 **Nicolás Gómez-Andújar** Lessons learned from self-governance in the fishing community of Culebra island, Puerto Rico
- 10:40 **Emily Melvin** Rethinking the blue economy: a community economies approach to post-disaster development
- 10:50 **Matthew McPherson** Delineating fishing territories for marine spatial planning in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico
- 11:00 **Henri Vallés** The Caribbean Regional Management Plan For The Anchored Fishing Aggregating Device (Afad) Fishery
- 11:10 **Athila Bertoni Andrade** Projeto Meros do Brasil and The Atlantic Goliath Grouper Conservation Network: Initiatives and challenges to protect the largest grouper in the South Atlantic.
- 11:20 **Vincent Kneefel** Pioneering Environmental Balance Sheet for a Private Island: A Holistic Approach to Sustainability
- 11:30 **Yvette Diei Ouali** Sustainable Fisheries and Resource Efficiency: Leveraging Circular Economy Principles in Barbados

LUNCH BREAK | 11:45 - 14:00 (EST)

Innovasea Acoustic Telemetry Update | 13:00 - 13:30

Join us for a presentation on how our advanced NexTrak acoustic telemetry system is taking aquatic animal tracking to the next level. We will also touch on how Fathom software has revolutionized data management, from collection and curation to analysis and storage.

SMALL SCALE FISHERIES | 14:00 - 15:00 EST)

- 14:00 **Russell Fielding** Mercury, fisheries, and health in four Caribbean countries
- 14:10 **Eric Wade** Small-Scale Fisher Responses to Future Fish Catch Reduction in Jamaica: Influence of Livelihood Demographics and Social Adaptive Capacity
- 14:20 **Cody Rewis*** Post-Release Survival and Distribution of Juvenile Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) Caught on Buoy Gear within the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Straits: an analysis of the restoration benefit of the Deepwater Horizon Program's Oceanic Fish Restoration Project.
- 14:30 **Karlisa Callwood** Understanding shifts in subsistence fishing behavior and seafood consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic in The Bahamas
- 14:40 **Kamaria Asantewa*** Women in the fishing Industry southeast Trinidad: Ortoire to Guayaguayare
- 14:50 **Makeda Serju*** The Sea Will Always Provide
- 15:00 **Sepp Haukebo** Introducing The Virtual Fisheries Academy

FISHERS FORUM | 15:10 - 17:30

COFFEE BREAK | 16:00 - 16:30 (EST)

OPENING BANQUET & RECEPTION | 17:30 (EST)



TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

SPECIAL SESSION | 8:00 - 10:00 (EST)

Research and stakeholder collaboration to inform and execute conservation and restoration

Sponsored by: **Bonefish and Tarpon Trust**



- 8:00 **Aaron Adams** Stakeholder engagement is essential to marine fisheries research, conservation, education, and advocacy
- 8:15 **Alejandro Acosta** The Role of Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) in Sustainable Fisheries in the Caribbean
- 8:30 **Ross Boucek** Research and stakeholder collaboration to inform and execute conservation and restoration
- 8:45 **Benjamin Jones** How to obtain and use fishers' knowledge for conservation and management: what does the literature say?
- 9:00 **Justin Lewis** Multifaceted approach to Bonefish (*Albula vulpes*) habitat conservation in The Bahamas through angler advocacy and education
- 9:15 **Nina Sanchez** Using outreach and education as tools to educate, engage and empower stakeholders about the importance of Bonefish (*Albula vulpes*) habitat conservation in The Bahamas.
- 9:30 **Justin Lewis** Community engagement in mangrove restoration in The Bahamas
- 9:45 **Nikita Shiel-Rolle** Our world needs Ocean Love - Capacity building for equitable natural resource management, a case study from Cat Island, The Bahamas.

COFFEE BREAK | 10:00 - 10:30 (EST)

- 10:30 **Becky Holt** Community-Based Queen Conch Mariculture Center in Grand Bahama
- 10:45 **Tristan Guttridge** Fisher perceptions of shark management and shark-depredation events in the Bahamas
- 11:00 **JoEllen Wilson** Working with county land use planning to protect sportfish nursery habitat in southwest Florida
- 11:15 **Steven Lombardo** Mobilizing local ecological knowledge and mass public datasets to assess historical shifts in the lower Florida Keys tarpon fishery
- 11:30 **Addiel U. Perez** Toward a paradigm shift using mixed-methods to evaluate the socio-economic and ecological integrity of Cayo Rosario in Hol Chan Marine Reserve, Belize
- 11:45 **Amy Piko*** Deepwater Horizon Restoration Program Oceanic Fish Restoration Project: Interim Results from Working in Partnership with the Gulf Pelagic Longline Fleet to Help Restore Natural Resources
- 12:00 **Crystal Hightower** Tag Alabama: A Collaborative Angler Based Saltwater Recreational Tagging Program
- 12:15 **Sophia Coast*** Hooked on Improvement: Redesigning the fishing guide reporting system in Everglades National Park



TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

LUNCH BREAK | 12:30 - 14:30 (EST)

COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION | 14:30 - 15:40

- 14:30 **Francis Staub** Towards Effective Management of Marine Mammals in MPAs: the Marine Mammals Management Toolkit
- 14:40 **Jamie Aquino** Effectiveness of community-based education and fisher training programs to sensitize local populations in southern Haiti about endangered marine megafauna and marine ecosystems
- 14:50 **Tabitha Stadler** Exploring the reasons why conservation education and science communication are failing to promote behavior change
- 15:00 **Robbie Thigpen** Introducing a new class of conservation biology curricula for the greater Caribbean basin
- 15:10 **Lilianne Hercules** Marine science education in your home language
- 15:20 **Candice Brittain** Collaborating with fishers to sustain the stone crab fishery in The Bahamas
- 15:30 **Nancy Montes de Soto** Return'Em Right Monitoring and Evaluation Program

COFFEE BREAK | 15:40 - 16:00 (EST)

CLIMATE CHANGE | 16:00 - 16:40 (EST)

- 16:00 **Jeffrey Plumlee** Heatwave duration correlates with the poor recruitment of oysters in northern Gulf of Mexico coastal waters.
- 16:10 **Jeffy Gomez** Implementation of the Project: Enhancing adaptation planning and increasing climate resilience in the coastal zone and fisheries sector of Belize
- 16:20 **A. Kurt Gamperi** The TMEP-Lab: Understanding Tropical Marine Animal Physiology with the Goal of Improving Fisheries Management and Conservation
- 16:30 **Emma Porter*** Seasonal Temperatures in South Eleuthera, The Bahamas, have considerable impacts on the cardiorespiratory function and swimming performance of Nassau Grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*)

PELAGIC | 16:40 - 17:30 (EST)

- 16:40 **Brendan Talwar** Movements of silky sharks in the western central Atlantic Ocean.
- 16:50 **Victor Sho** Amending Belize's Sport Fishing Regulations Through Community Consultations
- 17:00 **Alexander Prouse*** Assessment of common dolphinfish trophic ecology and pollutant body burden across ocean basins
- 17:10 **Shane Stephens** Habitat Use and Migration Pathways of Atlantic Tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*) in the Northern Gulf of Mexico
- 17:20 **Alexa Hoffman** Environmental drivers of presence and abundance of epipelagic species in an oligotrophic basin
- 17:30 **Omar Reynoso** Samaná, The Capital of the Diamond Squid Fishery in the Caribbean

STATION 1A: Megafauna & Highly Migratory Species

- 19:00: **Racine Prinzo**. Perceptions and Attitudes Toward Speed Restriction Zones for the Protection of Large Cetaceans
- 19:10: **Gabrienne McIntosh**. Use of passive acoustic monitoring to inform conservation for two at risk species: sperm whale (*Physeter microcephalus*) and Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) in The Bahamas
- 19:20: **Natascha Wosnick**. Addressing the Urgent Need for Mitigation: Bycatch of Sharks and Rays in the Caribbean Fisheries
- 19:30: **Natascha Wosnick**. Strategies for Sustainable Coexistence: Addressing Shark Depredation in The Bahamas
- 19:40: **David Wells**. Gulf Research Institute for Highly Migratory Species: current projects and future directions
- 19:50: **James Reinhardt**. Characterization of Caribbean Fisheries Interactions with Highly Migratory Species

STATION 2A: Pelagic & Recreational Fisheries

- 19:00: **Abby Vaughn**. Restoring Bluefin Tuna using Fishing Depth Optimization in the Gulf of Mexico's Pelagic Longline Industry
- 19:10: **Sarah Gibbs**. Attitudes of Recreational Reef Fish Fishers Before and After Substantial Management Changes
- 19:20: **Julia Byrd**. FISHstory: Using Citizen Science to Describe Historic Catches in the US South Atlantic.
- 19:30: **Jeremy Higgs**. A Collaborative Research Approach in Support of Conservation and Sustainability of Billfish
- 19:40: **Lia Guilot Illidge***. Fish species of interest for recreational fishing in the Colombian Caribbean Sea

STATION 3A: Invertebrates

- 19:00: **Nick Farmer**. Impact of Caribbean Spiny Lobster Fisheries on Seagrass Habitats in The Bahamas
- 19:10: **Deneé Rankine**. A Community-Based Aquaculture Approach for Caribbean Spiny Lobster at The Cape Eleuthera Institute, Bahamas
- 19:20: **Michael Bowleg**. Community-Based Spiny Lobster Aquaculture Development: A Promising Approach for Sustainable Coastal Fisheries
- 19:30: **Dalila Aldana Aranda**. When a resource is overexploited its scientific interest decreases: Collaboration in the Caribbean with the Queen conch
- 19:40: **Daniel Matos-Caraballo**. Description of Puerto Rico's Queen Conch (*Lobatus gigas*) Fishery Trends After Five Years of the Impact of Hurricane María in Puerto Rico.



STATION 4A: Coral Restoration

- 19:00: **Lucas Le Gall**. Does coral restoration using thermotolerant genotypes influence the community composition of reef fish?
- 19:10: **Valeria Pizarro**. Microfragmentation: Is skipping the nursery phase a possibility for successful propagation and restoration?
- 19:20: **Natalia Hurtado Lopez**. The importance of a nursery phase prior to outplanting in sexually propagated Mountainous Star Coral (*Orbicella faveolata*)
- 19:30: **Natalia Hurtado Lopez**. Spreading the word on how Stony Coral Loss Disease is threatening coral reefs in The Caribbean, what we can do about it?
- 19:40: **Silia Woodside**. Community Engagement and Outreach as a Tool for Successful Coral Reef Restoration Efforts in South Eleuthera.
- 19:50: **Silia Woodside**. The Effect of Source Colony and Coral Tree Nursery Position on the Growth Rate of Staghorn Coral (*Acropora Cervicornis*).

STATION 5A: Mangrove & Seagrass

- 19:00: **Karlisa Callwood**. Co-Designing Restoration for Blocked Mangrove Creeks in Andros, The Bahamas
- 19:10: **Kelly Kingon**. Seagrass flowering and their underwater pollinators in Trinidad & Tobago
- 19:20: **Gregory O'Neill***. Assessing Zooplankton Abundance and Diversity in Native and Invasive Seagrass Communities as it Relates to Juvenile Yellowtail Snapper Diet
- 19:30: **Lindy Knowles**. A Bahamian mangrove creek restored: a decade of the Bonefish Pond Mangrove Restoration Project
- 19:40: **Steven Lombardo**. Bonefish nursery habitats Marine spatial planning for the next generation

STATION 6A: Sargassum & Recreational Fisheries

- 19:00: **Franziska Elmer**. Aquafarming Sargassum: a solution that enables more valorization of wild Sargassum
- 19:10: **Jessica Milne**. Sargassum Management Strategies in Miami-Dade County
- 19:20: **Micaela Small***. The influence of oceanographic variables (sea surface salinity, sea surface temperature, and current strength) on the spatial variability of sargassum abundance within the Caribbean Sea
- 19:30: **Kristie Alleyne**. Fishing opportunities associated with the pelagic sargassum ecosystem in Barbados.
- 19:40: **Sepp Haukebo**. When are fish more valuable, alive or dead?
- 19:50: **Sepp Haukebo**. Managing marine recreational fisheries in Cuba for sustainability and economic development with emphasis on tourism model



GCFI76 POSTER SESSION

STATION 7A: Miscellaneous

- 19:00: **Danielle Cartwright**. Evaluating the Impact of a Pilot Marine Conservation Youth Program in The Bahamas
- 19:10: **Yulissa Reyes-Santana**. Community integration, a key element in the success of a marine restoration program: experience in Bayahibe, Dominican Republic
- 19:20: **Hilario Poot-Cahun**. Exchanging Ecological Knowledge to Protect Our Environment
- 19:30: **Nancy Montes de Soto**. The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Professional Development Program: Personalizing the virtual experience.
- 19:40: **Sara Marriott**. A Socio-Environmental Approach to Offshore Aquaculture Siting and Policy
- 19:50: **Mark Freeman**. Florida pompano, *Trachinotus carolinus*, aquaculture in St Kitts: A pilot project

STATION 8A: Virtual

- 19:00: **Léa Vignaud***. Can spatial variation in recruitment explain adult distribution in Caribbean reef fishes?
- 19:10: **Dilcia Morales Benavides***. Spatiotemporal distribution of the rough-toothed dolphin, *Steno bredanensis* (Lesson, 1828) in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR)
- 19:20: **Christine Ward Paige**. MPA Health Tracker: Collaboratively, transparently, scalably track MPA Performance in real-time
- 19:30: **Atlantine Boggio-Pasqua**. First insights into the movement ecology of the Atlantic Pygmy Devil Ray using passive acoustic telemetry
- 19:40: **Kendyl Berna**. Artificial Reefs as a tool for strengthening blue economies by bringing together coral restoration, eco-tourism, community awareness and education while also establishing marine protected areas.
- 19:50: **Kendyl Berna**. Collaboration between researchers and governments as a critical component to cetacean conservation and management as emphasized through current ongoing surveys in the Lesser Antilles.

STATION 8B: VIRTUAL

- 20:00: **Eric Saillant**. Research in genetic stock structure of greater amberjack *Seriola dumerili* in US waters
- 20:10: **Alberto Rosales*** The fishing nets used to capture sardine *Sardinella aurita* (Valenciennes, 1847) and its relationship with the particularities of fishing areas in the northeastern region of Venezuela.
- 20:20: **Deng Palomeres**. The Belize Fisheries Project: Analyze, inform and discuss for a sustainable future
- 20:30: **Richeda Speede**. DigiFish Phase 2: Transforming fish landing sites into intelligent spaces
- 20:40: **Richeda Speede**. Sharing Sargassum Lessons Learned from the SargAdapt Project
- 20:50: **Genesis Familia***. Microplastics in *Caranx hippos* and *Centropomus undecimalis* in the Colombian Caribbean



STATION 1B: Protected Areas & Species

- 20:00: **Tremaine Bowman***. Salt River: The Nursery of Portland Bight Protected Area
- 20:10: **Virginia Burns-Perez**. SMART Strategies for Sustainable Seas: Strengthening Marine Protected Areas Management through Enhanced Fisheries Data Collection at Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve
- 20:20: **Addiel U. Perez**. Common perspectives and new paradigms in coastal fisheries and protected areas conservation and management in Belize and southern Mexico
- 20:30: **Sepp Haukebo**. Are marine protected areas effective for flats fishes conservation?
- 20:40: **Manuel Coffill-Rivera***. Reproductive biology of two groupers in Alabama, USA

STATION 2B: Reefs & Associated Species

- 20:00: **Christy Pattengill-Semmens**. Blue CitSci: Leveraging citizen science for a better understanding of the oceans
- 20:10: **Daniel Lippi**. Post-release survival and home range of coral reef fish in a National Marine Sanctuary using acoustic telemetry
- 20:20: **Someira Zambrano**. Monitoring parrotfish assemblages in the Dominican Republic: the value of a program to inform management decisions
- 20:30: **Brian Walker**. Parrotfish populations across Florida's Coral Reef Tract
- 20:40: **James Reinhardt**. Restoration benefits of reducing post-release mortality in reef fish using fish descender devices
- 20:50: **Natalia Hurtado Lopez**. Rearing long spined sea urchins (*Diadema antillarum*) as a step towards ecological restoration in South Eleuthera reefs

STATION 3B: Small Scale Fisheries & Governance

- 20:00: **Julián Andrés Álvarez Restrepo***. The Law of the Anthropocean: New Legal Framework for the Governance of IUU Fishing in the Caribbean
- 20:10: **Reilee Gunsher**. USVI fisher vulnerability assessment: how hurricanes and a global pandemic impacted fisher socio-economic resilience.
- 20:20: **Patrick McConney**. Fisherfolk approaches to pursuing blue, social and climate justice in small-scale fisheries in Barbados
- 20:30: **Henri Valles**. Overview Of The State Of Anchored Fishing Aggregating Device (Afad) Fisheries In The Caribbean Region: Results Of A Regional Survey
- 20:40: **Edward Butler**. Conserving Tropical Marine Ecosystems in the Turks and Caicos Islands Through Science-Based Fisheries Management
- 20:50: **Marta Calosso**. Resilience of fisheries in the face of climate change and socio-economic uncertainty in the Turks and Caicos Islands



STATION 4B: Science & Innovation

- 20:00: **J r me Baudrier**. Innovative data collection in French lesser Antilles to improve biological knowledge of demersal fish stocks
- 20:10: **Jalisa King**. Mapping of underutilized fish parts ('fish waste') generation for informed policy and investment in the development of products for direct or indirect human consumption in Barbados
- 20:20: **Giselle Deane**. Using Low-Cost Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to Map Habitat Changes in a Bahamian National Park
- 20:30: **Adelaide Spain**. Predicting the Future Implications of Offshore Wind in the Gulf of Mexico
- 20:40: **Lou Frott **. Nature-Based Solutions for adapting to climate change: practical actions of the Guadeloupe Port Authority.

STATION 5B: Corals, Artificial Reefs & Invasive Species

- 20:00: **Gimel Morley**. Establishing a Coral Gene Bank facility in The Bahamas
- 20:10: **Will Greene**. A comprehensive pipeline for monitoring coral reefs using underwater photogrammetry / large area imaging (LAI)
- 20:20: **Alex Fogg**. Using photogrammetry to monitor changes to artificial reef habitat in Destin - Fort Walton Beach, Florida
- 20:30: **Alex Fogg**. Antigua Open Lionfish Tournament: Using Lionfish Removal Events to Establish Baseline Population Structure and Monitoring
- 20:40: **Alexa Bryant**. Testing the Efficacy of Lionfish Traps in the Florida Keys
- 20:50: **Monica Powers**. Habitat use of Invasive Lionfish in the northcentral Gulf of Mexico

STATION 6B: Miscellaneous

- 20:00: **Sean Powers**. Restoring habitat for juvenile Red Snapper along the inner continental shelf
- 20:10: **Landes Randall**. Coastal-Estuarine Connectivity of Southern Flounder from Two Subtropical Estuaries
- 20:20: **Sierrah Mueller**. Habitat Utilization and Preferences of a Data-Deficient Parrotfish Species, Redtail Parrotfish (*Sparisoma chrysopterygum*), in the US Caribbean
- 20:30: **Charlotte Dromard**. Monitoring agricultural pollution from the catchment area to coastal areas
- 20:40: **Natalie Lord**. Caribbean Ocean Acidification Capacity Building And Needs Based Assessment



WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

SPECIAL SESSION | 8:00 - 9:20 (EST)

A Vision for Advancing Fisheries Management in the Gulf and Caribbean Region: Navigating an uncertain Future Using Adaptive Implementable Management | *Sponsored by: NOAA, The Nature Conservancy, GCFI*

- 8:00 **Josh Nowlis** Developing practical and goal-oriented fisheries management systems through adaptive implementable management
- 8:10 **William Michaels** Approaches and future direction to address data-limited situations for sustainable marine resources in the Gulf and Caribbean region.
- 8:20 **Steve Meyers** Novel approaches to incorporate human dimensions and fisheries stock assessments for ecosystem based sustainable marine resources
- 8:30 **Jason Cope** Starting from somewhere: An example from Indonesia of developing a harvest strategy in a data- and capacity-limited fishery.
- 8:40 **Felicity Burrows** Utilizing FishPath to support data limited fisheries in the Bahamas
- 8:50 **Kim Baldwin** Drones to the Rescue: Participatory Mapping for the Oceans Decade
- 9:00 **Carolina Garcia-Valencia (V)** Connecting users and data from the oceans in the region to the whole world: OceanInfoHUB Latin America and the Caribbean node
- 9:10 **Ana Carolina Peralta** Best practices for measuring marine biodiversity for wise management of local and regional fisheries

SARGASSUM | 9:25 - 10:15 (EST)

- 9:25 **Paola Diaz (V)*** The Sargassum Podcast: an overview of opportunities and challenges in science communication
- 9:35 **Evelyn Raquel Salas-Acosta (V)** Sargassum Champions Course: connecting community leaders through an online course
- 9:45 **Mathilde Teyssier** Development of tools for the implementation of a long-term monitoring of Sargassum influx impacts on Martinican coastal ecosystems
- 9:55 **Donald Johnson** Pelagic Sargassum pathways into nearshore waters of the Northern Gulf of Mexico
- 10:05 **Amélia Chatagnon** Monitoring regenerated nitrogen in reef food webs following Sargassum mass strandings

COFFEE BREAK | 10:15 - 10:40 (EST)



WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

INVERTEBRATES | 10:40 - 12:30 (EST)

- 10:40 **Nicholas Farmer** Limiting factors for queen conch (*Lobatus gigas*) reproduction: A simulation-based evaluation
- 10:50 **Krista Sherman** Queen Conch Habitat & Stock Assessment Of East Grand Bahama
- 11:00 **Catherine Booker** Community-Based Mobile Conch Hatchery in Moriah Harbour Cay National Park, Exuma, The Bahamas
- 11:10 **Stephen Nimrod (V)** Comparing Historical and Recently Harvested Queen Conch (*Lobatus gigas*) Populations Using Discarded Empty Shells as a Proxy Measure of Age at the Woburn Bay and Hog Island Sites in Southern Grenada, West Indies
- 11:20 **Megan Davis** Key Factors for Successful Queen Conch and Sea Vegetable Aquaculture in Puerto Rico
- 11:30 **Jewel BENEBY** Utilizing Queen Conch Waste Products to Increase Socioeconomic Benefits in Local Fishing communities in The Bahamas
- 11:40 **Mandy Karnauskas** Exploitation-driven changes in the population connectivity of Queen Conch (*Aliger gigas*)
- 11:50 **Richard Appeldoorn** Before Determining the Density Threshold For Queen Conch Reproduction, Define "Density"
- 12:00 **Tom Matthews** Availability of post-larvae for grow-out aquaculture of the Caribbean spiny lobster *Panulirus argus*, in Florida, U.S.A.
- 12:10 **Eric Schneider** An overview of stone crab fishery research in The Bahamas
- 12:20 **Guillermo Galvis** Abundance and Distribution of Sea Cucumber in the Caribbean Of Guatemala

LUNCH BREAK | 12:30 (EST)

FIELD TRIPS | 14:00 - 18:00 (EST)

CINEFISH FILM FESTIVAL | 19:30 - 21:00 (EST)

Atlantis Movie Theatre



THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

SPECIAL SESSION: MPA MONITORING | 8:00 - 10:00 (EST)

- 8:00 **Patricia Richards Kramer** MPA Networks and Restoration Roadmaps: Novel links for the rescue and rebuilding of disease-depleted Caribbean coral and herbivore populations
- 8:10 **Rita Sellares-Blasco** MONITOREA: planning and designing a monitoring network for highly-connected mangroves, seagrasses and coral reef ecosystems in the Dominican Republic
- 8:20 **Mary Allen** Evidence-based decision-making across marine policy realms needs SocMon Caribbean
- 8:30 **Melanie McField** Coral Reef Monitoring in the Mesoamerican Reef: Collaboration, Continuity and Costs
- 8:40 **Christophe Blazy** Improving long-term coral reef monitoring and data management in the WCR: GCRMN-Caribbean accomplishments and next steps
- 8:50 **Laura Jay Grove** Leveraging a long-term monitoring dataset to maximize resources and improve ecological insights
- 9:00 **Discussion**

COFFEE BREAK | 9:40 - 10:00 (EST)

SPECIAL SESSION: MPA NETWORKS | 10:00 - 11:30

- 10:00 **Emma Doyle** The role of the MPACoast network in building capacity for monitoring and marine protected area management in the Caribbean
- 10:10 **Orisha Joseph** Transboundary coral reef monitoring by the Grenadines Network of Marine Protected Areas
- 10:20 **Maria Canals Ventín** Networks of MPA managers partnership - Connecting for a better ocean protection
- 10:30 **Lucie Labbouz** Towards a network of "SPAW" protected areas managers
- 10:40 **Katie Thompson** RedGolfo: The Gulf of Mexico Marine Protected Area Network
- 10:50 **Discussion**

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS | 11:30 - 12:30

- 11:30 **Emma Doyle** An update on marine protected area management capacity in the Caribbean, 2011-2023
- 11:40 **Eugenia Thomas (V)*** A novel approach to assess coral reef health at Buccoo Reef, Tobago using the FORAM Index
- 11:50 **Andres Aldana** Advancing Marine Surveillance with M2 Radar within the Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve
- 12:00 **Manoj Shrivani** Changes in stakeholder views on the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary from 1995-2023: A long-term analysis of human dimensions in marine protected areas
- 12:10 **Martin Russell** Reefs and Islands of the Coral Sea Marine Park: A Managers Tour
- 12:20 **Dorka Cobian Hansel Caballero-Aragón** Guanahacabibes National Park: Research, monitoring and management for the conservation of coral reefs

LUNCH BREAK | 12:30 - 14:00 (EST)



THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

GCFI MEMBERSHIP MEETING | 14:00 - 14:45 (EST)

MARINE LITTER | 15:00 - 15:50 (EST)

- 15:00 **Kristal Ambrose** Contextual Barriers facing Caribbean SIDS in the global governance of marine debris and plastic pollution
- 15:10 **Laura Paola Fragozo Velásquez (V)** Citizen science as a management strategy for marine litter in the biosphere reserve of Cienaga Grande de Santa Marta, Colombian Caribbean
- 15:20 **Roxanne Graham** Understanding the Marine Litter Issue in the Windward Islands: Insights and Proposals from the literature and key informants.
- 15:30 **Tricia Lovell** ALDFG in Eastern Caribbean fisheries: drivers, challenges and opportunities for improved governance
- 15:40 **Dalila Aldana Aranda** Microplastics contamination in Sargassum in the Mexican Caribbean
- 15:50 **Paulita Bennett-Martin** Plastic Solutions Academy - Belize City

COFFEE BREAK | 16:00 - 16:30 (EST)

REEF FISHERIES (16:30 - 17:40)

- 16:30 **Ana Giro Petersen** Immature Fish Size and Reduced Biomass indicate overfishing of the Mesoamerican Reef
- 16:40 **Krista Sherman** Temporal And spatial patterns Of Nassau Grouper in The Bahamas
- 16:50 **Jack Johnson** Advances in aquaculture of the tripletail *Lobotes surinamensi*
- 17:00 **Adam Jung*** Comparison between Spherical Baited Remote Underwater Video BRUV (SBRUV) and Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) surveys in offshore Alabama
- 17:10 **Hailey Smith** Spatially-explicit fishermen's knowledge elicited through participatory mapping informs co-management of reef fish species
- 17:20 **Holden Harris** Development and applications of a U.S. Gulf of Mexico ecosystem model
- 17:30 **Sergio D. Guendulain-García** Sexual or asexual, that is the question: a quantitative comparison of two common coral propagation techniques
- 17:40 **Nicholas Haddad**. Return 'Em Right: An Integrated Learning Platform to Sustain Gulf of Mexico Reef Fisheries.

BANQUET & BAHAMIAN CLOSING CEREMONY | 19:00 - 22:00



FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

HABITATS & ECOSYSTEMS 8:00 - 9:45 (EST)

- 8:00 **Sam Marshall** Using multispectral drone imagery to understand changes in mangrove health over time
- 8:10 **Will Greene** Developing a multispectral drone mapping system to rapidly assess coral reef health in shallow water environments of The Bahamas
- 8:20 **Tafari Smith** Impact of coastal development on nearshore fishes and fisheries habitats: Case study of marina construction on Great Exuma
- 8:30 **Marie-Louise Felix** Evaluation of the status, use and threats of coastal ecosystems in Saint Lucia
- 8:40 **Charlotte Dunn** Slower ship speed in the Bahamas due to COVID-19 produces a dramatic reduction in ocean sound levels
- 8:50 **Jennifer Wright** Data development for marine spatial planning in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands: Insights from US Caribbean workshops

OFFSHORE ENERGY | 9:20 - 10:00 (EST)

- 9:20 **Ami Everett** FishLAT (Fisheries Location Assessment Technology): Approaching the offshore energy transition from a fisheries perspective
- 9:30 **Willem Klajbor** Integrated ecosystem assessments and offshore wind: Examples from the Gulf of Mexico and other regions
- 9:40 **Read Hendon** Science Planning for Offshore Wind Development in the Southeastern United States and U.S. Caribbean
- 9:50 **James Morris** Siting offshore wind: How NOAA is supporting BOEM, stakeholders, and the offshore wind industry with regional spatial modelling

COFFEE BREAK | 10:00 - 10:30 (EST)

MARINE MEGAFUNA | 10:30 - 11:30

- 10:30 **Matthew Smukall** Thirty-five years of tiger shark *Galeocerdo cuvier* relative abundance near Bimini, Bahamas, and the Southeastern United States with a comparison across jurisdictional bounds
- 10:40 **Kelly Kingon** Hammerhead catch trends in Trinidad over the past 7 years
- 10:50 **Emmanuel Maldonado*** Stakeholder analysis regarding shark and stingray fishery markets in Puerto Rico
- 11:00 **Chelsea Black*** The use of satellite telemetry to monitor and predict habitat use and migration corridors of highly mobile shark species
- 11:10 **Diane Claridge** First Bahamian Marine Mammal Recovery Plan drafted to mitigate impacts of climate change on coastal dolphins
- 11:20 **Jamie Bolaños-Jiminez** Distribution of beaked whales (Odontoceti: Ziphiidae) in the Wider Caribbean Region

LUNCH BREAK | 11:30 - 13:30 (EST)



FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

STONY CORAL TISSUE LOSS DISEASE | 13:30 - 14:30 (EST)

- 13:30 **Alizee Zimmerman** Genetic Rescue & Biodiverse Restoration of Stony Corals
- 13:40 **Meghyn Fountain** Understanding antibiotic treatment effectiveness for Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease with a novel underwater photogrammetry pipeline
- 13:50 **Jennifer Stein** Changes in abundance and size distribution of SCTLD-susceptible coral species within the Disturbance Response Monitoring dataset in the Florida Keys
- 14:00 **Autumn Zwiernik*** Review of hard coral health in the wake of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease in Admiral Cockburn National Park, Turks and Caicos Islands
- 14:10 **Aldo Croquer** Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease and hurricane Fiona: different stressors trigger the rapid decline of a healthy reef in Samana, Dominican Republic
- 14:20 **Valeria Pizarro** Coral community changes after three years of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (New Providence, The Bahamas)

FISH SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS | 14:30 - 15:30 (EST)

- 14:30 **Ami Everett** Using passive acoustic data to better understand the reproductive behavior and abundance patterns of Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) over the course of their ongoing population recovery at the Grammanik Bank, USVI.
- 14:40 **Richard Nemeth** Quasi ecosystem-based fisheries management, stochastic recruitment and the behavioral changes associated with the recovery of Nassau Grouper in the U. S. Virgin Islands
- 14:50 **Myles Phillips** Fish Spawning Aggregation Management Plan takes off
- 15:00 **John Claydon** Historical fishery targeting spawning migrations of yellowfin grouper (*Mycteroperca venenosa*) in the Turks and Caicos Islands
- 15:10 **James Locascio** Absolute abundance estimates of Atlantic Goliath Grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) on spawning aggregation sites
- 15:20 **Brice Semmens** Evidence of cultural reorganization in a recovering population of an endangered reef fish

COFFEE BREAK | 15:30 - 16:00 (EST)

FILM: TREASURE OF THE CARIBBEAN | 16:00 - 17:00 (EST)

GCFI76 CLOSING & AWARDS CEREMONY | 17:00 - 18:00 (EST)



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