



First Announcement &
Call For Abstracts

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GCFI77 | 4 - 8 NOVEMBER, 2024 | GUADELOUPE

GCFI77: Guadeloupe, FWI

GCFI is pleased to announce that the 77th Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI77) will be held in Guadeloupe, French West Indies from 4 - 8 November 2024

GCFI is partnering with The Regional Council of Guadeloupe, to host GCFI77.

Conference Theme

The theme of this year's conference is **“Marine ecosystems under pressure: reduction, reinforcement and reconciliation to improve human populations quality of life”**. Join us in Guadeloupe, French West Indies, to exchange ideas and perspectives about new research, emerging issues, scientific breakthroughs, and governance related to fisheries science, industry, conservation, and management. As we look forward to sustainable fisheries, it is necessary to examine options, paths, and barriers. Considering this, we are preparing a program composed of an opening plenary, general sessions, workshops, and technical sessions related to sustainability, fish and aquatic ecosystems, fisheries and society, and innovations in fisheries. We will bring together experts, academics, policymakers, managers, and relevant organizations interested in marine issues, natural resources, sustainable fisheries, and tourism.

Venue

The La Creole Beach Hotel & Spa, a lush, oceanside resort located near the border that separates Grande-Terre and Basse-Terre, will serve as the main venue for GCFI77. Please check the GCFI77 conference website for more details on rates and accommodations as these will be updated as information is available.



Conference App

GCFI will be once again utilizing Whova, our Conference App, which can help improve networking and facilitate connections between in-person and virtual participants. Attendees can create profiles, communicate with and schedule meetups with other attendees (in-person or virtually) whilst also being able to create personalised agendas, take notes, share documents, and much more.

Call for Abstracts: Technical, Special and Poster Presentations

Abstracts for GCFI 77 are due **15 June 2024**. Abstracts will be accepted in English, French, and Spanish. Abstracts are only required in one of the three languages; but titles must be in all three languages and must not exceed 250 words (275 for Spanish and French). Abstracts must be submitted using 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 July 2024. 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.

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
- Socio-economic
 - Ecological and socio-economic impacts on the fisheries sector
 - Cooperation in the Caribbean: Large and small actions, results, and challenges.
 - Gender in fisheries
- Reefs and associated ecosystems fisheries
 - Shallow and deep reef fishes
 - Snapper and grouper fisheries
 - Fish spawning aggregations
 - Lionfish and other invasive species
 - Queen conch, spiny lobster, and other invertebrates
- 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
 - Essential fish habitats
 - Integrated coastal management
 - Climate change science and adaptation
 - Sargassum
- Aquaculture
- Marine Litter/Debris
- Science and Innovation
- Vision of the UN Ocean Decade



GCFI Student Awards

Student Awards for Academic Achievement

GCFI is awarding \$1,500 scholarships to the best oral and poster presentations (. 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. 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 two travel awards of US\$750 each to eligible students to help offset travel costs to GCFI76. The deadline for students to apply for this award is **June 15, 2024**. Complete instructions and eligibility requirements are on the GCFI Student Travel Awards web page. Students will be notified of acceptance/rejection of their application by July, 2024. Students may apply for a travel award and for consideration for the Student Achievement Award in the same year. Students who received the GCFI75 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 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 is **June 15, 2024** and students will be notified of acceptance/rejection by July 2024. Instructions and eligibility requirements are on the Ron Schmied Scholarship page. Students may apply for the Scholarship and be considered 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 but will only receive one award.

SCRFA Award

Science and Conservation of Fish Aggregations (SCRFA) will offer a Travel Award of US\$800 to a student to attend GCFI77. 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. Applications (including abstracts and supporting paperwork) should be submitted by **June 15, 2024** to Martin Russell (SCRFA Chair) martinrussell99@gmail.com

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 GCFI77. 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 GCFI77 in Guadeloupe

You are invited to submit award nominations to the GMA committee at gma@gcfi.org. All nominations must be received by 15 August 2024 and nominators are welcome to request further information and guidance. Background information on the GMA, nomination forms with award criteria, and details of the process are available on the [Gladding Memorial Award webpage](#).

Fishers Forum & Fishers Field Trip

The Fisheries for Fishers Forum comprises a themed session in the main conference ending in the presentation of the Gladding Memorial Award and a field trip especially for fishers. Details of the Fisher Forum session and Fishers field trip will be provided in the second GCFI77 announcement.

Conference Field Trips

On the afternoon of Wednesday 8 November, you will have the opportunity to 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 field trips

CINEFISH Film Festival

Are you interested in submitting a short film for this year's CINEFISH Film Festival at GCFI77? If so, please [complete this form](#) with the following information.

- 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)

For more information please contact: fadilah.ali@gcfi.org.

Visa Application

For GCFI 77, all participants travelling by sea or air will require a passport or other accepted official form of identification to enter the country. Participants from some countries will require visas to travel to Guadeloupe, France. Please contact your local Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Immigration Department for inquiries. Remember, advance planning can smooth your visa application process. Apply for your visa well in advance of your travel!

More information is available [here](#). To confirm whether you need a visa, please check [here](#).

OTHER RESOURCES

Source: [Click here to view link](#)

Comité du Tourisme des Iles de Guadeloupe
5 Square de la Banque,
B.P. 555,
Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, F.W.I.
Tel 590-590-82-09-30 Fax 590-590-83-89-22

The French Government Embassy
4101 Reservoir Road NW
Washington DC 20007
Tel 202-944-6000

French Government Tourist Office (Maison de la France)
444 Madison Ave. 16th floor, New York NY 10022
Tel: (212) 838.7800 - Fax: (212) 838.7855

**We look forward to seeing you in
Guadeloupe, FWI for GCFI77!**