

GCFI78

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Partnering for Oceans

Merging Ocean, Climate, and
Biodiversity Efforts Through
Regional Marine Data and Innovation

Cartagena, Colombia

October 27 - 31, 2025

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 UNESCO-IOC Regional Secretariat for IOCARIBE and the UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ Project, to co-host GCFI78. GCFI78 is an Endorsed Decade Action Program with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The theme for the Conference is 'Partnering for the Oceans: Merging Ocean, Climate, and Biodiversity Efforts Through Regional Marine Data and Innovation'.



VENUE & HOST COUNTRY

El Hotel Caribe by Faranda Grand will serve as the main venue for GCFI78 in Cartagena, Colombia. Designed by the Cuban architect Manuel José Carrerá Machado, this hotel offers a semi-Olympic outdoor swimming pool, elegant architecture, along with other amenities. This boutique jewel is located in the heart of the historic Walled City of Cartagena and merges contemporary comfort with colonial charm, providing a unique experience in the Colombian Caribbean. Brimming with history and showcasing a neocolonial design, the hotel was the area's first beach resort. The hotel has maintained its historical charm, from vintage lamps and bronze locks to the original elevator from the 1940s.

CONFERENCE APP - WHOVA

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. The app will also be used to provide simultaneous interpretation. **Please remember to bring your personal headsets (headphones, ear buds, etc).**

REGISTRATION & TIME ZONE

Registration will take place at the space outside the conference room between 16:00 - 18:00 on Sunday 26 October and daily from 7:30.

All times listed within this program are Local Colombia Time (Colombia Time Zone - COT | GMT-5)



MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER

GCFI78 OPENING CEREMONY | 8:00 - 9:00

Mistress of Ceremonies: **Fadilah Ali**, GCFI Interim Executive Director

OPENING REMARKS

- **Eduardo Boné-Morón**, Chairman, Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
- **Angelo Bacci**, Director General de la Corporación Autonoma Regional del Canal del Dique, CARDIQUE, Cartagena, Colombia
- **Erick Richard Castro Gonzalez**, Ejecutivo Principal, CAF -Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina y el Caribe, Bogota, D.C., Capital District, Colombia
- **Patrick Debels**, Regional Coordinator, UNDP/GEF/UNOPS PROCARIBE+ Project
- **Lorna Inniss**, Head of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/UNESCO) Regional Secretariat for IOCARIBE
- **Alejandro Acosta**: Program Chair, Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute



THE LEROY CRESWELL MEMORIAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS (9:00)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ALISON CLAUSEN Deputy Global Coordinator of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development at IOC-UNESCO

GCFI is pleased to announce that the Feature Keynote Address of the 78th Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI78) will be delivered by Alison Clausen on 'Ocean Knowledge for Action in the Caribbean - Looking Forward to the Next Five Years of the Ocean Decade'.

Alison Clausen is the Deputy Global Coordinator of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development at IOC-UNESCO. She joined IOC as a programme specialist in 2019 with over twenty-five years professional experience in program and project development and management in the areas of marine conservation, marine policy, and climate change adaptation. Before joining IOC she was based in Madagascar, where she worked throughout the Western Indian Ocean region for the World Bank and most recently as the Regional Director for the Madagascar and Western Indian Ocean program of the Wildlife Conservation Society. Prior to that she lived in Vietnam where she worked through South East Asia for a range of development banks, UN agencies, and NGO partners.

OPENING BELL | 9:45

COFFEE BREAK | 10:00 - 10:30



MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER

WORKSHOP: Strengthening Networks for the Advancement of Comprehensive Sargassum Management | By Invitation Only
10:30 - 16:00 - Hosted by CAF - Development Bank of Latin America. Contact: Martha Prada (pradamc@gmail.com)



OCEAN DECADE SPECIAL SESSION | 10:30 - 12:30



Sub-Commission for the Caribbean
and Adjacent Regions

Subcomisión para el Caribe y
Regiones Adyacentes



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Panel Discussion 1: Moderated by Alison Clausen

- 10:30 **Alejandro Acosta**: Advancing Sustainable Fisheries in the Caribbean: The Role and Future Directions of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)
- 10:35 **Mairead O'Donovan**: Resilience in the Tropical Americas and Caribbean (TAC) Region Through Integrated Solutions and Community Engagement
- 10:40 **Laura Carrillo (V)**: Building Regional Partnerships for Marine Heatwave Preparedness in the Caribbean: A Co-Design Approach
- 10:45 **Scott Glenn (V)**: The GOOS Co-Design Tropical Cyclone Exemplar: Preliminary Results from the 2025 Hurricane Season Caribbean Pilot Study
- 10:50 **Christopher Cusack**: FVON-Caribe: Building a Fishing Vessel Ocean Observing Network to Improve Early Warning Systems and Support Resilient Fisheries across the Caribbean
- 10:55 **Sepp Haukebo**: The Bahamian Fishing Vessel Ocean Observation Network: Improving Hurricane Forecasting and Community Resilience Across the Region
- 11:00 **Moderated Discussion and Questions**

Panel Discussion 2: Moderated by Lorna Innis

- 11:35 **Margarita Lopez**: Data Sharing Across the Ocean Decade
- 11:40 **Johana Herrera Arango**: Mapping The Sea as a Lived Space: Data, Seascapes and Afro-Descendant Livelihoods in the Greater Caribbean
- 11:45 **Carlos Pacheco**: Colombia Leading the Ocean Decade: Continuous Monitoring of Marine Water Quality and Microplastics REDCAM
- 11:50 **Addiel Perez**: Conflict Resolution Strategic Plan for Socio-Ecological Systems in the Yucatán Peninsula as a Model for Improved Conservation and Management of Coastal and Ocean Resources in Protected Areas
- 11:55 **Carolina Garcia**: ADAPT Ocean Best Practices Training Course
- 12:00 **Moderated Discussion and Questions**



MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER

LUNCH BREAK | 12:30 - 14:00

FOCUS GROUP | 12:30 - 15:00 - Invitation Only

This event is to help design the International Marine Protected Area Seminar. For more information, contact Ryan Finchum (Ryan.Finchum@colostate.edu)

SMALL SCALE FISHERIES SESSION | 14:00 - 16:00

- 14:00 **Adriana Santos Martínez**: Artisanal Fisheries in Colombia: TBTI Collaborative Research Towards Sustainability
- 14:15 **William Harford**: Fishkit: Interactive Analysis Tools for Managing Small-Scale Fisheries
- 14:30 **Sepp Haukebo**: A Feasibility Study for Transitioning Small-Scale Vessels In The Bahamas To Electric Outboards
- 14:45 **Gloria Perera Acevedo**: Community-based Monitoring and Women's Leadership for Fisheries Recovery in Yucatán
- 15:00 **Marta C Calosso**: Promoting Market Access, Equity, and Sustainability through an Inclusive Mobile App for Small-Scale Fishers
- 15:15 **Héctor Manuel Martínez Viloria**: Commercial Alliance Model Between Business and Artisanal Fishermen Combining Production and Conservation in the Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta, Colombia
- 15:30 **Gabriela Alejandra Cuevas Gomez**: Solutions From The Sea: Innovation and Resilience in Latin American and Caribbean Fishing Communities
- 15:45 **Peter Daniel Gibbs (V)**: Current Status of the Sport Fishery in Barbados: Description and Current Contribution to the Fishing Industry

COFFEE BREAK | 16:00 - 16:30

FISHERS FORUM | 16:30 - 18:00

CARIBBEAN MPA FINANCE FACILITY DESIGN WORKSHOP |

16:30 - 20:00 | Invitation Only | Hosted by CBF and BES Lab |

Contact Fabian Kyne: fkayne@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org (CBF) or Stephanie Valdés Berón: beronsv@gmail.com (BES Lab)



OPENING RECEPTION | 19:00 - 20:30

Get to know your fellow attendees! Join us for an Informal reception - light snacks included



TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER

MANAGEMENT SESSION | 8:00 - 10:00

- 8:00 **Juan Fernando Carrascal**: Offshore Wind Energy Development and Traditional Fisheries: Perspectives and Challenges in Colombia and Brazil
- 8:15 **Jesús Manuel Jiménez**: Collective Action for Participatory Fisheries Management in Colombia: Perspectives and Reflections from Coastal Communities of the Caribbean And the Pacific
- 8:30 **Susana Perera Valderrama**: 25 Years Of The Spaw Protocol: Achievements and Contributions to Marine Conservation in The Wider Caribbean
- 8:45 **Silja Ramirez**: Strategic Alliance for a Sustainable Marine-Coastal Future
- 9:00 **Vania Henriquez**: Design of Alternative Management Procedures for Black Grouper (*Mycteroperca bonaci*) Fisheries in the U.S. Southeastern Region.
- 9:15 **Luis Manjarres**: The Trajectory and Challenges of Fisheries Management in Colombia: A Critical Perspective from a Scientific and Global Perspective
- 9:30 **John Claydon**: Socio-Economic Consequences of Queen Conch Fishery Management Actions In The Turks And Caicos Islands
- 9:45 **Fadilah Ali**: Reflections on a Collaborative Program to Support The Caribbean Fisheries Resource Management Sector

COFFEE BREAK | 10:00 - 10:30

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS SESSION | 10:30 - 12:15

- 10:30 **Milena Hernandez Ortiz**: Toward the Pem Local View for Management Solutions: Contributions of Marine Spatial Planning to Local Zoning in Cartagena Bay, Colombia
- 10:45 **Diogo Moreira**: Modeling Seasonal Sediment Plumes in the Rosario and San Bernardo Archipelago's Marine Protected Area, Colombia
- 11:00 **Yudy Katherine Guzman Peña**: Participatory Monitoring as a Foundation for the Implementation of Conservation Agreements in The El Corchal "El Mono Hernández" Wildlife Sanctuary, Colombian Caribbean.
- 11:15 **Daavia Nesbitt**: Seahorse National Park: Exploring the Benthic Environment of Sweeting's Pond
- 11:30 **Laurel Field***: Estimating Cumulative Impacts to the Bonaire National Marine Park to Guide Management Under Climate Change
- 11:45 **Dorka Cobian Rojas**: Using Baited Remote Underwater Video Surveys (BRUVs) to Analyze the Structure of Predators in Guanahacabibes National Park, Cuba
- 12:00 **Alexandra Pineda-Muñoz**: Small Reefs, Big Potential: Climate-Resilient *Acropora palmata* and the Future of Coral Conservation

LUNCH BREAK | 12:15 - 14:00

WEALTH UNTOLD FILM SCREENING | 12:30 - 14:00

GCFI MEMBERSHIP MEETING | 14:00 - 15:00

All are welcome!

FISHERS FIELD TRIP | 14:00 - 18:00



TUESDAY 28TH OCTOBER

THIRD MEETING OF THE MPA NETWORKS OF THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION | 15:00 - 18:00.

By Invitation Only | Hosted by UNEP-CEP.

For more information please contact susana.pereravalderrama@un.org

This event is made possible through support from:



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GEM

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MEGAFAUNA | 15:00 - 15:45

- 15:00 **Lucie Bauer**: Let's Fish Together! A Regional Call for Caribbean Cooperation for Marine Megafauna Conservation: Launch of the CAMAC2 project
- 15:15 **Jamie Aquino**: Marine Megafauna Monitoring Network: A Conservation Solution for Haiti's Small-Scale Fishers
- 15:30 **Amélie Tagliaferro**: SPAW RAC in Fisheries Interaction with Megafauna Assessment and Mitigation

COFFEE BREAK | 15:45 - 16:15

GOVERNANCE | 16:15 - 18:00

- 16:15 **Pachancia Knowles**: Marine Biodiversity and Coastal Development: a case study
- 16:30 **Amdeep Sanghera**: The Community Voice Method – Engaging Caribbean Communities in Development of Marine Conservation Policy
- 16:45 **Jenniffer Alejandrina García Dardón**: Participatory Development of a Network of Fisheries Recovery Zones: A Collaborative Governance Strategy for Coastal Resilience in the Guatemalan Caribbean
- 17:00 **Paloma Juárez Camargo***: Fragmented Communities, Weak Governance: Assessing Social Cohesion for Sustainable Fisheries of the Southeastern Gulf of Mexico
- 17:15 **Hilayalit Rodríguez Cruz**: Strengthening Environmental Governance in the Ciénaga grande de Santa Marta: An Intercultural Approach with the Arhuaco and Kogui Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.
- 17:30 **Yvette Diei Ouadi**: Stepping Up the Sustainable Management of our Shared Living Marine Resources and Healthy Oceans: the Strategic Reorientation of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) as a Central Process for Improved Regional Ocean Governance
- 17:45 **Patrick Debels**: The Wider Caribbean Ocean Coordination Mechanism and the Development of a Regional Marine Data, Information, and Knowledge Management Blueprint.

POSTER SESSION | 19:00 - 21:00



STATION 1A: Abiotic Factors

- 19:00 **Hanna-May Malahel***: Using caged macroalgae to monitor mineral pollution in Guadeloupe (Lesser Antilles)
- 19:15 **Leite Costa Iksandar**: Tracking environmental changes: high-frequency dynamics of key abiotic factors in a tropical estuary.
- 19:30 **Charlotte Dromard**: Impact of Sargassum on mangrove's biodiversity in Guadeloupe (Lesser Antilles)
- 19:45 **Dylan Diaz**: Impact and Resilience in Fisheries Facing the Threat of HABs: A Socio-Ecological Analysis in Northern Yucatán

STATION 2A: Small Scale Fisheries

- 19:00 **Jennifer Judith Peniche Burgos**: Blue economy as a sustainability strategy In fishing communities of Yucatán
- 19:15 **Rovindra Lakenarine***: Characterization of small-scale net fisheries off the coast of Guyana
- 19:30 **Andres Molina**: Variations in taxonomic diversity associated with artisanal fishing in the Gulf of Salamanca, Colombian Caribbean
- 19:45 **Nikita Johnson McBride V**: Voices of change: water, culture, & collective action

STATION 3A: Habitats

- 19:00 **Paula Lewis**: Post-Beryl recovery of the Levera wetland protected area
- 19:15 **Annabel Cox**: Developing best practices: a study protocol of elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*) restoration and monitoring In Barbados
- 19:30 **Charlotte Dorville**: From Martinique to the Wider Caribbean: optimizing mangrove restoration through peer-to-peer exchange and community engagement
- 19:45 **Lindy Knowles**: Artificial habitats, invertebrates, and Bonefish Pond National Park: A look at species diversity within a national park system using Witham Collectors

STATION 4A: Megafauna

- 19:00 **Alba Caamaño**: Sea Turtle Conservation in the Dominican Republic (2021–2025): Monitoring, Protection, and Inclusion of Coastal Communities.
- 19:15 **Andrea Carolina Contreras Ceballos**: Impact of artisanal fishing on elasmobranch populations in the Colombian Caribbean
- 19:30 **Jeremy Higgs**: The reproductive biology of the bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*) in the northern Gulf of Mexico
- 19:45 **Ana Carolina Hernandez-Oquet**: Drone-based monitoring of Greater Caribbean Manatee in a marina-influenced habitat: insights for conservation and community engagement in Cap Cana, Dominican Republic

STATION 5A: Ocean Decade

- 19:00 **Margarita López-Velosa**: Tools for data sharing across the UN Ocean Decade
- 19:15 **Alejandro Rojas Aldana**: Advancing marine spatial planning in the Caribbean: IOCARIIBE's strategic actions

STATION 1B: Fish Research

- 20:00 **Manuel Coffill-Rivera***: Extreme environmental conditions are associated with poor recruitment of an estuarine sportfish
- 20:15 **Axelle Lefaucher**: TRACE: Overview of first acoustic telemetry data
- 20:30 **Eduardo R. Garcia**: Stock assessment and management strategies of *Xiphopenaeus kroyeri* caught with artisanal trawl nets in the Gulf of Salamanca, Colombia
- 20:45 **Adriana Santos Martínez**: Variation in the structure of the fish assemblage associated with two sites on the San Andrés Island barrier reef, with different levels of impact.

STATION 2B: Environmental Management

- 20:00 **Josselyn Bryan**: Ecological and behavioural traits of the invasive *Pterois volitans* in the reef environments of Providencia Island.
- 20:15 **Adriana Santos Martínez**: Variation in the structure of the fish assemblage associated with two sites on the San Andrés Island barrier reef, with different levels of impact.
- 20:30 **Victor Sho**: Using participatory mapping to support resource allocation and management in Belize's data limited recreational fishery
- 20:45 **Ginelle Brown**: Partnering for resilience: integrating spatial data for oil spill preparedness in Jamaica

STATION 3B: Habitats

- 20:00 **Johnny Calliste**: Restoring effective management of the Sandy Island Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area post Hurricane Beryl
- 20:15 **Julian Prato-Valderrama***: Barrier reefs may provide a high wave energy natural refuge for large-sized endangered parrotfish species in the Caribbean
- 20:30 **Diana Joseph**: Sustainable seamoss production in Saint Lucia: balancing livelihoods and marine ecosystem health
- 20:45 **Sepp Haukebo**: Restoring the superhero ecosystems of The Bahamas: prioritizing mangrove creeks for restoration

STATION 4B: Invertebrates and Groupers

- 20:00 **Heloise Mathieu**: Improving knowledge of the Queen Conch in Martinique
- 20:15 **Shanna- Lee Thomas**: Jamaica's mobile conch laboratory: initial findings on larval growth and survival
- 20:30 **Maurício Hostim Silva**: Ecology and conservation of juvenile Atlantic goliath grouper in a tropical mangrove ecosystem on the eastern Brazilian coast
- 20:45 **Maurício Hostim Silva**: Residency patterns of juvenile Atlantic goliath grouper in a Brazilian tropical estuary: An acoustic telemetry approach

STATION 5B: Shrimp Research

- 20:00 **Enmanuel Montero-Fortunato**: The shrimp fishery and utilized bycatch in Sánchez, Samaná Bay, Dominican Republic
- 20:15 **María Fernanda Lomeli Álvarez**: Growth, intestinal microbiota modulation, and survival of juvenile white shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*) treated with probiotics and challenged with *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* IPNGS16
- 20:30 **Erika Valeria Vizcarra Hernández**: Use of Pectin and *Bacillus subtilis* in d improve growth, survival, intestinal microbiota, and immune response of white (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) challenged with *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* IPNGS16



WEDNESDAY 29TH OCTOBER

Island States Ocean Summit Breakfast - By Invitation Only | 8:00 - 9:00

SPECIAL SESSION: Financing the Future: Unlocking Sustainable Funding for Caribbean Biodiversity and the Global Biodiversity Framework | 8:00 - 11:20

Hosted by: The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund & The Environmental Defense Fund

Agenda

- 8:10 Welcome & Opening Remarks
- 8:15 Setting the Scene: CBF overview of regional sustainable financing and the Global Biodiversity Framework
- 8:20 Setting the Scene: EDF reflections on linking science, policy, and financing for regional impact.
- 8:25 Lessons from CBF EbA projects
- 9:00 Field-Level Innovations and Case Studies
- 9:40 Panel Discussion – Scaling Up Sustainable Financing



BRIEF COFFEE BREAK: 10:20 - 10:35

- 10:35 Donor-Implementer Dialogue & Audience
- 11:05 Key Takeaways & Closing Remarks

FIRST JOINT WORKSHOP OF THE OCM WORKING GROUPS - By Invitation Only - 9:30 - 17:30 | Hosted by PROCARIBE+



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HABITATS & ECOSYSTEMS | 11:30 - 12:45

- 11:30 **Mark Ram***: Restoring mangrove biodiversity: Can restored mangroves support fish assemblages comparable to natural mangroves over time?
- 11:45 **Bryanna Fleshman***: Assessing Fish Community Structure, Habitat Utilization, and Implications of Ecosystem Health in Hurricane Hole Lagoon, Boca Ciega Bay, St. Petersburg, Florida, USA
- 12:00 **María Alejandra Camargo Vargas**: Short-Term Recovery Patterns in Mangrove Ecosystems Following The Implementation of Restoration Actions
- 12:15 **Mayra Núñez-Vallecillo**: Analysis of the Impact of Land-Use Change in Four Watersheds on the Mesoamerican Reef System in Honduras: Implications for Water Quality and Reef Health Index (RHI)
- 12:30 **David Gallo Vélez**: Hydrological Monitoring with Community Participation for Ecosystemic Decision Making in Coastal Lagoons of the Colombian Caribbean

LUNCH BREAK | 12:45 - 14:00

Rio 2027 Ocean Decade Conference Workshop Lunch | 12:45 - 14:00 | By Invitation Only | Hosted by IOCARIBE



WEDNESDAY 29TH OCTOBER

FIELD TRIPS: 14:00 - 18:00

1. CITY TOUR + HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

Explore Cartagena's most iconic landmarks on a comfortable, cultural, and visually unforgettable tour. This tour includes:

- Guided tour of the imposing San Felipe de Barajas Castle (admission included).
- Stop at the Old Shoes Monument with history and time for photos.
- Ascent to the Convent of La Popa, located 150 meters above sea level (admission included).
- Visit to the Las Bóvedas Artisan Center for shopping.
- Short walk through the Historic Center with cultural context.

Duration: 4 hours

Price per person: 30USD

2. GUIDED WALK THROUGH THE HISTORIC CENTER AND GETSEMANÍ

Discover the soul of Cartagena through its squares, walls, and urban art. A walk full of history and cultural expressions. This tour includes:

- We start at Plaza Santa Teresa and visit iconic squares: San Pedro Claver, Customs House, Coches, Clock Tower, Proclamation, Cathedral, and Simón Bolívar.
- We then walk to Getsemaní, where we will explore the colorful world of murals and graffiti, focusing on their cultural and historical value.
- Topics covered: Piracy, Slavery, Independence, Colonial architecture
- Personalized audio guide.

Duration: Approximately 2.5 hours

Price per person: TBC (~10 - 15USD)

3. BETWEEN WALLS AND DRUMS

"When the drums sound, the walls respond." A vibrant cultural experience where history blends with the flavors, rhythms, and dances of our Afro-Caribbean Cartagena. This tour includes:

- Tasting of typical street food: egg arepa, empanadas, patacón with cheese, ceviche.
- Afro-Caribbean dance demonstration.
- Live vallenato performance.
- Practice with a dance instructor (salsa and champeta).
- Tropical fruit tasting.
- Personalized audio guide.

Duration: 3 hours

Price per person: TBC (~25 - 30USD)

CINEFISH FILM FESTIVAL | 19:30 - 21:00

- Finca Costera
- Las Marianas de la Mar
- Purifying Paradise
- Satellite Tagging of Hammerhead Sharks and Green Turtles in Panama
- The Real Life in the Zoo - RoffaReefs
- Turning the Tide
- Voices From The Shore Theatre Collective
- Voices of Resistance: Caribbean Environmental Defenders and Their Fight for Escazu
- We are One People, One World, One Family
- Yellow Gold Seamoss In Savannes Bay



THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER

CORAL REEFS | 8:00 - 10:00

- 8:00 **Lucie Labbouz**: The State of the Coral Reefs in The Wider Caribbean
- 8:15 **Kevin Novelo**: Coral Community Characterization of Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve, 2025
- 8:30 **Franklin Barbier**: The Impact of the Coral Carib Project and Community Involvement on Coral Reef Conservation in the Nippes Department, Haiti
- 8:45 **Annabel Cox**: Adapting Coral Restoration to Local Ecological and Social Realities: A Barbados Case Study
- 9:00 **Hannah Lochan**: Preliminary Results of Coral Restoration Efforts Using Larval-Based Propagation Strategies in Tobago
- 9:15 **Julian Prato Valderrama**: Perspectives In Artificial Reefs' Economic Valuation From Existing Experiences
- 9:30 **Ana Giro**: Healthy Reefs for Healthy People: Regional Trends in Fish Biomass and Bleaching Impacts in the Mesoamerican Reef.
- 9:45 **Juan Zarate**: Status of the Art and Population Trends of *Diadema antillarum* in the Colombian Caribbean

First Regional Partnership Forum: Our Sea - Our Source - Our Future. The Wider Caribbean (and beyond): United in Action from Analysis to Decision-Making to Implementation | 9:00 - 16:00



UNOPS



COFFEE BREAK | 10:00 - 10:30

REEF FISHERIES | 10:30 - 12:00

- 10:30 **Brice Semmens (V)**: A 30-Year Retrospective: Using Citizen Science Data to Model the Drivers of Caribbean Grouper Trends
- 10:45 **Max Titcomb***: Rethinking Universal Decline: Citizen Science Reveals Heterogeneous, Long-Term Trajectories and Regional Bright Spots for Caribbean Sharks and Rays
- 11:00 **Alyssa Pagel***: Movement Patterns and Site Fidelity of Sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*) in the Mississippi Sound and Surrounding Waters
- 11:15 **Jack Olson**: Acoustic Monitoring of Carcass Discard Locations to Improve Mortality Estimates of Telemetered Fish in the Florida Keys
- 11:30 **Krista Sherman**: Stock Status of Traditional and Recreational Fishery Species in The Bahamas
- 11:45 **Fabian Pina Amargos (V)**: Stronger Enforcement Enhances the Status of Coral Reef Fishes in Cuba



THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER

FISH SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS| 12:00 - 12:45

- 12:00 **Omar Rivera Garibay**: Community Participation in the Monitoring of Fishery Refuges and Spawning Aggregations in the Mexican Caribbean
- 12:15 **Ana Giro**: MAR Fish: Knowledge, Monitoring, and Protection of Mesoamerican Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations
- 12:30 **Janelle Layton**: Understanding Energy Output During Spawning Aggregation Events of Tiger Grouper (*Mycteroperca tigris*) on Little Cayman, Cayman Islands
- 12:45 **Joanna Pitt**: Periodic Adjustments of Simple Management Strategies Have Improved the Population Status of a Vulnerable Aggregating Reef Fish Species

LUNCH BREAK | 12:30 - 14:00

SCIENCE & INNOVATION | 14:00 - 16:30

- 14:00 **Antonella Rivera**: A Fisheries Monitoring Dashboard for Data-Driven Management
- 14:15 **Jennifer Loch (V)**: Advancing Fisheries Science Through Accessible Technology for Community-Driven Reef Fish Monitoring
- 14:30 **Sander VanLopik**: Where Innovation Meets The Reef: Technical Tools for Conservation
- 14:45 **Hadrien Bidenbach**: One Shark: An Integrated Approach to Tiger Shark Conservation and Risk Management in the Caribbean
- 15:00 **Tadzio Bervoets**: Advancing the Caribbean Sustainable Blue Economy: Development of a Regional Blue Finance Hub and Implementation of Sustainable Financial Mechanisms
- 15:15 **Shelly-Ann Cox (V)**: Transforming Fisheries Through Data Innovation: Building the Future of Sustainable Marine Resource Management
- 15:30 **Axelle Lefaucher**: Trace: A 360/AI Video Tool to Assess the Reserve Effect of a Polluted No-Fishing Zone
- 15:45 **Hannah May Malahel***: Mapping Nitrogen Inputs in the Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin Bay (Guadeloupe) Using an Isotopic Approach

COFFEE BREAK | 16:00 - 16:30

CLIMATE CHANGE | 16:30 - 18:00

- 16:30 **Desireé Hernández-Narváez**: Design of a Community Adaptation Measure to Climate Change in Colombian Pacific Mangroves
- 16:45 **Juan Pablo Caicedo Garcia**: Community Monitoring and Hydro-Sedimentological Research for the Analysis of Certified Blue Carbon in Cispata Bay, Colombian Caribbean
- 17:00 **Julian Prato-Valderrama***: Climate Change and Mass Coral Bleaching: Devastating Impacts in San Andres
- 17:15 **Milena Maltese Zuffo (V)**: Shipping Decarbonization and the Implications to the Fishing Industry
- 17:30 **Ginelle Brown**: Warming Waves: An Overview of Jamaica's Sea Surface Temperature Trends
- 17:45 **Vicente Del Cid**: Overcoming Barriers to Accessing Insurance Policies in Coastal Communities in Costa Rica and Panama for Climate Adaptation: Lessons After the First Year of Implementation.
- 18:00 **Leite Costa Iskander**: Thermal Tolerance of Key Larval and Juvenile Species in Tropical Estuaries: Insights from the Cayenne Estuarine System.



FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER

MARINE LITTER | 8:00 - 9:30

- 8:00 **Zara Lizzeth Zuniga Lopez***: Tracking Plastic Pathways from the Motagua River to the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Using Satellite Drifters
- 8:15 **Laura P. Fragozo-Velásquez**: Understanding the Complexities of Plastic Pollution's Impacts on Human Well-being in Coastal Fishing Communities
- 8:30 **José Cusba**: Citizen Science for the Prevention and Management of Plastic Waste in Marine-Coastal Ecosystems of the Colombian Caribbean and Pacific
- 8:45 **Giovanna Salomé Jácome Ruiz**: Understanding the socioecological system of Ghost Fishing Gear from Fishers and Divers Perspectives in the Gulf of Tribugá, Colombia
- 9:00 **Cassandra Garrido Cabrera***: Microplastic Pollution in Cenotes of the Mexican Caribbean: A Pathway to the Marine Ecosystem
- 9:15 **Dalila Aldana Aranda**: Use of the Gastropod *Strombus Aliger gigas* as an Indicator of Pollution by Microplastics

GEAR TECHNOLOGY | 09:30 - 10:30

- 9:30 **Harley Zúñiga**: Technological and Operational Evolution of Encircling Gillnets in the Gulf of Salamanca, Colombian Caribbean
- 9:45 **Jairo Altamar**: Mesh Size and Catch Dynamics: Spatiotemporal Patterns in Colombia's Caribbean Artisanal Gillnet Fishery
- 10:00 **Aubriana Rhodes(V)**: An Impromptu Fuel Subsidy Reform Decreases Effort by Tuna Longliners in the Gulf Of Mexico
- 10:15 **Mario C. Cruz Mercado***: Evaluation of Operational Parameters in Trawl Nets: Comparison between Mathematical Models and Computational Simulations to Optimize Drag Resistance and Fuel Consumption

COFFEE BREAK | 10:30 - 11:00 (EST)

INVERTEBRATES & AQUACULTURE | 11:00 - 12:15

- 11:00 **Michael Coogan**: AquaFort: A Scalable IMTA Solution to Enhance Food Security and Resilience in Caribbean Island Nations
- 11:15 **Natasha Deterville-Moise**: Development of Queen Conch and Seamount Value chains in the Eastern Caribbean States - best practices and lessons learned
- 11:30 **Rich Appeldoorn**: Guidance for Non Detriment Findings (NDF) for Queen Conch: A "Simplified" Approach to Meeting CITES Requirements
- 11:45 **Robinson Bazurto**: Queen Conch Innovation and Restoration at Conservation Cove in Grand Bahama
- 12:00 **Becky Holt (V)**: Training the Next Generation of Conch Farmers in Bahamian Communities

LUNCH BREAK | 12:15 - 14:00

CONCH NDF STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK WORKSHOP 14:00 - 15:00



FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER

COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION | 14:00 - 15:30

- 14:00 **Gabriela Alejandra Cuevas Gómez**: Technology with a Purpose: Strengthening the Leadership of Fishing Communities through Digital Means
- 14:15 **Makeda Serju**: Sharks and Tourism: Coexisting Beneath the Waves
- 14:30 **Danielle Cartwright**: Assessing the Impact of Capacity-Building Programs in Marine Conservation: A Case Study from The Bahamas
- 14:45 **Karlisa Callwood**: Using Mangrove Stories of Change to Identify Values and Priorities for Restoration
- 15:00 **Sietske van der Wal**: Turning the Tide: Building Local Capacity for Coral and Mangrove Restoration in Aruba
- 15:15 **Alvaro Andrés Moreno Munar**: Bridging Language, Culture, and Ecology: A Review of Hybridization, Ethnotranslation, and Biocultural Pedagogy in Mesoamerican STEM Education

INVASIVE SPECIES & SARGASSUM | 15:30 - 16:15

- 15:30 **Clive Petrovic**: Status of Marine Invasives in the British Virgin Islands
- 15:45 **Adriana Osorno**: The mussel *Mytella strigata* in the Colombian Caribbean: evidence of a biological invasion
- 16:00 **Fabian Kyne**: Integrating Social-Ecological Strategies for Lionfish Control: A Belize case study
- 16:15 **Diana Benuffé**: Influence of Sargassum Stranding on Carbon Steels, an Electrochemical Approach using EIS
- 16:30 **Geraldine Conruyt**: A Voice for Biodiversity and Sensitive Coastal Ecosystems in Sargassum Influxes

COFFEE BREAK | 16:45 - 17:00

GCFI78 CLOSING & AWARDS CEREMONY | 17:00 - 18:00



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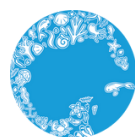
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