



REPORT OF THE FISHERIES FOR  
FISHERS (F4F) ACTIVITIES  
AT THE  
71<sup>ST</sup> GULF AND CARIBBEAN  
FISHERIES INSTITUTE (GCFI)  
SAN ANDRES, COLOMBIA  
6-10 NOVEMBER 2018



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge the support received for the GCFI 2018 Fisheries for Fishers (F4F) activities from the organizations shown below, as well as assistance from many individuals. Special thanks are offered to the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME+), NOAA NMFS, Shell and Oil Exploration and last but not least the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Their strong financial support made it possible to have the participation of an increase number of fishers at this year GCFI.



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## INTRODUCTION

The GCFI 2018 Fisheries for Fishers (F4F) activities at the San Andres Decameron Hotel consisted of the Gladding Memorial Award (GMA), A fishers exchange and field trip to a the nearby fishing cooperative ASOMUTOL. This year we had a large contingent of fisherfolk and we look forward to making this a trend. We also benefitted from presentations from several past GMA winners as well as other fisherfolks presenting who shared their fishing experience with a large number of persons attending the Fishers Knowledge Exchange (see annex b for list of participants).

The next sections of this brief report summarise the highlights of the F4F activities with photos. Additional information on the F4F is available on the GCFI web site (visit [www.gcfi.org](http://www.gcfi.org)).

## FISHER FORUM



The fisher forum was held on the afternoon of Monday November 6<sup>th</sup>. It began with Will Heyman giving a brief history of the Fishers for Fishers Forum, this was followed by short video presentations of:

Angelica Mendez presenting on women and their role in Guatemala artisanal fisheries. Here it was stated that women of different ethnic and cultural groups made up 8.6% of artisanal fishers in Guatemala. They can be found throughout different areas of the fisheries sector such as processing, marketing, leadership within organizations, boat owners, fishers and middleperson. Angelica herself is coordinator of the artisanal fishers' network for the Caribbean coast of Guatemala and the Izabal Lake.

Don DeMaria gave a short presentation on Florida Marine Life and law enforcement. He presented pictures of the different marine life with which he interact on one of his typical fishery outings in the Florida Keys.

Andres Maldonado Presented on what a day in the life of a conch fisherman is like, He also talk about fishing for lobster and lionfish with the aid of a harpoon. He ended his presentation talking about the critically endangered Nassau Grouper, localized on the southeast shores of Puerto Rico.

After these presentations Patrick McConney spoke to the future of the Fishers for Fishers Forum and lastly the forum came to a close with Martin Russell presenting the Gladding Memorial Award to this year winner Mr. Cecil Marquez.

## GLADDING MEMORIAL AWARD (GMA)

The aim of the GMA has been to recognize fishers from around the region who share enduring visions and demonstrate active support for the sustainable use of marine resources in their home countries and beyond. The GMA presentation took place near the end of the opening day's program on Monday 6 November.

The 2018 winner continued this proud tradition, and the recipient — Cecil Marquez — was presented with his award by Martin Russell, in the company of past GMA winners

Don DeMaria (USA), Angelica Mendez (Guatemala), Casimiro Newball (Colombia), Anderson Kinch (Barbados) and Andres Maldonado (Puerto Rico). Will Heyman was the master of ceremonies.



This year GMA winner, Cecil Marquez is an inspirational leader whose desirable results causes others to follow him. Many young fishermen from the community of Gouyave emulate Cecil Marquez' leadership and would look up to him for guidance and direction. His impressive contribution to sustainable fisheries can be observed below.



### Fishing Experience

- > 1982 – 1st fisherman/owner in Grenada to start pelagic longline fishing on local open fishing vessel to target Yellow Fin Tunas. Pelagic longline fishing is now popularize throughout Grenada
- > 1st fisherman in Gouyave to make the transition from open fishing vessel (pirogue) with outboard engine to cabin launch with inboard diesel engine.
- > A leader in adopting safety at sea materials and equipment such as VHF Radio, GPS, Distress flares etc.
- > Director and PRO in the Gouyave Fishermen Cooperative Society



### Impact within Fishing Industry

- > Leader in the fishing industry in Grenada for the past 30 years.
- > Tremendous impact in the Grenada fishing industry through leadership in many aspects of gears, safety and new improved vessels.
- > First owner /fisherman in Grenada to start commercial tuna longlining for large yellow fin tunas using the pelagic longline gear introduced by Cuban fishermen.
- > One of the first fisherman to start using manual reels for longline fishing



### Conservation and Sustainability

- > Spearheaded a public awareness initiative along with volunteer fisherfolks, on marine conservation targeting all homes in Gouyave and all local fisherfolk.  
assisted in developing the slogan 'Our Fish Our Future' 'Conservation in local hands'.
- His vision and leadership was critical to bring about the signing of a co-management agreement with the Grenada Fisheries Division, delegating the management of the Gouyave marine protected area to the local fishermen and community.

FISHERS FIELD  
TRIP



The fisher's field trip was a visit to the nearby fishermen cooperative ASOMUTUAL located in Spratt bight. There the visiting fishers had a brief informal exchange with local fishers. The local fishers shared their knowledge about fisheries on the island (target fisheries, gears, boat types, boat building, etc.). There were local women fishers present who shared their perspective as women within the fishery sector. They explained how they inserted themselves and gained their acceptance by the fishermen, stating it was a hard but not an impossible work for a women. The fishers both local and visitors shared similar challenges such as diminishing fish stocks, not sufficient aid from the government, finding markets for the catch, as well as increasing weather hazards, among others.

## F4F PLANNING



A brief planning meeting was held on Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup> at the conference hotel with fisherfolk presenting at the GCFI meeting as well as with the local organizers for the fishers' field trip among others. The objective was to ensure everyone was aware of programme logistics, to confirm fishers' contribution to said programme as previously agreed, and to address any concerns within the group.

During the months coming up to the GCFI meeting they had been ongoing discussions with presenters and organizers via email, skype and whatsapp to define how best they could contribute to a discussion on fishery and sustainability from a fisherperson perspective, based on the work they have been engaged in. Discussions included,

methods to get message across, selection of moderators, speakers, and other needed coordination.

A draft of the entire program for F4F at GCFI in 2018 can be viewed in this document as annex A.

## FISHER'S KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



The Fishers for Fishers Knowledge Exchange was held at the Convention Centre at the Decameron Isleño Hotel in San Andrés Island on Wednesday November 7, 2018. The theme for this year was conceived by Don DeMaria as a time and place for fishers to present from their own perspectives. Fishers were asked to present about their own fishery, using video to assist their presentations. Many presenters did bring short videos and spoke about their fishery, and their role in managing it. Gladding Memorial Award winners Don DeMaria and Anderson “Rogie” Kinch moderated the session. Several presenters were past Gladding Memorial Award recipients as well as Cecil Marquez, the

Presentations were as follows:

- Don DeMaria\*, on collecting marine life (tropical fish). He stated that the fishers worked closely with the state to come up with rules to regulate the fishery into a sustainably managed fishery, regulated by the State of Florida for both state and

nearby federal waters. He also noted a decline in the number of fishers in this business.

- Andres Maldonado\* on conch fishing in Puerto Rico. He spoke on fishers affectations such as bone necrosis and the bends. He went on to share how the 2017 hurricane season seriously impacted Puerto Rican fishers livelihood by destroying gears, boats and landing sites as well as the conch habitat. It was noted that Andy and his group were main contributors with data that allow for a change in queen conch regulation, one of such change was redefining close season for this resource
- Casimiro Newball\*. From him we hear about Colombia's San Andres and Providence fishers' involvement in assisting young people who wish to enter or are new to fishing. He also share the type of fishery on going on the islands, gear used and how far they go to fish.
- Ruth Perry, representative of Shell Oil Company gave a brief spoke to the fact that the company look at offshore opportunity. They work together with fishers to promote community development based on the people requirement and to work closely with fishers to do a baseline assessment. All this in the hope to increase their quality of life.
- Fermin Perez Obando on safety program and fishing in Cartagena, Colombia. He created a fishers network in order to present a united front when making demands. Thanks to this unity they now have a public policy for the fishery sector which permit them to regulate access to the resource. With assistance from the shell foundation they were train in safety at sea, thanks to this training and to fishers willing to implement what they learn, death of fishers have diminished.
- Cecil Marquez\*. He share his experience as a fisher in Grenada. Type of fishery, gears used, type of boat. He also spoke about the work they are doing with strong local community involvement (young and old) to establish, promote and protect their MPA. He was also instrumental in adapting long line to small scale fishery.
- Angelica Mendez\* on how the fisher network manage to influence changes within Guatemala fishery sector. She explained how the red de Pescadores de Guatemala, of which her fishing group is member assist with developing the shrimp management plan while doing this and thanks to data shared by the fisherfolkk they saw the need to extend the close season for this resource. They also were instrumental in establishing close season for other resources and change in mesh size for certain species.
- Lalo Boné and Jose Gerhartz on Cuba's Sustainable Fisheries. He gave a brief presentation on the Encuentro para la pesca sostenible en Cuba, 2018" where knowledge was share on targeting different species. He went on to add that fishery in Cuba is control by the state with government subsidizing everything needed such as ice, fuel etc. there is also a private fleet but they have to sell to the government. There is a lot of challenge regarding sustainable management as there is not much information on reporting landings.

Will Heyman gave the closing remarks where he expressed appreciation to the sponsors of the event such as Shell Oil Company stating that GCFI continue to look forward to their

continued to support to the fishers for fishers (F4F) exchange. He gave thanks to the hosting government especially to their Fishery Division and to Coralina. Presenters as and participants showed great interest in this exchange and are all appreciation. He stated that at the moment there was no defined theme for the 2019 F4F exchange, however as soon as this was determined it would be share via the GCFI website.

\*GMA winner

## CONCLUSION

Thanks to increase sponsorship the Gulf and Caribbean Fishing Institution manage to increase the number of fisherfolk participating in this year's meeting. This year programme also gave fisherfolk a more active participation within the Fishers for Fishers (F4F) parallel meeting, providing an opportunity for information exchange based on life experience, before a larger audience. The change in format for the F4F was a success and we look forward to the continued sponsorship and improving the programme.

ANNEX A: Fisheries for Fishers (F4F) Schedule of Activities, GCFI 2018, San Andres

**Monday 1630-1800**

**Fishers Forum** *Moderator: Will Heyman*

16:30	Heyman, Will	Fisheries for Fishers (F4F) and Gladding Memorial Award (GMA)
16:35	Perry, Ruth	Supporting the Fisheries for Fishers (F4F) initiative
16:40	Kinch, Anderson	Fisherman's perspective on managing fisheries for sustainability
16:50	Maldonado, Andres	Championing conservation of Nassau Grouper in Puerto Rico
17:00	Mendez, Angelica	Women as active stakeholders in Guatemala's coastal fisheries
17:10	DeMaria, Don	Sharing sustainability: fisher-scientist collaboration in action
17:20	McConney, Patrick	Discussion of fisheries sustainability with the GMA winners
17:40	Heyman, Will	Presentation of the 2018 Gladding Memorial Award
18:00	Close	

**Tuesday 1330-1630**

**Fishers Field Trip** *Organizer: Anthony Rojas*

**Wednesday 0800-1000**

**Fishers Knowledge Exchange** *Moderators: Don DeMaria & Anderson Kinch*

08:00	DeMaria*, Don Maldonado*, Andres Mendez*, Angelica Marquez*, Cecil Boné, Lalo Newball*, Casimiro	Collecting marine life (tropical fish) Conch fishing in Puerto Rico Gillnet fishing in Guatemala. Gouyave MPA in Grenada Cuba's first Sustainable Fisheries Encuentro Fishery in San Andres
10:00	Heyman, Will	Close

\* GMA winner

## ANNEX B

## List of Participants: Fishers Knowledge Exchange

<b>NAME</b>	<b>WHERE YOU WORK</b>
Anderson Kinch*	Barbados longline industry
Will Heyman	LGL Ecological Research, TX, USA
Don De Maria*	Summerland Key, FL USA
Erick Castro	CORALINA, San Andres, Colombia
Dora De Maria	Key West, FL, USA
Tiphaine Riviere	Martinique, France
Maria Pena	CERMES – UWI Barbados
Ruth Perry	Houston, Texas
Andres Maldonado*	Puerto Rico fisherman
Fermin Perez	Cartagena, fisherman
Aldwyn Fergusson	Gouyave Fishermen Corp
Casimiro Newball*	San Andres, Colombia Fisherman
Sean Walker	Fisherman
Nicasion Howard	CORALINA, San Andres, Colombia
Charles Sidman	Florida Sea Grant
Nancy Montes	Florida Sea Grant
Tylon Joseph	GFCST - fisherman
Roland Baldeo	Grenada Coral Reef Foundation
Denzel Adams	UNDP Ridge to Reef
Eduardo Bone	Environmental Defense Fund - Cuba
Jose Luis Gerhartz	Corredor Biológico en el Caribe
Iker Irazabal	Reef Check, Dominican Republic
Paula Barbeito Morandeira	Slow Food International – Slow Fish
Lilliana Vargas	Slow Food- Slow Fish Caribe
Omar M. Zayas Cruz	Puerto Rico - Student
Ricardo Bush H.	ASOPACFA – SENA, Professor – San Andrés, Colombia
Leandra Bent Hooker	Student
Sheily Orozco Archibold	Universidad Nacional, Colombia
Darson Archibold Robinson	Parques Nacionales, Colombia
Alex Barrios	Palace Wharf Association
Maria José Gonzalez-Bernat	AIDA
Eutavine Weeks	Barbados – Fishery sector
Ygeri de Vries	Bonaire, Saba, St.Eustatius
Kareen De Turrís-Morales	Fundación Fauna Caribe Colombiana
Ruby Zaykel Lizcano	Fundación Fauna Caribe Colombiana
Kimani Kitson Walters	Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute (CNSI)
Cecil Marquez*	Grenada - Fisherman
Radjes Asraf	Fisheries Department, Suriname

Nerissa Lucky	Fisheries Department, Trinidad & Tobago
Melanie Andrews	Caribbean Natural Resource Institute
Graciela Garcia-Molinares	Caribbean Fishery Management Council, Puerto Rico
Tomas Willems	FAO - Suriname
Ernest de Lanoy	Piskaban, Bonaire
Ayumi Kuramar	Saba Conservation Foundation
Patrick McConney	CERMES – UWI, Barbados
Bertha Simmons	Barbados, Independent Consultant
Angelica Mendez*	Fisherwoman, Guatemala

\*GMA Winner