

GMA/F4F Fishers Forum
Regional Fisheries Governance and Fishers Participation
and related activities at the
64th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)
Puerto Morelos, Mexico, 31 October - 4 November 2011



Prepared by Mitchell Lay
Chairman, Gladding Memorial Award Committee
for the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute



2011

Acknowledgements

The planning committee of the 64th GCFI Fishers Forum and related activities wish to extend deep appreciation to the following:

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation through its Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean, located in Barbados, for sponsoring several fishers participation in GCFI 2011 and covering other costs of convening the Forum
- The Nature Conservancy for sponsoring travel to GCFI by Angelica Mendez, 2010 GMA winner and Martha Gongora, 2011 GMA winner.
- The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) for sponsoring a fisher's participation in GCFI 2011
- The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) for assisting with communication and organisation
- The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) of the UWI for assisting with the fishers events by providing note-taking and other services
- Barbara Reveles, Silvia Salas, Emma Doyle and Bertha Simmons for their dedication to the GMA through assistance in organization, translation reporting and many other tasks
- Viridin Brown, Bob Glazer, Alejandro Acosta and many others on the GCFI board for their support

Several other individuals and organizations, too numerous to mention, assisted with the GCFI activities as usual. Fishers' households and crew were strongly supportive behind the scenes. We thank you all.

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Correct citation

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1. Background

From its inception 64 years ago, the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) has addressed issues of concern to fishers and other fish workers along the fish chain from harvest to postharvest, in addition to the interests of fisheries scientists and marine resource (fisheries and MPA) managers. The fishery scope includes recreational and commercial large and small-scale fisheries of the Wider Caribbean. Over time the focus also changed from development challenges to science, management and conservation. Allied topics such as aquaculture and marine protected areas (MPAs) were added to the programme. The annual meeting of the GCFI is the leading forum at which fishers, resource managers, researchers, students and others interested in regional fisheries and related matters regularly exchange information.

Since the introduction of the Gladding Memorial Award (GMA) in 2004, which recognises regional and local fishers who are conservation minded and promote sustainable utilisation of marine resources, the conference has evolved to include the Fishers Forum in 2007 and the Fisheries for Fisheries (F4F) initiative in 2009. F4F incorporates the GMA ceremony, Fishers Forum and Field Trip and includes shaping the strategic direction of GCFI in regards to fishers engaging in, the promotion of sustainable resource use, exchanges involving best practices, fisheries governance and developing sustainable fisheries ambassadors.

The remaining sections of this document report on the Fishers Forum, Fishers Field Trip and Fisheries for Fishers planning session at the 64th GCFI held in Puerto Morelos, Mexico, from 31 October - 4 November 2011. Appendices provide additional details. This report is available for free download from the GCFI web site (visit www.gcfi.org).

2. Fishers forum

The Fishers Forum was held within the GCFI main programme on Monday 31 October 2011 starting at 4:30pm and chaired by Mitchell Lay. It had the theme “Regional fisheries governance and fishers participation” (Appendix 1). Leading fisher, Ezekiel Sanchez Herrera, of the Puerto Morelos fishers cooperative welcomed fisherfolk and the GCFI audience to Puerto Morelos.

There were three presentations by leading fishers on their perspectives on fisheries governance in their respective countries: Guatemala by Angelica Mendez, Belize by Todville Peets on behalf of Armando Ramirez, Antigua and Barbuda by Sibly Charles (Appendices 2, 3 and 4). The presentations were all prepared by fishers and described the very practical ways in which they saw room for improvement in their engagement with the processes of fisheries governance and collaboration with other stakeholders.

An involved and lively discussion followed the presentations and provided the following points for consideration:

- Lionfish – issue of concern to several fisheries, and fishers must be involved throughout
- Zoning (a local fishers initiative in Guatemala) can be used to reduce conflicts and contribute towards sustainability
- Fishers demonstrated initiative in setting up a no-take area (by Puerto Morelos), approximately 4 kilometres from beach.
- Cooperation can limit sales of illegal catch (Belize/Mexico cooperate on undersize conch).
- Fishers can exercise commonsense and self-compliance regarding resource use (Barbados).
- Fishers should influence each other positively in order to promote good practices.
- Enforcement by fishers is important in sustaining fishery and MPA management measures
- Obtaining reliable data and information from fishers is critical for good management and linked to long-term resource interests.
- We need to educate consumers about fisheries and involve diverse stakeholders in fisheries forums.
- Fishers involved in policy partnerships have voice in ministries responsible for fisheries resources (e.g. via OSPESCA in Central America).

- Co management through MoUs has been used with good results at the local level in the Dominican Republic and will be up-scaled to the national policy-making level as well.
- FAO promotes the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) and stakeholder participation in decision-making

The fishers forum attracted the participation of most GCFI attendees and approximately 200 persons stayed for the entire session. It seems to be well institutionalised as a regular feature of the programme.

3. Gladding Memorial Award

The GMA was presented immediately upon the close of the Fishers Forum discussion. GMA Committee chair, Mitchell Lay, stated that there was a GMA 2011 regional winner, Pelagio Paulino of the Dominican Republic, who could not make it to receive award at this conference. He added that efforts will be made to present Paulino with his award at the 65th GCFI in Colombia.

Lay presented an overview of the origin and history of the GMA that concluded with information on the 2011 local GMA winner, Ruth Martha Garcia Gongora of Cozumel, Mexico (Appendix 5). She is a fisherwoman and much more. Martha is the second female to receive this award which brings the total number of GMA winners to fifteen. She was escorted to the podium and presented to the conference by Angelica Mendez, GMA 2010 regional winner from Guatemala.

The GMA award presentation ended the day for the conference and closed at 6pm.

4. Fishers field trip

The 'Fishers Field Trip' is an event eagerly anticipated by both fishers and others (scientists, students, managers) who work in applied research at or around fishing facilities. It is designed to allow the GCFI members to get to know more about fishing in the host country and to interact with fisher folk there to share information and fellowship without language and culture being barriers. Generous sponsorship and in-kind support from local organisers (see Acknowledgements) provide transportation, translation services and other benefits for the persons on the field trip. Barbara Reveles assisted much in organising this trip.



The Fishers Field trip at the 64th GCFI took 35 participants (Appendix 6) to Puerto Juarez and the home of the federation of fishing cooperatives of Quintana Roo, Mexico. After a look at the mooring and docking facilities of fishing fleets in Puerto Juarez, discussions were held with Ezekiel, an executive member of the federation. There are 26 cooperatives in the federation with approximately 3000 fishers and 800 boats, with each cooperative having its own area of fishing operation by agreement.

There is concern over diminishing stocks and the fishers have united to allow for, controlled harvesting by limiting their areas of operation and ensuring that only members of the cooperative can fish, collective marketing to ensure good prices with the cooperative and buyers negotiating price at season start and the fishers selling to the federation which in turns sells to the hotel industry, and sustainable financing through

a revolving fund set up in collaboration with Mexican government. The federation uses a portion of profits generated to maintain decompression chamber, facilitate its administration and for medical insurance.

The federation has a close relationship with the Yamaha outboard motor company, to whom they rent space. There is an effort to have fishers acquire four-stroke motors in order to become more efficient and have a smaller impact on the environment. A representative from Yamaha was present at the meeting, sharing on this initiative and the financing arrangements between the federation and Yamaha, which ensures that engines are paid for through loans to fishers from the revolving fund of the federation.

5. Strategic planning

A strategic planning session for the GCFI Fisheries for Fishers (F4F) Initiative was held on Wednesday 2 November and was attended by many of the fishers present at the conference, including some GMA winners. Mitchell Lay chaired this meeting and commenced with agenda (Appendix 7) distribution and opening remarks on the origin and direction on the GCFI Fisheries for Fishers initiative, which involves the Forum and field trip annually plus various planning or other sessions as needs arise. After round table introduction of participants (Appendix 8), feedback on the Forum general session was solicited and a précis of impressions shared follows:

- Information presented was useful and practical
- Impressed and encouraged to participate in next conference
- Love to have more discussions after presentations
- Need to have more fishers invited and participating
- Great opportunity for information/data exchange between fishers, managers and scientists
- Problems presented but need more regional cooperation to affect political will to find solutions
- Fishers can be more involved in knowledge acquisition and sharing, in addition to seeking solutions

The meeting congratulated Martha Gongora on her receiving the local GMA for 2011, and welcomed the French fishers from Guadeloupe. This was the first F4F meeting in which interpretation (provided by the meeting participants) was necessary for English, Spanish and also French.

Comments on the Fishers Field trip included the appreciation of the opportunity to see and hear about the local fishing industry from fishers. It was noted that fishers would have liked to have had a closer look at the fishing vessels, particularly the larger ones. The information provided by the federation re-emphasises the benefits of fishers being organised and informed. There was an expressed desire to share this experience with other fishers. The weather and other logistical issues limited the field trip to one site and most participants would have appreciated visiting other fishing communities as well.

Strategic planning included a presentation of the F4F Strategic plan by slide show (Appendix 9), which looked at the work to date and outlined the meeting objectives, to finalise plan and agree on specific actions for implementation over the next three years.

The F4F vision “**Healthy marine ecosystems that have sustainable fisheries which use best fishing practices, managed within an ecosystem approach to fisheries that results in regionally well-organized fishers enjoying a good standard of living**” was presented and discussions then focused on recommended actions for each of the following areas of the F4F strategic plan.

GMA Award:

- Create promotional materials before and after conference highlighting the award.
- Publish the list of winners
- Share criteria and continue awarding fishers
- Fishers to share information at local level.

Capacity Development and Ambassador Program:

- Need to develop role models and leaders (10 within 3 years)
- Diversification and alternate livelihood options require practical training including exchanges

- Training to include sustainable/responsible fishing issues and marketing.
- Fishers exchanges emphasized as a priority area

Fishers in Governance:

- Training in research, advocacy and representation needed.
- Lobby governments on priority areas and for fisher support.
- Linked to Capacity Development and Ambassador program
- Link donor agencies to program and secure funding (FAO and TNC)

Fishers Exchanges:

- Viewed as priority area and would seek to develop responsible fishers who enjoy a good standard of living while engaged in sustainable fishing practices.
- Specifics to be determined based on local situation.
- Must be practical to allow for adaptation on return home.

Information/Communication:

- GCFI website to be more fisher user-friendly.
- Links between countries to be established.
- Billboards at landing site for information sharing.
- Showcase sustainable fisheries ambassadors and best practices.
- Media coverage at GCFI conferences.
- Develop lists of places/seats where fishers can participate.

Making it happen:

- Use GMA winners (15).
- Volunteers at the meeting (Winston Hobson, Todville Peets, Sibly Charles, Angelica Mendez).
- Funding to be actively sought from TNC, FAO and other sources.
- National and regional fisherfolk organizations to also seek funding.

The meeting adjourned with the understanding that the GMA committee will complete the strategic plan for the next 3 years with specific action plans based on discussions from this meeting and previous planning work.

6. Conclusions

The fisher-led activities at the 64th GCFI garnered a significant increase, compared to previous years, in support from the wider GCFI audience. There was increased participation and excellent periods of discussion during all of the activities. Although occurring at the end of the first day, the Fishers Forum and GMA presentation were still able to attract a large GCFI audience and the presentations from fishers were well received.

The Fishers Field Trip and planning sessions were also well attended and participants exceeded the anticipated numbers. The main challenges being faced revolve around funding and fisher participation. It is unfortunate that the GMA committee was able to secure funding for only three GMA winners to attend this conference, but we sincerely appreciate the contributions of our partners.

As we approach the vision of sustainable fishing industries with involved fishers, our goal is to strengthen existing partnerships as we develop new ones and to materialise the existing plans of the F4F initiative. We are looking forward to some more positive progress in the next year and to the 65th GCFI.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1: Agenda of Fishers Forum and related activities

Final Fishers Forum Programme

Monday 31 October: Fishers Forum

1630	Welcome and introduction -- Past GMA winner, CNFO leading fisher Welcome to Puerto Morelos -- Ezekiel Sanchez Herrera, leading local fisher
1640	Fisheries Governance in Guatemala -- Angelica Mendez, GMA winner, Guatemala
1700	Fisheries Governance in Belize – Todville Peets, Leading fisher, St. Kitts, for Armando Ramirez
1710	Fisheries Governance in the Eastern Caribbean, -- Sibly Charles, Leading Fisher, Policy maker, Antigua and Barbuda
1720	Open Discussion on presentations, fisher participation, actions and partnerships
1750	Presentation of the Gladding Memorial Award to GMA winner(s) for 2011
1800	Close Fishers Forum and Gladding Memorial Award

Tuesday 1 November: Fishers Field Trip

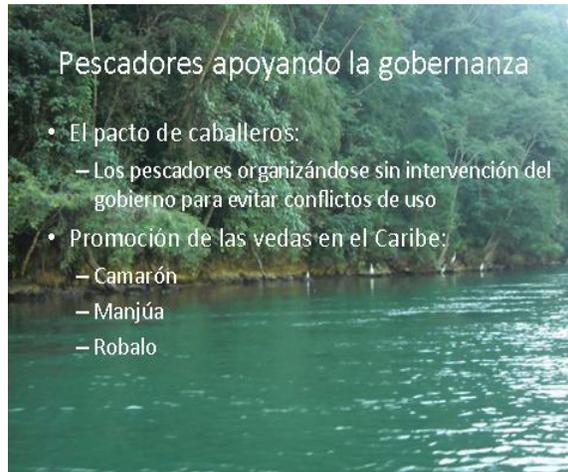
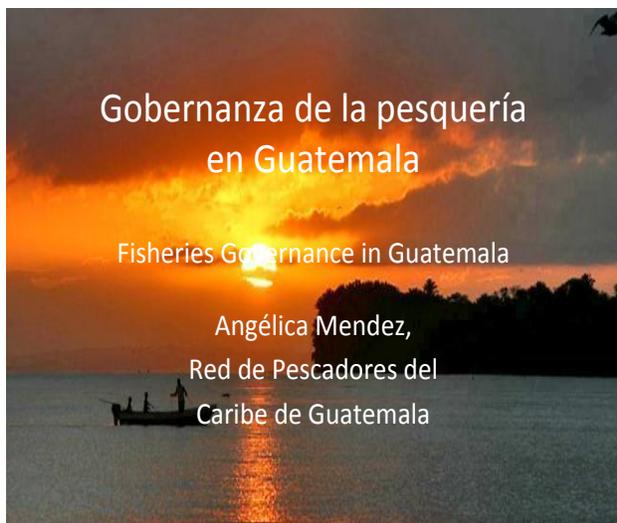
0830 - 1200	Visit fishing community of Puerto Juarez and the Federacion Regional De Sociedades Cooperativas of Quintana Roo and learn of fisheries-related activities in and around Puerto Morelos, including information exchange among fishers and with fisheries managers, scientists and other interested parties
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Wednesday 2 November: F4F Meeting

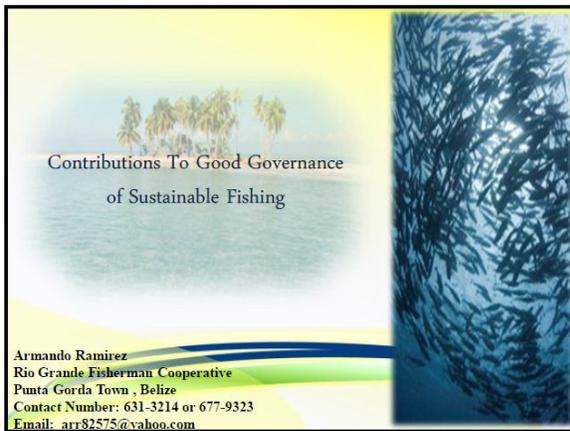
0830 - 1030	Planning session for Fishers and interested parties, looking at spaces for fishers participation in regional fisheries governance, identifying potential fishers and capacity building needs, developing priority action plans.
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For further information visit the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute web site at www.gcfi.org

Appendix 2: Presentation by Angelica Mendez

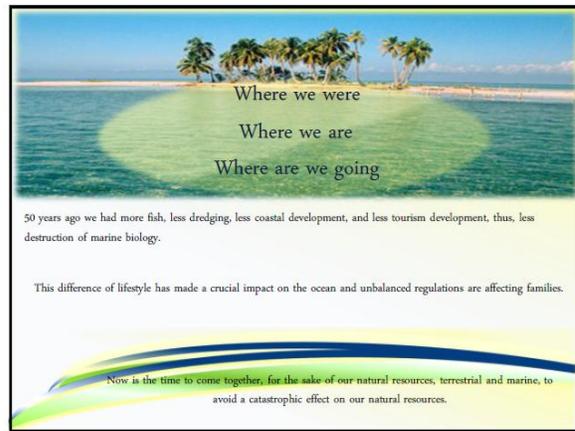


Appendix 3: Presentation by Todville Peets (Armando Ramirez)



Contributions To Good Governance
of Sustainable Fishing

Armando Ramirez
Rio Grande Fisherman Cooperative
Punta Gorda Town , Belize
Contact Number: 631-3214 or 677-9323
Email: arr82575@yahoo.com

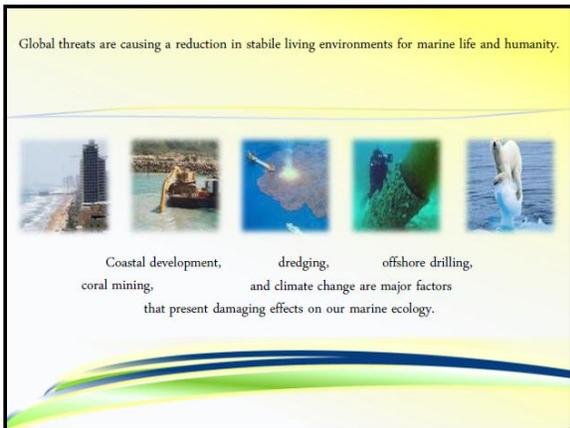


Where we were
Where we are
Where are we going

50 years ago we had more fish, less dredging, less coastal development, and less tourism development, thus, less destruction of marine biology.

This difference of lifestyle has made a crucial impact on the ocean and unbalanced regulations are affecting families.

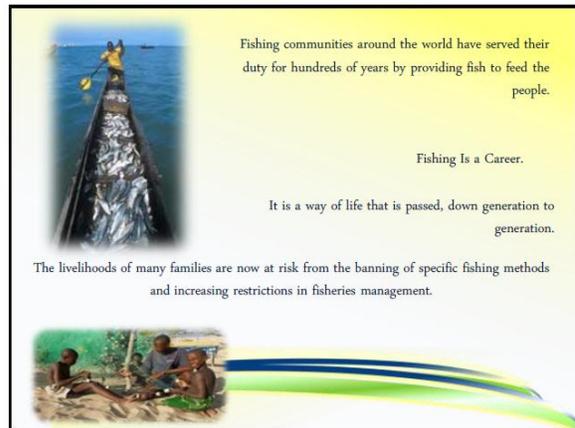
Now is the time to come together, for the sake of our natural resources, terrestrial and marine, to avoid a catastrophic effect on our natural resources.



Global threats are causing a reduction in stable living environments for marine life and humanity.



Coastal development, dredging, offshore drilling, coral mining, and climate change are major factors that present damaging effects on our marine ecology.

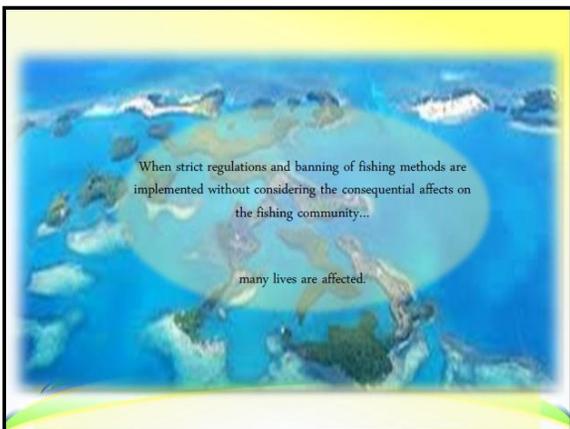



Fishing communities around the world have served their duty for hundreds of years by providing fish to feed the people.

Fishing Is a Career.

It is a way of life that is passed, down generation to generation.

The livelihoods of many families are now at risk from the banning of specific fishing methods and increasing restrictions in fisheries management.

When strict regulations and banning of fishing methods are implemented without considering the consequential affects on the fishing community... many lives are affected.



Banning of traditional fishing methods instantly constricts access to our livelihood.



Banning of specific harvesting techniques binds fishing families when the banned method is their only income source to provide for their family.




With inclusive decision-making, livelihood adjustments can be made in good measure.

Cooperative regulation is a major step towards good governance of sustainable fishing.



many families are struggling

Imagine if Governments, NGO's, Marine biologist, Scientist, and Fishing Communities were to unite and hold hands together for just one second,

Let us consider a better way ...

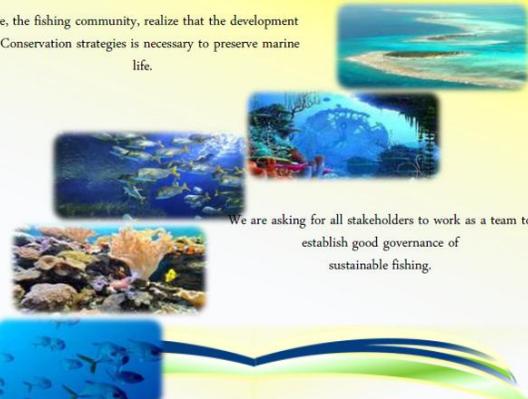
brilliant ideas would surface and much good would be accomplished for both our depleting (fishers) and natural resources.

The Ocean would smile back at us, and gladly contribute her part, both for us now and for generations to come.



We, the fishing community, realize that the development of Conservation strategies is necessary to preserve marine life.

We are asking for all stakeholders to work as a team to establish good governance of sustainable fishing.



We the fishing community, understand that the multiple global changes require diversified conservation strategies to prevent:

1. Depletion of the fishing industry and its' supported communities.
2. Increased poverty levels from loss of income for fishing families.
3. Extinction of a primary food source.




We are willing to contribute to good governance of sustainable fishing.

Our contributions to sustainable fishing may include, yet, not be limited to:

1. Providing a supply of information regarding observations of climate changes occurring.
2. Restoring marine habitats by applying knowledge gained from experience and through training.
3. Responsible fishing to uphold policies developed.



We need your assistance to make a livelihood transition that will support sustainable fishing.

Resources needed:

1. Project funding to establish alternative income sources in fishing communities.
2. Equipment to make fishing technique conversions.
3. Research assistance to apply strategies designed to abate some of the affects of climate change.

These are just a few of the many resources needed to ensure that fishing communities around the world can avoid loss of income while contributing to the governance of marine conservation.





A point must come for the governance of marine conservation to cooperatively engage the fishing community.

Taking this holistic approach to conservation decision-making can provide an exchange of input on the active challenges faced on both sides of the policy, with feasible solutions entwined for effective implementation.

Thank you for your time.

We look forward to working with you.

Armando Ramirez
Rio Grande Fisherman Cooperative
Punta Gorda Town, Belize

Contact Number: 631-3214 or 677-9323
Email: arr82575@yahoo.com

Appendix 4: Presentation by Sibly Charles

Fisheries Governance in the OECS: Antigua and Barbuda

A fisher's Perspective

Fishing Industry

- Small-scale fishery with 1521 registered fishers, 944 active (2010)
- Registered vessels 1029, estimated 388 active
 - Updated registration an issue (Barbuda)
 - Mainly open outboard powered vessels under 10meters
- Harmonised OECS fisheries legislation, Fisheries Act



Fishing Industry

- Multispecies fisheries with fishers harvesting several different stocks using varying methods
 - 2010 production valued in excess of \$34 million
 - Spiny lobster \$5.2 million
 - Queen conch \$2.2 million
- Vast majority of fish caught is consumed locally, some lobsters and conch leave the country

Management

- Open access fishery managed by Fisheries Division in Ministry responsible for agriculture, fisheries and environment.
- Regulations for protected areas, size and other restrictions, registration and licensing regime.

Tropical Cyclones

- Fisheries impact
- Economical impact

Fishers and management

- FD has limited personnel and resources to carry out it's function

Appendix 5: GMA winner Martha Gongora



Gladding Memorial Award – 2011

- To ensure that the insight of knowledgeable, conservation-minded fishers is always directly represented at annual GCFI meetings the *Gladding Memorial Award* was created in 2004.
- Winners in prior years come from Barbados, Columbia, Mexico, Florida, Belize, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Antigua, Jamaica, Venezuela, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic.
- This award provides full funding for sustainable fishing leaders to attend GCFI conferences. More information on the GMA at www.gcfi.org

Peter Gladding was a model of the master commercial fisher who became a profoundly important conservationist.



His vision of responsible management from an industry perspective helped establish one of the most significant marine reserves in the region - the Tortugas Ecological Reserve in the Florida Keys - and he inspired many others elsewhere.

Patrol Vessel *Peter Gladding* Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary



Aluminum Hydrofoil
Catamaran
Length: 57' Draft: < 3'
Top Speed 45 kts
Range 500 nm
Crew: 3-4 Officers
Cross-deputized Fed-State
Twin 1085HP diesel
Hamilton Waterjets

- A state-of-the-art electronic joystick control system & a low-boarding area, allows officers to safely inspect vessels and provide emergency services.
- The primary operating area is the remote Tortugas Reserve 70 mi W of Key West. Because of the long distance, a high cruise speed is required, along with very high sprint speeds during pursuit.

RUTH MARTHA GARCIA
GONGORA
2011 Local GMA Winner
64th GCFI
Puerto Morelos, Mexico

Martha's career

- NURSING IN PARTICULAR OFFICE (2 YEARS)
- FISHER FROM 30 YEARS AGO, A MEMBER OF THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY OF COZUMEL FISH PRODUCTION SC DE RL.

Martha's career

- ♣ PARTICIPATION IN THE BOARD IN FISH PRODUCTION COOPERATIVE SOCIETY OF COZUMEL, AS SECRETARY TO THE SUPERVISORY BOARD IN THE PERIOD 2004-2006
- ♣ Participation in the Course leadership and motivation, GIVEN IN THE BAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, Q. ROO THE DAY 03 OF DECEMBER 2004 TO 10 hours.
- ♣ PARTICIPATION TO THE COURSE OF FIRST AID TO CIVILIANS HELD IN SAN MIGUEL COZUMEL, Q. ROO FROM 17 TO 19 MAY 2006.
- ♣ Participation in the Course CROPPING SYSTEMS FOR YOUTH PINK SNAIL GIVEN IN PUERTO MORELOS, Q. ROO June 2006

Martha's career

- ♣ EXCHANGE BETWEEN PARTICIPATION IN COASTAL FISHERMEN "A FISHERMAN FISHERMAN 3" under the main theme fishermen in fisheries management. HELD IN THE CITY OF LA PAZ, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO 24 to February 28, 2011.
- ♣ Commission on Accreditation SHELTER IN FISHING AREAS FISHING IN THE BAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT concession area A COOPERATIVE SOCIETY OF COZUMEL FISH PRODUCTION SC DE RL from 2011 to 2012.
- ♣ PARTICIPATION IN THE "PROGRAM CONTROL lionfish (Pterois spp) IN RESERVE Sian Ka'an Biosphere" MADE IN THE COLONY OF FISHERMEN MARIA ELENA 2001 to 2012.
- ♣ PROTAGONIST GIRLS IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S INTERVIEW CONDUCTED IN THE COLONY OF FISHERMEN MARIA ELENA

GCFI and the GMA committee
Congratulates Martha on her
receipt of this prestigious award



Appendix 6: Fishers Field Trip Participants

GCFI/GMA Fishers Field Trip, Puerto Morelos, México, 1 November, 2011

Name	Designation	Organization
Mitchell Lay	Fisher (Antigua and Barbuda)	GMA/CNFO
Albert James	Fisher (St. Lucia)	CNFO
Todville Peets	Fisher (St. Kitts)	CNFO
Vernel Nichols	Fisher (Barbados)	CNFO
Sibly Charles	Fisher (Antigua and Barbuda)	CNFO
Huron Vidal	Fisher (Dominica)	CNFO
Mitsuhiro Ishida	Marine Biologist	JICA
Roberto Hensen	Fishery Officer	St. Eustatius
Jullan Defoe	Fishery Officer	Dominica
Patrick McConney	Researcher	CERMES, UWI
Nicholas Diaz	Fisher	CRPNEN Guadaloupe
Patrick Rogan	Fisher	CRPNEN Guadaloupe
Nadia Cazaubon	Project Officer	SMMA
Peter Butcher	Chief Ranger	SMMA
Joanus Sylvester	Fisher	Soufriere Fishermen's Coop
Winston Hobson	Fisher	NFC
Malvern Jeffers	Fisher	NFC
Dennis Small	Fisher	NFC
Angelica Mendez	Fisher	GMA/Red de Pescadores del Caribe
Martha Gongora	Fisher	GMA/Cooperativa de Cozumel
Bertha Simmons	Consultant	Barbados
Kasy Venchard	Director (Training Fishers)	IRPN Guadaloupe
Vincent Druault-Aubin		IRPN Guadaloupe
Lorinston Jenkins	Fishery Officer	St. Kitts
Kemraj Parsram	Phd Student	UWI – CERMES
Tarub Bahri	FAO Officer	FAO
Raymon Van Anrooy	FAO Officer	FAO
Barbara Reveles	Consultant	
Silvia Salas	Researcher	CINVESTAD
Maria Pena	Project officer	UWI – CERMES
Natalie Zenny	Project Manager	TNC
Zaidy Khan	MPA Specialist	UWI – CERMES
Lyn Marie Deane	MarGov communication officer	UWI – CERMES
Peter Van Barren	Policy Adviser	Min of economic affair, agricultura & innovation, St. Eustacious
Jay Luger		Marine Stewardship Council

Appendix 7: F4F Planning Meeting Agenda



Gladding Memorial Award Regional Fishers Forum: *Regional Fisheries Governance and Fishers Participation*

64th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
Puerto Morelos, Mexico, 2 November 2011

Fisheries for Fishers planning session (Ocean Room, Dreams Hotel)

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Review of Fishers Forum at 64th GCFI (31 October 2011)
 - Presentations
 - Discussions
 - GMA award
3. Review of Fishers Field Trip at 64th GCFI (1 November 2011)
 - Visit to Puerto Jaurez and the federation of fishers cooperatives of Quintana Roo.
4. The GMA/F4F strategic plan
5. Close

Appendix 8: F4F Meeting Participants

GCFI/GMA F4F Planning Meeting
 Puerto Morelos, México
 2 November, 2011
 8:30 am, Ocean Room

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Angelica Mendez	Guatemala Fisherfolks Network
Todville Peets	Old Road Fisherman Coop
Albert James	NFO St. Lucia
Huron Vidal	CNFO – NAFCoop Dominica
Royan Patrick	Pd du Carem Guadeloupe
Malvern Jeffers	Nevis Fisherman
Vernel Nicholls	BARNUFO
Dennis Small	Nevis Fisherman Cooperative
Winston Hobson	Nevis Fisherman Cooperative
Celia Mahung	Toledo Institute for Development and Environment
Martha Ruth Gongora	Cozumel Quintana Roo
Bob Glazer	GCFI
Jay Luger	Marine Stewardship Council
Raymon Van Anrooy	FAO / WECAFC
Patrick McConney	UWI, CERMES
Milton Haughton	CRFM Secretariat, Belize
Julio R. Maaz	WCS
Nathalie Zenny	TNC
Roberto Carballo	Belize Fisheries
Ken Lindeman	FIT
Sibly Charles	Antigua and Barbuda Coop
Larry Epster	EDF
Hector Lopez Pelet	DRNA – LIP –Puerto Rico
Juaquin Adame	Sociedad de Coop Servicio Turistico
Esequiel Sanchez Herrera	Puerto Morelos Coop
Bertha Simmons	Environmental Consultant
Mitchell Lay	GMA/CNFO

Appendix 9: F4F Meeting Presentation

GCFI F4F Strategic Planning
at
64th GCFI, Puerto Morelos
Mexico

2 November 2011

Status

- 2009 – Planning session
- 2009 – Fishers Summit in at 62nd GCFI
- 2010 – Planning session
- 2011 – Work plan

2009

- Challenges and opportunities for sustainable fisheries
- Ecosystem based management and fisher visions for sustainability
- Enforcement and compliance: priority issues for fishers
- Opportunities to diversify fisheries to sustain fishers' livelihoods
- Fishers involvement in fisheries management and policy

2010

Vision:

Healthy marine ecosystems that have sustainable fisheries which use best fishing practices, managed within an ecosystem approach to fisheries that results in regionally well-organized fishers enjoying a good standard of living

2010

- Recognize and award fishers, who are conservation oriented and utilize sustainable fishing practices, at the GMA awards held at annual GCFI conferences.
- Develop a cadre of fishers with relevant capacities to participate in advocating sustainable fishing practices, conducting and applying research, and engaging in negotiation on fisheries practice and management.
- Facilitate and support the exchange of sustainable best practices within fisheries among fishers, and the engagement of fishers at fisheries management forums.
- Share data and information on ecosystems approach to fisheries and sustainable fishing practices, including media to promote GCFI and GMA/Fisheries for Fishers.
- Attract more decision-makers and managers to GCFI meetings to facilitate direct exchange of information and exposure to perspectives of science and sustainable resource use/livelihoods

GMA Award

- Share more information on criteria and qualifications of GMA winner
- Recognize and award fishers
- Identify/fund two fishers per annum for GMA.
- Fishers at GCFI (Forum, Field trip, F4F)
 - Fishers participation at GCFI meetings (presentations, responsibilities, loss/earnings)

Capacity Development Ambassador Program

- Train 10 fishers in advocacy, negotiation and representation.
- Develop the skills required for conducting research and applying lessons learned for the cadre of fishers
- Support education/training of fishers in diversifying sustainable fishing methods
- Small grant priority on ambassadors and critical timing of visits for strategic aim
- Use local fisher folk organisations to assist GMA winners in spreading ideas

Fishers in Governance

- Capacity development/ambassador program
- Examine existing fishery management regimes and identify areas for fishers' involvement.
- Facilitate and support the engagement of fishers in fisheries management forums.
- EAF and management

Fishers Exchanges

- Support education/training of fishers in diversifying sustainable fishing methods.
- Winners work together (local and non-local) to strengthen transboundary communication among fishers in the region.
- Conduct fishers' exchanges on sustainable fishing practices and the ecosystems approach to fisheries and assist in the local application of best sustainable fishing practices

Information/Communication

- Develop promotional media on GCFI/GMA/Fisheries for Fishers initiatives and to suitable package for mass media, fishery managers, marine scientists, other marine and coastal zone users and fishers.
- More films/communication on fisher exchanges to share with wider audience
- Improve GCFI web site with more video and visual content relating to fishers

Making it happen

- Identification of ambassadors
- Governance participation opportunities
- Leadership and resources
- Support
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Communication