



NEGRIL MARINE PARK NEWS

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Did you Know...

- Coral reefs contain compounds found to help fight heart disease, asthma, leukemia, viruses, cancer, and HIV!
- If the present rate of destruction continues, 70% of the world's coral reefs will be killed within our lifetimes!
- It is illegal to deposit debris anywhere other than an area or receptacle designated for that purpose within marine parks!

Production of this newsletter provided by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ).

Hurricane Ivan Hits the Marine Park



Along the seven mile beach



The Rockhouse



Little Bay Fishing Beach

About 2:00 pm, September 10, 2004, worldwide weather forecast clearly confirmed that the eye of Hurricane Ivan was headed directly over Jamaica, steadily reaching category 5 status. While many rushed to tack plywood against their windows and lay cement blocks on their zinc roofs, they anticipated the worse.

Thankfully, as the storm continued, some predictions appeared to be incorrect. The eye of the storm always remained at least 20 miles south of the island. However, devastation to the island, especially the southern parishes was still great.

In Negril, hotels along the seven mile beach suffered significant cosmetic damage, as downed trees and blown off shingled roofs were found in the middle of the roads. However, properties along the West End seaside seemed to have suffered a greater loss, as entire structures were wiped out by strong waves hitting along the rocky cliffs.

Destruction within the ocean could be seen in its deep brown color that lasted about a week after the storm. Corals washed up along the street as well as algae dragged up on the beach, were obvious clues of the powerful motions the winds had created during the storm. There was also extreme erosion along the beach, which left the sea just at the edge of many properties.

Within the Negril EPA, Little Bay Fishing Beach was among the most terribly devastated, as many parts of the beach were completely covered with algae, and roads to enter the town were made impassable by sand. Great loss and ruin of fish pots, boats, and houses have left this community one of the worst in Jamaica to be affected by Hurricane Ivan.

Although Little Bay, Negril, the Marine Park and Jamaica are blessed that Hurricane Ivan's path was altered, the harm done was still great. However, with help from communities, the government and international aid, Jamaica will soon return to its normal state.



Mr. Kum takes photos of the Marine Park



Rangers discuss Marine Park with Mr. Kum

CREP Documentary

On September 21st, the Regional Environmental Awareness (REA) coordinator and webmaster Jerry A. Kum of the Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme (CREP) visited NCRPS. Along with his camera crew, his intentions were to capture footage of the Negril Marine Park and its environs. During the visit, Mr. Kum participated in a guided glass bottom boat tour along the seven mile beach, led by NCRPS Head Ranger, Linval Getten. They surveyed zoning within the marine park, as well as assessed damage along the coastline caused by Hurricane Ivan. The boat tour was followed by a tour of the Marine Park Headquarters and a discussion with Marine Park rangers. Selected scenes/shots will be included in a documentary about environmental activities throughout the region currently involved in the programme. This documentary will be aired during the last week of November.

Last November, CREP was launched in Negril, the chosen demonstration site (Amenity Area) for Jamaica. CREP is a three year project which was designed "to promote socially and ecologically sound development in the region", through demonstration models in 13 Caribbean countries. CREP is funded by the European Development Fund. It is a Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM). The government of Barbados manages the project on behalf of CARIFORUM.

Mesh Exchange Programme 2004



Rangers exchange mesh for fish pots



NCRPS ranger dismantles a fish pot

During the week of October 4th, fishermen from Orange Bay participated in the Mesh Exchange Program. This programme, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, allow fishermen to receive a 2 for 1 exchange of mesh wire to replace fish pots that frequently catch juvenile fish. When fish are caught in this intermediate stage of development, they are not given the chance to mature and reproduce. Therefore, this programme is considered essential to help promote sustainable fishing.

Twelve Orange Bay fishermen participated in the programme. While most fishermen exchanged mesh wire with 1.25 inch diameter holes, some traded in their illegal 1 inch hole wire in return for mesh with 1.5 inch holes. In total, 36 fish pots were traded in for new mesh. NCRPS will use the mesh collected from fisherman to be used for construction of chicken coops. NCRPS believes that the program in Orange Bay was a great success and greatly appreciates the cooperation received from the fishermen.

The Mesh Exchange Program is part of an ongoing project within the Negril Marine Park. Four fishing beaches were selected to participate in this program; Negril, Little Bay, Orange Bay and Green Island fishing beaches. Previous mesh exchanges have already occurred in Negril and Little Bay and will continue to rotate within participating beaches in hope that all fisherman will comply with this beneficial change.

Marine Park Tour



NCRPS staff and BOD

On October 7th, members of NCRPS Board of Directors took a tour of the Marine Park aboard the Wild Thing Catamaran. This tour was an opportunity for BOD members to personally recognize the value of their efforts to manage the Negril Marine Park. It also was an opportunity to become aware of short term goals and provide guidance for future projects.

During the tour from the seven mile beach to Green Island, the NCRPS Directors took notice of zoning buoys placed within the Marine Park, designed to promote proper practices relating to swimming, water sports, diving and fishing within appropriate areas. Although most regulations were being obeyed, there were some illegal practices taking place, such as wrongly placed fish pots and illegally anchored boats. However, the tour proved to be very informative, reinforcing the progress and work NCRPS has done and needs to do to protect the Negril area coral reef ecosystem.

Post-Hurricane Reef Check

On October 16th and 17th, NCRPS organized a post-Hurricane Ivan Reef Check survey of the coral reefs in the Negril Marine Park. The last Reef Check was done in July and are usually done annually; however assessment of the coral reef ecosystem was deemed imperative to understand effects caused by Hurricane Ivan. Three divers from NCRPS, ten from Kingston and one diver from Montego Bay helped in the effort. Mr. Malden Miller, Caribbean Project Manager for the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) coordinated the surveys. During the Reef Check, fish, invertebrates and corals were surveyed, counted and evaluated. Initial observations from divers indicate that there definitely was damage done to the coral reef ecosystem as a result of the hurricane. However, final data analysis will demonstrate what specific areas of the ecosystem were more affected than others by Hurricane Ivan. Dr. Judith Mendez of the University of the West Indies has volunteered to analyze the data.



Reef Check divers

International Coastal Clean-up 2004

October 23rd marked Jamaica's annual celebration of International Coastal Cleanup Day. Originally scheduled for September 18th, this event was postponed due to Hurricane Ivan. However, Negril's delayed activities still proved to be successful, attracting roughly 95 volunteers who collected approximately 172 bags of trash from beach, underwater and fishing beach cleanups.

The highlight of the day's celebration was the competition between area schools, Sheffield All Age, Negril All Age and Whitehall Preparatory, (50 students) for the Green Team Trophy Award. Sheffield All Age and Negril All Age's cleanup sites were Bloody Bay I and II respectively, while Whitehall's assignment was Little Bloody Bay. In total, the schools collected 74 bags of trash from these areas. However, Sheffield All Age won the competition, displaying most improvement in their site's appearance. Negril All Age was, 1st runner up while Whitehall Prep was the 2nd runner up of the competition.

NCRPS Marine Park Rangers led volunteers from Sun Divers and Peace Corps in the underwater cleanup. Cornwall and West End (near Rick's Café) were chosen as the sites for this year's event. A total of seven bags of trash were collected as well as many items to large to be contained.

Local community sites included in the cleanup were the Negril, Little Bay, Orange Bay and Green Island fishing beaches. Although the communities got off to a slow start, and had to continue their cleanups during the following week, this year's cleanups proved to be very productive, displaying noticeable improvement in the sites' appearance.

Special thanks to Rockhouse, Hedonism II, Couples, ClubHotel RIU, Negril Cabins, Wild Thing Watersports, SuperS+Plus Supermarkets in Sav-La-Mar and Green Island, D&Y Supermarket in Sav-La-Mar, Hi-Lo Basix in Sav-la-Mar and P&S Wholesale in Orange Bay who volunteered in-kind contributions.



Students cleanup Bloody Bay



Divers display items collected from underwater



Fisherman cleans up the Negril Fishing Beach

Marine Park Regulations

Under the NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACT, the Marine Park Regulations Regulation 10.1.a, specifically states, a person shall not, in a marine park, deposit or leave any litter, bottle, broken glass, china, pottery, plastic articles, rubbish, refuse, or other waste material, except in an area receptacle designated or provided for that purpose. If found liable, a person may be convicted before a Resident Magistrate to pay a fine or possibly face imprisonment.

All users of the Negril Marine Park should endeavor to become more aware of the Park, so as to become conscious of the potential threats to the reef and other natural marine resources in general. If you have any questions regarding the NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACT, please stop by the Negril Marine Park Headquarters or call us at 957-3735..



For our children's children.....

The Mission of the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society is to protect and preserve coral reef ecosystems, locally, regionally, and globally, through education, research, training, monitoring, lobbying, and the creation of marine protected areas.

Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society

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Join NCRPS and Support the Negril Marine Park!

You can support the Negril Marine Park and help protect the fragile coral reef ecosystem by becoming a member of the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society.

Members receive newsletters.

I wish to become a member of NCRPS (Membership fees are for a one year period)

- Business Membership, \$1000 JA/\$50 US
- Family Membership, \$700 JA/\$35 US
- Full Individual Membership \$500 JA/\$15 US
- Student Membership, \$50 JA/\$5 US



I wish to make a tax deductible donation to NCRPS to benefit the Negril Marine Park

(NCRPS is registered as a non-profit, charitable organization in Jamaica, West Indies)

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of \$ _____

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ E MAIL _____

Please make cheques payable to: NCRPS, Negril P.O. Box #2563, Westmoreland, Jamaica, West Indies

US TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS THROUGH FRIENDS OF JAMAICA USA

NCRPS works in partnership with Friends of Jamaica (FOJ) USA, a US based organization dedicated to providing economic assistance to organizations in Jamaica. FOJ is recognized by the US Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit charitable organization, 501 (c) (3). All contributions made to NCRPS through FOJ are US tax deductible. FOJ will retain 5% of all contributions for administrative purposes. Those wishing to make donations to NCRPS through FOJ will become members of FOJ and receive membership benefits. www.friendsofjamaicausa.org

Please make cheques payable to Friends of Jamaica USA, 1312 W. Empire Street, Freeport, Ill. 61032