



NEGRIL MARINE PARK NEWS

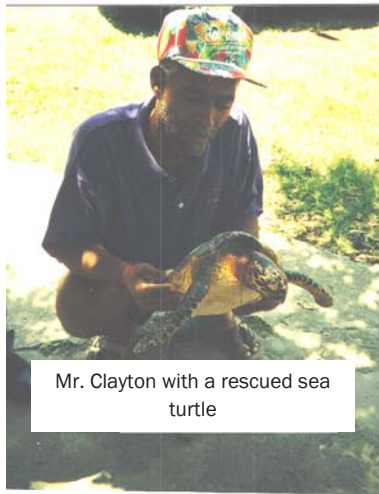
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Local Fisherman Honored



Mr. Clayton with a rescued sea turtle

Mr. Ceylon Clayton of the Little Bay Community in Westmoreland has been an exemplary fisherman for many years. In an effort to recognize outstanding leadership among fishermen in the Caribbean region, the Gladding Memorial Award (GMA) was created by the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, with an enduring vision for the sustainable and wise use of marine resources. There were two recipients of the GMA for 2006, Mr. Clayton and Mr. Carlton Young, a Belizean national. The award was presented at the Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute 59th Annual Conference on Tuesday, November 7, 2006. Mr. Anderson Kinch 2005 awardee from Barbados presented the awards.

To ensure that the insight of knowledgeable local fishers is always directly represented at the annual meetings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, the Board of Directors approved the creation of the GMA in 2004. This award provides full travel funding for exceptional fishers to attend the annual GCFI conferences. Glad-

ding was a model of the commercial fisher who became a profoundly successful conservationist.

Mr. Clayton is a dedicated fisherman from the Little Bay Area. He is very involved in the development of his community and is a community leader. He has been a part of Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society since 1990 and has been instrumental in its work with fishermen in the Little Bay area. He has served on the Board of Directors since 1997 and is a Game Warden with the National Environmental and Planning Agency for a number of years. He has contributed to the work of NCRPS by acting as a community warden and has helped to organize activities such as International Coastal Clean-up in association with NCRPS within his community. He has also been instrumental in the protection of turtles within his area setting up a turtle watch and protection programme as the area serves as a nesting area for turtles.

Unfortunately, however, Mr. Clayton was unable to participate in this memorable occasion honoring his work, his travel itinerary routed him through Miami and he was unable to obtain the US visa in time for the conference. Miss Elsa Hemmings of the NCRPS collected the award on his behalf. Next year at the 60th GCFI Conference, to be held in the Dominican Republic, the organizers hope Mr. Clayton can be in attendance to pass on the award to his successor. The NCRPS is proud of Mr. Clayton's achievement and encourages him to continue his work in protecting the marine resources for our children's children...

Did you Know...

- The largest species of sea cucumber can grow to a length of 6.5 feet!
- A shark can detect a fish's heartbeat before it attacks!
- Squid have 3 hearts and whales have 3 stomachs!
- A group of jellyfish is called a smack.

Prepared by:
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Merry Christmas and a Happy Fun Day!

To help celebrate the Christmas season NCRPS held a fun day, the Christmas Bling Ting! Held at the Normal Manley Beach park, the fun day featured a bounce-about, merry-go-round, music by Ultramedia, grab bag, volleyball, food and drink. Unfortunately it was a rainy day, but a good time was had by all. This event was coordinated by Elsa Hemmings, the Administrative Manager, as her last big event for NCRPS as she will be leaving us in the coming year. Elsa has been a tremendous asset to NCRPS throughout the past 9 years she has been working here and we at NCRPS wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

MPA Workshop

Held on November 4, 2006 in Punta Gorda, Belize before the GCFI conference was a workshop concerning the study of Marine Protected Area- Management Effectiveness (MPA-ME). This study was funded by the Coral Reef Conservation Grant of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The project was administered by the Center for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), a branch of UWI. In attendance at the workshop as well as at the conference was Elsa Hemmings representing NCRPS, as well as Donna Roach who spend the summer in Negril conducting her work on the Negril Marine Park.

One thing being discussed at the conference were the findings of a study of marine park management effectiveness. In this study three marine parks were assessed: Tobago Cays Marine Park (St. Vincent and the Grenadines), Sapodilla Cays Marine Reserve (Belize), and our own Negril Marine Park. Similar studies are being conducted around the world in SE Asia and the Pacific. In the study multiple indicators were used from three indicator clusters: biophysical, socio-economic, and governance. Methods of data collection varied from looking at financial records, conducting surveys of stakeholders, analysis of scientific research being carried out such as water quality testing, etc. At the workshop a presentation was prepared to be given at the GCFI Conference, this presentation was delivered by Donna Roach.



Participants at the workshop, including Elsa Hemmings and Donna Roach

Some of the recommendations that came out of the study for Negril Marine Park are: scheduling regular meetings between managers and stakeholders, increase the number of public community meetings, establish a public education programme, and improve financial management. The full report on the workshop can be accessed by contacting NCRPS.

Stemming from this study there will be projects implemented at all three marine protected areas. There is a sub-grant of \$1,500 USD available to each participating MPA to assist in adaptive management and address specific problems identified by the researchers. Here at Negril Marine Park, we are looking into using the grant to increase out education, composing a educational table tent to be distributed in hotel rooms throughout Negril. Whatever is chosen for the sub-grant, it should be completed by the end of February 2007.

Lifeguard Certification

Lifeguard certification is done by the National Environment and Planning Agency at different locations in Jamaica throughout the year. This past October Negril was the site where people were being certified. As apart of being a marine park ranger here at NCRPS lifeguard certification is a requisite. Mr. Malden Miller, Project Manager, Linval Gettien, head ranger, and Mr. Vernon Sommerville, ranger, were all tested and renewed their certifications. The next opportunity for lifeguard certification in Jamaica will be in Portland in February where rangers Everton Frame and Granville Johnson will obtain their certifications. The other locations for certification are Ocho Rios, Montego Bay, and Kingston throughout the year. Amendments to the Beach Control Act made this past December now makes it illegal to operate as a lifeguard without being NEPA certified or having an equivalent certification sanctioned by NEPA.

Environmental Fairs

There have been many Environmental Fairs at different venues in the western region. Among them, NCRPS was represented at Couples Negril and Round Hill. Many organizations were represented at both such as EcoTech, National Solid Waste Management Authority, the Health Department and the Fire Department. At Round Hill Brooke Anderson, Environmental Education Coordinator, gave a presentation on coral reefs and what people can do to protect them. At such environmental fairs students from many different schools as well as staff members from the venue are always in attendance.



Children learning about coral reefs.

The NCRPS display table.

Creature Feature: Sea Cucumbers

Sea cucumbers are often called the “earthworms of the sea.” These cucumber shaped organisms are of the Class Holothuroidea. There are 1,250 known species of Holothuroideans; two families, Holothuridea and Stichopodidae, are of great economic importance as they are often harvested for trade to Asian markets. In Asia sea cucumbers are a delicacy.

Sea cucumbers have an important ecological role as they recycle the nutrients in the environment, cycling up to 90% of the biomass in the ocean. When sea cucumbers are removed in some instances areas then become uninhabitable for other organisms as the sea floor becomes hardened by not being overturned by the Holothuroideans. Sea cucumbers are especially vulnerable to overexploitation, as has been seen in depleted fisheries around the world. The main reasons for this is their sedentary lifestyle and lack of mobility, making it easy to be picked off by fishermen. Also, they mature late, have density-dependent reproduction, and low survival of larvae. They have been found to be incapable of recovery once population density levels have been reduced below a critical mass. Sea cucumbers are a part of a complex food web. They are preyed upon by



Andy Bruckner

fish, crustaceans, mollusks, and sea stars, especially in their egg, larval, and juvenile stages. The main food source for sea cucumbers is detritus found on the sea floor, making them important in the breakdown of organic material. Because of their importance and the fishery associated with them, sea cucumbers are under consideration for being included under Article II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

GCFI Conference

The 59th Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute was held from 6 November to 11 November, 2006 in Belize City, Belize. The motto of GCFI is “providing information exchange among governmental, non-governmental, academic and commercial users of marine resources in the Gulf and Caribbean region,” and the conference held was to achieve that end.

At the conference there were many sessions on a range of topics from sharks off Mexico to the reproduction of the Queen conch. There were three special sessions held at the conference: Historical Perspectives for Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries, Large Pelagic Fishes in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico: Current Status and Integrated Management, and Caribbean Connectivity and its implications for MPA management.. Donna Roach gave a talk under the Science and Management of Marine Protected Areas, going over the findings of her work at Negril Marine Park as well as the others in the study as a result of the workshop held before the conference.

With so many sectors being involved, GCFI is able to provide a broad perspective on a wide range of topics. Discussing these different topics encourages the interaction of groups that might otherwise not always be working together. A book of abstracts from the different topics presented at the conference can be accessed by logging on to www.gcfi.org. NCRPS looks forward to a continuing relationship with GCFI and attending their 60th conference to be held in the Dominican Republic next year.

Marine Park Regulations

Under the **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACT**, the Marine Park Regulation 22, specifically states, the Authority may, as it thinks fit, zone areas of a marine park and may (a) assign a name or other designation for each zone; (b) make provision with respect to the purposes for which each zone may be used; and © attach conditions with regard to the use of each zone..

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 call the National Environment & Planning Agency (754-7543), stop by the Negril Marine Park Headquarters or call NCRPS 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 (Jamaican residents)/\$50 US (Overseas residents)
- Family Membership, \$700 JA (Jamaican residents) /\$35 US (Overseas residents)
- Full Individual Membership \$500 JA (Jamaican residents) /\$15 US (Overseas residents)
- Student Membership, \$50 JA (Jamaican residents) /\$5 US (Overseas residents)



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