



NEGRIL MARINE PARK NEWS

Volume I, Issue 3

September 2004

Inside this Issue:

Impacts of Land Based Nutrients	2
Earth Day 2004	2
NCRPS Fundraising Cruise	2
Marine Park User Zones	3
Marine Park Regulations	3
Membership form	4

The NCRPS Junior Ranger Summer Program 2004

Through the kind sponsorship of Counterpart Caribbean, the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS) held its Junior Ranger Summer programme this year from July 12 to July 30. Thirty-four students ranging from ages 4 – 15 participated in this three week program. Training was held on the grounds of the Negril Community Centre which also houses the Headquarters of the Negril Marine Park and the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society.



Mrs. Chantelle Carvalho-Black, former Junior Ranger Coordinator with NCRPS and Ms. Jean Brown, NCRPS Director and teacher at the Negril All-Age School, coordinated the training.

Did you know...

- Coral reefs cover less than 0.2% of the ocean floor and are estimated to contain approximately 25% of the ocean species!
- It is illegal to spear fish or even carry a weapon that is potentially harmful to fish, wildlife, the reef structure or human safety within marine parks!
- Negril plays host to over 24 different species of Starfish!



The summer program included both practical and theoretical training activities. The practical training consisted of swimming and snorkeling lessons. At the end of the program



about 93 percent of participants were able to advance to a competent swimmer's level. Theoretical training consisted of two parts. Part 1 included First Aid & CPR and Life saving Skills. Part 2 focused on Environmental Education. This training included topics in marine ecosystems and covered subjects such as mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs, waste management / proper waste disposal, environmental laws, and endangered species. Theoretical training was done through a variety of teaching methods and strategies which included the use of charts, games, demonstrations, pictures, videos, illustrations, oral presentations, handouts and drama. At the end of the programme, there was an awards ceremony that recognized students for their performance and participation.

Overall, the 2004 Summer Programme proved to be a successful and necessary supplement to the students' general education. Skills and information introduced in this summer program proved pertinent in teaching students to become more environmentally aware.

Seminar on Impacts of Land-based Nutrients on the Negril Marine Park

This past March, NCRPS Scientific Advisor Dr. Brain Lapointe of the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, presented a seminar to members of the Negril community and invited guests on the results of the NCRPS water quality and coral reef monitoring programme that has been ongoing within the Marine Park for the past several years.

In the seminar, Dr. Lapointe described a variety of algae such as *Caulerpa racemosa*, the growth of which is supported by nutrients originating in land run-off and which are frequently found on the reefs. Dr. Lapointe explained the dangers of such smothering algae which can lead to unusually low oxygen levels, and which in time can eventually suffocate the corals. Nutrient enrichment sites impact the coastal areas by releasing high counts of nitrogen and phosphates thereby creating algal blooms. Dr. Lapointe's main focus of cause and effects of the green algae blooms were linked to the presence of improperly treated sewage from certain coastal areas. Where sewage treatment was inadequate, this could lead to the release of high counts of nutrients such as phosphates and nitrates into the rivers and seas. Over time, these land-based sources are predicted to play a crucial role in the eventual deterioration of beaches and reefs.

A special thanks to the Sunset at the Palms Hotel who hosted the seminar and other participants who included representatives from the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), U.S. Peace Corps, the Discovery Bay Marine Lab, the Montego Bay Marine Park Trust, the National Water Commission (NWC) and The Gleaner Company, and Dr. Brain Lapointe, once again.

Earth Day 2004



Students collect trash from the Negril Community center.

April 22nd marked Negril's tenth anniversary of celebrating international Earth Day. The theme of this year's celebration was "Land and Sea: One Love One Environment". Seven Junior Ranger schools participated in these Earth Day activities. One of the events included a cleanup at the Negril Community Center grounds where 39 bags of trash were collected. Also, an underwater cleanup was done in collaboration with Beaches, Sandals and Grand Lido hotels that produced an additional 4 bags of trash. The most popular event of the day's activities turned out to be the glass bottom boat tour to the coral reef in which 120 students and teachers participated. Other activities included Negril's annual drum painting and poster competitions. Once again, this year's activities and events celebrating Earth Day proved to be a success.

This year's Earth Day activities were sponsored by the National Environmental Societies Trust (NEST) and coordinated by NCRPS in collaboration with the Negril Chamber of Commerce.

Rain: the regular fun spoiler ? Not on this cruise !

'Lovely', 'great', 'wonderful time', 'enjoyable': these are just some of the terms that were used to describe the NCRPS fund raising cruise aboard the Wild Thing Catamaran.

The cruise which was organized by the NCRPS board (to raise funds for the visitor center and gift shop) departed from Chances at 4pm, on Sunday 15th August and set sail along Long Bay to the West End cliffs. Choppy seas at Rick's Café forced the captain to return to Pirates Cave, but this did not stop the cruise patrons from enjoying all the inclusive liquors, pizza and juices. Rain, the regular fun spoiler, was just what the doctor ordered to take the cruise to another level as patrons who did not intend to get wet were seen going through the water slide, swimming, jumping off the cliffs and dancing up a storm in their underwear. It was just amazing!

I just want to say thanks to all the people who came on the cruise and all the people who made it possible. A special thanks to Ms Toral Silverman, who is manager of Wild Thing and President of NCRPS, Mr. Peter McIntosh who is owner of Wild Thing and First Vice President of NCRPS and Mr. Lloyd Nelson, NCRPS Board Director. To the Wild Thing Captain : Kingsley, and crew : Lincoln, Wayne, Nakia, George, Kadian, Shauna and Halcia who kept the vibes going with great service, music and dancing : you are the 'best mon!'. Also special thanks to Moon Dance Villas, Riu Hotel and Rondel Village who publicized this to their guests and those who joined us, the staff from Rhodes Hall, Sun Divers, Motor Citi, Computer Graphics and Web Design, Devine Destiny, Dr Radamski and Mr McGaan. And last but not least to NCRPS ranger Everton, and my sister Joy who accompanied me.

Article written by Vernon Somerville

New NCRPS Staff and Volunteers

NCRPS welcomes new staff to the Marine Park Management Programmes: Vernon Somerville, Ansurd M.Carey and Deanne Grant.

Vernon Somerville joined NCRPS in January 2004 and Ansurd Carey, a Junior Ranger Graduate, in May 2004. They are being trained on the job in a variety of Marine Park Ranger related field programmes. Training to which the young recruits have so far been exposed include water collection, sampling and testing, fish identification, reef monitoring, regulations of the Marine Park and zoning. Since joining the NCRPS Marine Park team, both Ansurd and Vernon have attained the coxswain certificate of competency in boat operation.

Deanne Grant is a United States Peace Corps volunteer who has recently joined the NCRPS staff for the next two years. She recently graduated from the University of Virginia in May 2004 with a degree in Environmental Science. She will be serving as the Education/Public Relations Coordinator.



Vernon Somerville



Ansurd M. Carey



Deanne Grant

Negril Marine Park User Zones

Negril's Marine Park Rangers have installed eight signs at the replenishment zones/fish nursery sites within the park. The signs compliment the orange demarcation buoys that were previously installed to demarcate the boundaries of these areas. The replenishment zones are used as breeding ground for fish and other marine life and should be regarded as very delicate areas. There are 6 replenishment zones located in the Negril Marine Park in which there should be absolutely no fishing, no swimming, no jet skis or any other type of water sport activity. Other demarcation buoys that are part of the zoning programme for the park are the swimmers lane and entry lane buoys. The buoys marked with red tops identify the entry lanes for watercrafts to access the beach areas. Eleven such lanes have been placed along the beach in Long Bay. Within the swimming areas, which are marked with white buoys that have a red band around the diameter, motorized crafts are not permitted. The swimmers lane comprise one hundred and fifty five of these buoys in a line extending from Rutland Point to the South Negril River. Swimmers are strongly advised to stay within the designated area. Forty five dive and snorkel sites are marked with white buoys having a blue band. These white and blue buoys serve two purposes: (1) to inform the divers and snorkelers of popular sites and (2) to provide a docking point for boats to secure themselves without dropping anchors onto the corals.

These various buoys have been placed in their designated areas to serve and protect the public. By allowing the buoys to serve their intended purpose, it is expected that people gain a certain amount of respect for the coral reefs, the Marine Park and each other.



Rangers installing Replenishments zone signs



Orange buoys marking one of the nursery zones within the Park

Marine Park Regulations

Negril's Marine Park was declared in 1998, when the community of Negril became concerned about the rapid decrease of the coral reefs and the white sandy beaches. Under the NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACT, the Marine Park Regulations were established in 1992. These Rules and Regulations are not only established to protect the declining environment, but to advise the public of the purpose of the Marine Park.

Regulation 12, specifically states that a person shall not discharge or have in possession in a marine park, any air rifle, or other firearm, bang sticks, spear-gun, harpoons, etc. that are potentially harmful to fish or wildlife or to the reef structure and dangerous to human safety. 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 endeavour 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 NCRPS headquarters to ask any questions you may have.



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