



# NEGRIL MARINE PARK NEWS

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## Fishery Management Plan Meetings

During the month of July, Mr. Richard Kelly, June Masters and Errol Bartley, members of the Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, along with the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society facilitated a series of meetings with fisherman within the Negril Environmental Protection Area. Organized by NCRPS, these meetings were held to assist the Fisheries Division and NCRPS in the development of a management plan for the Negril EPA fishing industry. Included fishing communities were Cousin's Cove, Davis Cove, Green Island, Orange Bay, Negril, Little Bay, Homer's Cove and Salmon Point.

The meetings commenced at their respective communities with NCRPS outlining current zoning and operations within the Marine Park. This was followed by Mr. Kelly presenting information on the current fishing industry in Jamaica. In his presentation, he revealed data concerning the decline of fish catch in the Marine Park and Jamaica. He further facilitated a discussion with the fisherman on why they supposed it was declining. Fisherman identified such problems as sewage pollution, the catch of juvenile fish, fishing gears, the proper use of them, dynamiting and general obedience of the rules and regulations of the Marine Park. Kelly then probed on how they could find solutions to these problems and make the fishing industry in the Environmental Protection Area a sustainable entity. Co management with the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society and the Negril Marine Police to make sure these practices are followed was stated as one of the many solutions to turn the fishing industry around in the EPA and Jamaica. This healthy discussion among all participants was encouraged, as solutions that would involve all entities and the environment was the goal.

Overall, these fisherman meetings across the EPA proved to be worthwhile, as NEPA and NCRPS gained much needed input and direction into creating a management plan for the Negril Marine Park. The meetings also proved to be useful for fisherman as they received an opportunity to listen and learn of the various fishing and environmental concerns of their fellow fisher folk.

### Did you Know...

- A single parrotfish can produce about five tons of sand a year!
- Coral reefs are found in 109 countries. Significant reef degradation has occurred in 93!
- The Authority may declare in writing that an area of water in a marine park in which fishing is allowed is subject to conditions.



Mr. Kelly facilitates meeting in Davis Cove



Negril fisherman attend meeting

## World Environment Day – Green Expo

In commemoration of World Environment Day, Beaches Negril held a Green Expo on June 8th at their resort in which they invited the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society. NCRPS was among other organizations such as the Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust (NEPT), the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPDEM) and the National Environmental and Planning Authority (NEPA) asked to share its current conservation efforts with tourists, organizations, employees and other members of the Negril community.

Ms. Deanne Grant, Environmental Education Officer and Linval Getten, Head Marine Park Ranger represented NCRPS' environmental conservation efforts at the Green Expo. NCRPS' presentation focused on its various programmes, such as management of the Negril Marine Park, user zones within the Park, water quality sampling, and public education. Also at the expo, NCRPS revealed newly released data by Dr. Brain Lapointe, NCRPS scientific advisor, regarding nutrient impacts on Negril's coral reefs. After the presentation there was a question and answer period where many options to improve Negril's environment were discussed.



Deanne Grant gives presentation

World Environment Day was established in 1972 by the United Nations to stimulate awareness of the environment and enhance political attention and public action.

## Junior Ranger Summer Program 2005



Constable Campbell discuss environment

From August 15 thru August 26, the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society hosted the 9th annual Junior Ranger Summer Program at the Negril Marine Park Headquarters. This program hosted 21 children ranging from ages 5-12. Included in this program were workshops and activities that centered around the Junior Ranger environmental topics; Watersheds, Wetlands, Forestry, Marine Environment, CPR/Lifesaving, Disaster Preparedness, Endangered Species, Environmental Laws and Waste Management. Guest speakers from the Forestry Department, the Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust, the Office of Disaster Preparedness, Negril Marine Police, Negril Chamber of Commerce/Negril Recycling Center and the National Solid Waste and Management Authority were brought in to talk about their areas of specialty. There were also various environmental activities to follow up with these talks such as treasure hunts and poster drawing



Vernon teaches swim class

Students were also given swimming lessons by the NCRPS Park rangers. Two thirds of students were non-swimmers and by the end of the program most of the students were brought to a level where they could sustain themselves in the water. Of the others, almost all were taught how to float. Participating students were also trained in Lifesaving/CPR and First Aid skills.

The program also included fieldtrips to environmental areas within the EPA. There were also a glass bottom boat trip to the coral reefs, a visit to the Water Treatment Facility in Logwood, Hanover and the Royal Palm Reserve in Sheffield Westmoreland. On the final day of the program, students spent a day of fun at Anake Park.



Students visit water treatment facility

In total there were 17 students who completed the summer programme and received certificates for their participation. Overall the summer programme proved to be an educational and exciting two weeks, providing an increased sense of personal safety and environmental awareness for all children involved.

Special thanks to the Negril Police Youth Club whom volunteered their time to assist with the program. Also thanks to Anake' Park, JUTA Negril Tours and Beaches Negril for in-kind contributions to the program.



Graduation

## Reef Check

On August 27th and 28th, the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society organized its annual Reef Check survey of the coral reefs in the Negril Marine Park. Mr. Malden Miller, Demonstration Project Manager of the Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme (CREP) coordinated the surveys.

Sites for the survey were Ireland Pen, Bloody Bay, El Punto de Negrillo and Little Bay. Divers from NCRPS CREP, NEPT and Kingston participated in data collection. Fish, invertebrates and corals were surveyed, counted and evaluated during the surveys. Final data analysis of the Reef Check will be done by the Caribbean Coastal Data Centre within the CMS/UWI. Results will be compared with those of last year's Reef Check, done in October, just a few weeks after Hurricane Ivan.



Reef check participants

Reef Check is an international, volunteer, ocean conservation programme founded in 1972 that works with communities, governments and businesses to scientifically monitor, restore and maintain coral reef health.

## Dynamiting in Sav-La-Mar



Mr. Hanson speaks at meeting

On August 30th the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society organized a meeting with the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, and police officers of Negril and Savanna-La-Mar to discuss problems of fish dynamiting in the Savannah-La-Mar area.

Recently there have been many complaints of this illegal practice occurring in the Savannah-La-Mar area or within other areas by Savannah-La-Mar fishermen. This practice is illegal as stated in the NRCA Marine Park Regulations (12.2, a person shall not use or have in his possession, any explosives in a marine park) for several critical reasons. It completely destroys reef structures and any other organisms within the surrounding area as the explosion is not specific to intended fish. It has also known to pose many safety concerns to unsuspecting individuals within its path. Current punishments for this crime were discussed as well as the possibility to make it more severe.

Also discussed in the meeting were other problems within the local fishing industry. Topics such as mesh wire size, fish gears and the catch of juvenile fish were discussed. Co-management was discussed as the main solution in helping to solve many of these fishing problems and helping to create a sustainable industry.

At the end of the meeting, fisherman were reminded from organizers that with ongoing support from the Fisheries Division, Police, NCRPS fisherman, and members of the community this problem of fish dynamiting and other illegal fishing practices these problems



Fisheries members facilitate meeting

## Marine Park Regulations

Under the NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACT, the Marine Park Regulations 8.3., specifically states, the authority may declare in writing that an area of water in marine park is an area in which fishing is allowed subject to conditions relating to (a) the kind of fish which may be caught or, as the case may be, the kind of fish in respect of which fishing is prohibited (b) the number of fish that may be caught by a person in day; (c) the type of fishing equipment that may be used; or (d) devices which may be used for fishing. 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 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/\$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](http://www.friendsofjamaicausa.org)

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