

An electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)

## **CERMES Connections continues**

September to November has been a busy period at CERMES. In this issue we fill you in on the many new and exciting initiatives of staff and students. Travel with us to distant lands and explore research outputs.

## **CERMES at Global Conference of Oceans Coasts and Islands**

The aim of this mid-November conference in Paris was to get coastal and ocean issues more visible on the SIDS+10 agenda in Mauritius 2004. Dr. Robin Mahon took part as a panel member in the session on "Small Island Developing States: the issues in Mauritius 2004".



He presented a paper on "Managing the managers: improving the structure and operation of fisheries departments in SIDS", that was co-authored by Dr. Patrick McConney.

The meeting was well attended by the major conservation NGOs, whose agendas were prominent. However, few

Caribbean developing countries participated.

## **56th Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute**

The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) held its meeting early in November in Tortola, British Virgin Islands. The Acting Director of CERMES, Dr. Hazel Oxenford, and the outreach coordinator, Dr. Patrick McConney, who are both on the Board of the GCFI, participated in the meeting. Dr. McConney chaired the opening session on "Management and Socio-economics of Marine Fisheries". CERMES was a sponsor of this session, and some of the papers presented included:

Hoggarth, D.D. — *Lessons from a Shaky Start for the Oistins Fisheries Co-Management Pilot Project (OFCoMP) in Barbados*

Pomeroy, R. and T. Goetze — *Co-managed Marine Protected Areas: A Case Study of Friends of Nature, Belize*

Simmons, B. — *Community-based Management of Coastal Resources in Pearl Lagoon, Nicaragua*

Soeftestad, L.T. — *Coastal and Marine Resources in the Caribbean: Local Co-management and Regional Knowledge Management*

Pomeroy, R. et al. — *Comparative Analysis of Co-management Arrangements in the Caribbean*

McConney, P. et al. — *Caribbean Coastal Resources Management — Part 2: Guidelines for Success*

Joseph, K. — *Socio-economic Analysis of Gender in the Fishery Resource Management in the Municipality of Pearl Lagoon/RAAS, Nicaragua*

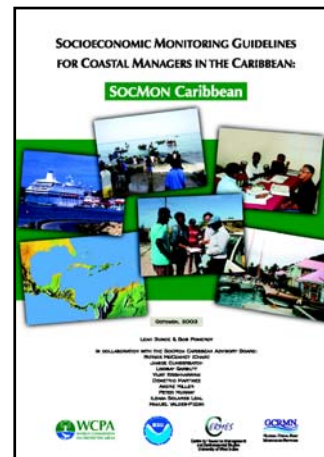
Murray, P.A. et al. — *Cultural Preferences as Drivers of Fishing Effort in the Eastern Caribbean*

Solares-Leal, I. and C. Alvarez-Gil — *Socioeconomic Processes in Punta Allen, A Coastal Community Located in a Marine Protected Area*

Caesar, E.D. and H.A. Oxenford — *Testing a Collapsible Trap Design in the Artisanal Trap Fishery of Tobago, Eastern Caribbean*

Karen Joseph and Bertha Simmons, presenters from partner organisations in Nicaragua, were sponsored as part of their capacity building under the Coastal Resources Co-management Project (CORECOMP).

## **SocMon Caribbean Guidelines**



Another CERMES event at the 56<sup>th</sup> GCFI was the launching of the "Socioeconomic Monitoring Guidelines for Coastal Managers in the Caribbean".

This publication, soon also to be available as a PDF on the CERMES web site, is an output of an initiative designed to help coastal managers better understand the

communities whose activities affect, and are affected by, coastal management decisions. This will facilitate the incorporation of community concerns into coastal management decision-making around the region. We are integrating SocMon into the teaching programme and short courses in support of various projects.

## **Sustainable Grenadines**

Arrangements between The Lighthouse Foundation and the University of the West Indies for Phase 2 of the project “*Sustainable Integrated Development and Biodiversity Conservation in the Grenadine Islands*” have been concluded. The project will start in December with the first meeting of the Steering Committee.

The project Goal is: “The integrated sustainable development of the Grenadine Islands area for the social and economic well being of the people who live there”. Its purposes are to develop a functioning participatory co-management framework for integrated sustainable development in the Grenadines, and to demonstrate participatory sustainable development in small island systems that can be adapted and applied elsewhere.

Phase 1 of the project included stakeholder mobilisation and the development of “A participatory strategic plan for sustainable development in the Grenadines”. Phase 2 will implement the plan in collaboration with partners: Caribbean Conservation Association, Carriacou Environmental Committee, Projects Promotion Ltd., Governments of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and NGOs throughout the Grenadines. Interested in learning more, or getting involved? Contact Robin Mahon ([rmahon@uwichill.edu.bb](mailto:rmahon@uwichill.edu.bb)).

## **Memorial in Windward, Carriacou**

One mini-project done in Sustainable Grenadines, Phase 1 (described above), erected a monument in commemoration the sad day for the people of the community of Windward. In 1945, a mine was found in the foreshore of Windward Bay, Carriacou, and towed ashore by fishermen. Not knowing what it was they started to strip it to see what was inside. It exploded, killing everyone in the vicinity.



Three local NGOs: Windward Sailing Club, Carriacou Historical Society and Carriacou Environmental Committee, collaborated in the effort. On 2 November the memorial monument was unveiled and blessed in a ceremony attended by residents of Windward, many of whom had lost a friend or family member in the incident. This is an important socio-cultural link to the marine environment for the people of Windward.

## **“Comparing catch rates among conventional and alternative fish trap designs, and their implications for fishers”**

This project by MSc student Kim Baldwin illustrates applied fisheries research done in CERMES. Fish traps (also called “pots”) are used to harvest reef fish ... hence the common fish market term: “pot fish”. The study tested fish trap designs by comparing total and juvenile catch rates, the value of the catch, plus average size and species of fish captured. Small mesh traps (conventional traps), large mesh traps and experimental design traps were compared. The study concluded that the less efficient fishing gear did not meet the management goal of conservation with minimum impact on fishers. Further consideration must be given to the short-term economic hardship to fishers resulting from increasing fish trap mesh size given the amount of time required for the reef fishery in Barbados to grow-into a larger mesh size and to recover the economic value of the catch to fishers.

## **CERMES goes to school**

CERMES technical assistants Renata Goodridge and Lyndon Robertson have been helping with secondary school class projects. Students from Harrison College and Queen's College are working on water quality projects, in the Graeme Hall watershed. Technicians have been helping them by supplying historical data for nitrates, phosphates and ammonia, and will be helping them to collect samples in the field. This fieldwork enhances science education in schools.

## **Update on CORECOMP activities in Barbados, Belize and Nicaragua**

Since the September bulletin the Coastal Resources Co-management Project (CORECOMP) has put on three workshops on co-management and fisheries management in Nicaragua (Pearl Lagoon, Bluefields and Managua). Workshops in Punta Gorda, Belize, were held on writing project proposals and on socio-economic monitoring for coastal management (part of SocMon Caribbean). Barbados activities included the 2004-2006 Fisheries Management Plan, sea egg fishery, Holetown beach park, and (soon) stakeholder analysis for co-managing Graeme Hall Swamp.