



## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

### 71<sup>st</sup> GULF AND CARIBBEAN FISHERIES INSTITUTE

5-9 NOVEMBER 2018, SAN ANDRES, COLOMBIA

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The 71st Annual conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI 71) will be held in San Andres, Colombia from 5–9 November 2018 at The Royal Decameron Isleño Hotel.

#### CONFERENCE THEME

We're pleased to announce that the Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina (**CORALINA**) is hosting the GCFI 71 conference. The Archipelago of San Andres is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Colombia and the Caribbean, with coastal areas and coral reefs supporting substantial beach visitation, dive tourism and sport fishing. In recent years, the archipelago has seen a sharp increase in tourism from around 600,000 visitors in 2012 to more than 1,000,000 visitors in 2017.

While tourism can provide considerable economic benefits for communities, it places pressure on fisheries resources and the marine and coastal environments. Tourism growth can be managed sustainably to address these impacts and at the same time optimize visitor experience, maximize local livelihoods and tourism sector income, and reduce poverty in local communities.

The theme of this year's conference is "**Tourism in the Caribbean: challenges for the management of fisheries and coral reef ecosystems**". We will bring together experts, academics, policymakers and managers, and relevant organizations interested in marine issues, natural resources, sustainable fisheries and tourism to focus on this theme. We encourage presentations on topics including:

- Fisheries supply for the tourism industry
- Impacts of tourism on small scale and subsistence fisheries
- Food security
- Recreational fishing as a tourism activity
- Tourism as a sustainable livelihood option for fishing communities
- Tourism in marine protected areas
- Strategies for tourism management
- Climate change and tourism

## REGISTRATION

GCFI 71 includes technical sessions, the Fisheries for Fishers forum, special thematic sessions, a poster session, the CINEFISH film festival, field trips and social events.

Registration can be completed online at this [link](#). Early registration (until 30 September) for the meeting is US\$185 (\$85 for students); late registration after 30 September is US\$225 (\$100 for students). Registration at the door is US\$250. Check the GCFI website ([www.gcfi.org](http://www.gcfi.org)) for registration rates for daily participation.

Onsite registrations may be made with a credit card, check, money order, or US currency. Other arrangements may be made by contacting [registrations@gcfi.org](mailto:registrations@gcfi.org).

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR TECHNICAL, SPECIAL AND POSTER SESSIONS

**Abstracts for GCFI 71 are due 15 August 2018.** Abstracts will be accepted in English, French, and Spanish. **ALL ABSTRACTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ENGLISH, SPANISH AND FRENCH TITLES. Abstracts are only required in one of the three languages; titles must be in all three languages.** Abstracts must not exceed **250** words (**275** for Spanish and French). Abstracts must be submitted using the secure online [abstract Submission Form](#).

**Acceptance to present within an oral session requires submission of a full and complete manuscript or extended abstract in the proper format (MS Word and jpg or PowerPoint figures).** Poster presentations do not require submission of a manuscript although they are enthusiastically accepted. However, students wishing to compete for the student awards and who are presenting an oral *OR* poster presentation are required to submit a manuscript for publication in the GCFI Proceedings at the meeting. Manuscript preparation guidelines are available [online](#) (pdf).

The Book of Abstracts will be available online in page-flipping and PDF formats. No printed Book of Abstracts will be distributed at the conference.

Authors of accepted presentations will be notified via e-mail by early September 2018. Time limitations necessitate that not all submissions for the oral competition will be accepted for oral slots. Submissions intended for the oral competition not granted an oral slot will automatically be entered in the poster competition.

## TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The conference program features multi-disciplinary thematic sessions. Each session may have a mix of natural and social science, management, and technology related to the ecosystem or fisheries, highlighting the conference theme. Papers and posters are solicited in the following areas (other subjects not listed below will also be considered):

- ❖ Governance, livelihoods, and organizations
- ❖ Reefs and associated ecosystems fisheries
  - Shallow and deep reef fishes
  - Snapper and grouper fisheries
  - Fish spawning aggregations
  - Lionfish and other invasive species
  - Queen conch, spiny lobster, and other invertebrates
- ❖ Marine Protected Areas Science and Management
- ❖ Pelagic ecosystem and recreational fisheries
- ❖ Continental shelf ecosystem fisheries
  - Shrimp and demersal trawl fisheries
- ❖ Habitats, climate change, and coastal management

- Essential fish habitats
- Integrated coastal management
- Climate change adaptation
- Sargassum
- ❖ Aquaculture
- ❖ Marine Debris

## SPECIAL SESSIONS

In addition to the technical sessions, this year's GCFI features the following special sessions:

- ❖ *Hurricane Impacts on Fisheries and Marine Resources, Management Responses, and Planning for Future Storms in the Caribbean Region*

**Session duration:** half day

**Organizers:** Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute and FAO, **Conveners:** Alejandro Acosta, PhD ([alejandro.acosta@gcfi.org](mailto:alejandro.acosta@gcfi.org)), Leroy Creswell, and Iris Monnereau, PhD.

Hurricanes Irma and Maria were two of the strongest hurricanes on record to impact the Caribbean. We are just beginning to piece together the devastating and potentially long-term impacts of the path of destruction of these two storms in the region. Many islands of the Caribbean (including Puerto Rico, Dominica, the Turks and Caicos Islands, USVI, BVI, and Saint Maarten), as well as the Florida Keys, suffered what have been described as highly significant impacts on marine resources and fisheries in their communities. Under climate change scenarios, forecasts are for increased intensity of such storms in the Caribbean region.

The goal of the session is to advance our understanding of the impacts of hurricanes on fisheries resources and management in the large marine ecosystems of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. This session will be open to all participants. We encourage presentations on topics including:

- The bio-physical and socio-economic impacts or potential impacts of these storms on fisheries resources, marine resources, habitats, marine protected areas, and associated livelihoods across the region
- The status of the impacted fisheries and marine resources throughout the region and examples of the potential impact of hurricanes on fisheries resources (including protected resources such as reef fishes, marine mammals, sea turtles, and corals) and the fisheries sector in the Caribbean region
- How hurricanes may impact fish distribution, catch, socio-economics, data collection programs, and fisheries management
- The management responses, communications strategies, monitoring of impacts and recovery, and research priorities
- Lessons learned about risks facing regional fisheries and marine resources, ecosystem resilience, opportunities for adaptation, and strategies for future preparedness
- Forecasts for future storms under climate change scenarios and assess potential risks to regional fisheries
- Fisheries management planning in the face of possible future devastating storms
- Strategies for applying collaborative research across geographies and disciplines to best inform and implement adaptive management and guide hurricane response and restoration

We expect to produce a special publication on the impact and status of the fisheries and marine resources one year after the passing of these storms. Participants accepted for presentations will be required to submit their manuscript for publication.

❖ *Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems in a Changing Climate in the Framework of the 2018 Third International Year of the Reef.*

**Session duration:** half day

**Organizers:** UN Environment-CEP, SPAW-RAC and Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute, **Conveners:** Ms. Lucie Labbouz (SPAW-RAC); (lucie.labbouz.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr); Ms. Ileana Lopez (UN Environment-CEP). This session is sponsored by UN Environment-CEP, SPAW-RAC, and GCFI.

The United Nations Environment Programme, through the Caribbean Environment Programme (**UN-Environment-CEP**) and its Regional Activity Center for the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (**SPAW-RAC**) of the **Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment** of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), is pleased to host a **technical session on “Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems in a Changing Climate”**, to be held at GCFI 71 Annual Meeting. The session will be considered as a regional Caribbean contribution to the worldwide activities for **2018 Third International Year of the Reef**.

The goal of this technical session is to share with the GCFI community the latest coral reef research results and conservation practices in the Caribbean and will serve as a forum to:

- Share information among decision-makers, scientists, managers, educators, resource users, and students on the value of, and threats to, coral reefs and associated ecosystems
- Promote partnerships among government agencies, the private sector, academia, and the civil society on coral reefs value
- Identify and support the implementation of effective management strategies for conservation, increased resiliency, and sustainable use of these ecosystems
- Promote best practices and sharing of lessons learned.

The technical session will focus on the following themes:

- **Monitoring and research on coral reefs biophysical and socioeconomics features**, including the work of the Caribbean Node of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (**GCRMN-Caribbean**) which aims to strengthen the dissemination and exchange of the best available scientific information on the status and trends of coral reef ecosystems and research needs for their improved conservation and management;
- **Restoration**, including the work of the **Coral Restoration Consortium (CRC)** and particularly the results of an increasing amount of coral restorations initiatives, especially in the context of responding to the impacts of natural disasters;
- **The socioeconomic context of coral reefs**, including the work of the Global Socioeconomic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management (SocMon) working on a better understanding of human interactions with and dependence on coastal resources, including the impact of land-based sources of pollution;
- **Coral Reefs for a sustainable economy**, including the valuation of coral reefs ecosystem services in the framework of developing ecosystem-based management approaches and tools, as well as maintaining and promoting livelihoods associated with healthy coral reefs.

❖ *Integrating Acoustic and Optical Technologies to Improve Surveys in Reef Fish Ecosystems.*

**Session duration:** quarter day

**Organizers:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute, **Conveners:** William L. Michaels, ([william.michaels@noaa.gov](mailto:william.michaels@noaa.gov)) NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology; and Christopher Gledhill; NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Mississippi, USA

This special session will address recent advances in the integration of optical and acoustical technologies to enhance research and survey operations. Utilizing acoustic instrumentation (echosounders) in conjunction with optical systems (stereo cameras) can provide synoptic data collections with more accurate measurements, increased sampling volume, and insight on uncertainties in abundance estimates due to the behavioral patterns. Recent advances have focused on deployment of integrated optic and acoustic technologies on a variety of innovative platforms, such as fixed arrays and mobile autonomous platforms, which enhance visual survey capabilities in marine habitats like coral reef ecosystems that are difficult to sample. Efforts are underway to improve optical data processing and automated image recognition tools to address the increasing volume of underwater imagery data and the manual annotation bottleneck. Standardized annotation, storage, and accessibility of the ever-growing catalog of underwater images is necessary for marine conservation researchers and managers to applied the recent advances in optical technologies to the assessment of marine populations and habitats for the sustainability of living marine resources. Case studies that address the feasibility of deployment and standardized procedures of integrated optical and acoustic sensors will demonstrate the accessibility and applicability of technology to a broader range of researchers and citizen scientists.

## **POSTER SESSION**

The poster session/reception will be on the evening of 6 November 2018. See the poster specification guidelines on the GCFI web site [link](#). The preferred poster size is: 46" high - by - 34" wide or 34" high by 46" wide, for either portrait or landscape orientation.

A special part of the poster session will be on gender in fisheries, fisher women and tourism. Topics of interest include: value chains, social networks, organizations, roles in science, equality and equity. Kindly submit your abstracts according to GCFI instructions, but please also indicate Gender as your poster session preference. For further information contact Maria Pena ([maria.pena@cavehill.uwi.edu](mailto:maria.pena@cavehill.uwi.edu)) or Martha Prada ([pradamc@gmail.com](mailto:pradamc@gmail.com)).

## **WORKSHOPS**

- ❖ *Workshop for Conducting Integrated Optic-Acoustic Reef Fish Ecosystem Surveys (3-4 Nov, 1- 5 pm, registration required)*

**Organizers:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute, **Conveners:** Matthew D. Campbell ([Matthew.D.Campbell@noaa.gov](mailto:Matthew.D.Campbell@noaa.gov)) NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Mississippi, and David A. Demer; ([David.Demer@noaa.gov](mailto:David.Demer@noaa.gov)); NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, California, USA and William L. Michaels, NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology.

A two-day training workshop (3-4 November 2018) limited to first 20 register participants will provide hands-on training of calibration, data collection and post-processing procedures for acoustic (echosounder) and optical (stereo camera) systems. Optic and acoustic data will be collected from a nearby reef site and used in post-processing exercises to derive acoustic target strength measures, species composition and length distributions

for further analysis and dissemination. This workshop will be complemented by a special session “Integrating Acoustic and Optical Technologies to Improve Surveys in Reef Fish Ecosystems”. Case studies will also help to identify the challenges, lessons learned and recommendations in building scientific capacity with acoustic and optic technologies to improve scientific information for the sustainability of living marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean regions.

Scholarships up to \$2,000 US will be awarded to selected participants who submit a request for consideration with justification of need for the scholarship and how this training will advance ongoing research and survey operations. Please send your request for registration, and statement for scholarship consideration if needed, to the following contacts: Matthew D. Campbell; Email: [Matthew.D.Campbell@noaa.gov](mailto:Matthew.D.Campbell@noaa.gov) and David A. Demer; Email: [David.Demer@noaa.gov](mailto:David.Demer@noaa.gov) before **15 August 2018**.

## **CINEFISH**

Are you interested in submitting a short film for this year’s CINEFISH film festival at the GCFI conference? If so, please email the following information to CINEFISH at [cinefish@gcfi.org](mailto:cinefish@gcfi.org) :

- Title of film
- Brief description of film (2-3 sentences)
- Film makers(s)
- Duration of film (specify) – Note films should be 10-15 minutes or less
- Film still image (jpg)
- Type of film
  - Documentary: A non-fictional motion picture to document some aspect of reality.
  - Animation: A short, hand-drawn, stop motion, character animations or computer animated production.
  - New media: This includes Music Videos and Public Service Announcements (PSAs).
  - B-film: These are low budget films

Please note that films should be recorded in AVI format. ***The deadline for submission is 30 September 2018.***

## **AWARDS**

### **RON SCHMIED SCHOLARSHIP**

The Ron Schmied Scholarship, a GCFI initiative supported by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) and private individuals, will be offered to a qualified graduate student in support of their travel to GCFI 71 in San Andres. The Scholarship is in the amount of US\$1,500, and graduate students with an interest in social, economic, biological, ecological, or management perspectives on recreational fisheries are eligible to apply. ***The deadline for students applying for the award and submitting an abstract and all supporting paperwork is 15 August 2018.*** Students will be notified of acceptance/rejection of their application by 1 September. Complete instructions and eligibility requirements for the Ron Schmied Scholarship are on the [Ron Schmied Scholarship page](#). Students may apply for the Scholarship and for consideration for the Student Achievement Award in the same year. Students may also ask to be considered for the Ron Schmied Scholarship and a GCFI Travel Award in the same year, but will only be awarded one of these sources of funding.

## SCRFA AWARD

The [Science and Conservation of Fish Aggregations Association \(SCRFA\)](#) will offer a Student Travel Award of US\$800 to a student in the Caribbean Region to attend GCFI 71, San Andres. Originally formed in 2000 and known as the Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations with the mission of promoting responsible stewardship of fish aggregations, in particular, reef fish spawning aggregations, the Society modified its name in 2012 to reflect its focus on science and the inclusion of all aggregating fish species. The SCRFA Student Travel Award is to encourage and help students to work in this important area and showcase their ideas and work at GCFI.

*Applications should be submitted by 15 August 2018* at which time abstracts and all supporting paperwork must be submitted. Applications and further information enquiries are to be sent to [Martin Russell](#) (SCRFA Chair/CEO) or, visit: [www.SCRFA.org](http://www.SCRFA.org)

**GCFI STUDENT AWARDS** GCFI is offering two travel awards of US\$750 each to eligible students to help offset travel costs to GCFI 71 in San Andres. Eligibility criteria for the Student Achievement Awards can be found [here](#). *The deadline for students to apply for these awards is 15 August 2018*. Complete instructions and eligibility requirements for the travel awards are on the [GCFI Student Awards web page](#). Note that a manuscript of the talk/poster must be submitted at the meeting to be eligible for this award. Students will be notified of acceptance/rejection of their application by 1 September. Students may apply for a travel award and for consideration for the Student Achievement Award in the same year. Students who received a Student Achievement Award at the 70<sup>th</sup> GCFI are not eligible for a travel award to GCFI 71.

## GLADDING MEMORIAL AWARD

As a component of the Fisheries for Fishers (F4F) Initiative, the GCFI Gladding Memorial Award (GMA) committee is requesting nominations of outstanding fishers for GCFI 71. This annual award is presented to select fishers (male or females) who demonstrate, as Peter Gladding did, significant commitment to the sustainable use and long-term conservation of marine resources in the Gulf and Caribbean region. The winner will be sponsored to attend the GCFI meeting in San Andrés to receive his or her award, and to participate in the entire conference including the Fisheries for Fishers Forum and field trip.

You are invited to submit award nominations to the GMA committee at [gma@gcfi.org](mailto:gma@gcfi.org). All nominations must be received by **15 August 2018**. Background information on the GMA, nomination forms with award criteria, and details of the process are available on the GCFI website.

## FISHERIES FOR FISHERS FORUM AND FIELD TRIP

The Fisheries for Fishers forum comprises a themed session in the main conference ending in the presentation of the Gladding Memorial Award (Monday, 5<sup>th</sup>) and a field trip especially for fishers (Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup>). The theme for GCFI 71 is “**Fishers’ Perspectives on Managing Fisheries for Sustainability**”. Fishers and other GCFI participants with experience of fisheries exchanges who are interested in sharing information in the Fishers Forum should contact Will Heyman ([heymanwill@yahoo.com](mailto:heymanwill@yahoo.com)) or Mitchell Lay ([mitchlay@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mitchlay@yahoo.co.uk)) by **15 August 2018**. Details of the Forum session and field trip will be in the second GCFI announcement.

## CONFERENCE FIELD TRIP AND TOURS

On the afternoon of Wednesday, 7 November, choose from various activities and tours that have been specially designed with GCFI members in mind. A contribution to some tours might be required from participants. Please check the GCFI website for updates on tours.

## **THE VENUE**

The meeting venue will be the Royal Decameron Isleño in San Andres Island, located only a few steps from the airport and opposite the most beautiful beach in San Andres – Spratt Bight. The resort has been awarded the “Certificate of Excellence” by TripAdvisor, thanks to its new ‘All-Inclusive’ service, as well as for its design and privileged location. It is located in the main commercial, tourism and hotel area of San Andres, the North End.

From there you will be able to interact with the locals of this picturesque island, a centuries old mélange of English puritan immigrants, Dutch settlers, Spaniards, slaves, pirates, and Arabs.



**Check the GCFI conference registration page** for information on transportation, travel and accommodation. As the meeting approaches, more information about the venue and program will be posted. **Reservation information will be posted very soon.**

## **VISA APPLICATION**

For GCFI 71, all participants travelling by sea or air will require a passport or other accepted official form of identification to enter the country.

Participants from a number of countries will require visas to travel to Colombia. Please contact your local Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Immigration Department for enquiries or to obtain one.

For requirements to enter Colombia, please visit:

<http://www.colombia.travel/en/practical-information/visa>

**Remember, advance planning can smooth your visa application process. Apply for your visa well in advance of your travel!**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN SAN ANDRES IN NOVEMBER FOR GCFI 71!**