

**Program for the 33rd Scientific Meeting of the
Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean**

Monday, June 4, 2007

8:00 AM REGISTRATION

Time	Presenter	Title
9:00 AM	R. Nemeth	Welcome address by AMLC President
9:05 AM	L. Ragster	Welcome address by UVI President
9:10 AM	A. Barnes	Welcome address by DPNR Assistant Commissioner
9:20 AM	S. LeGore	Welcome & Introduction of Dr. Colwell
9:30 AM	Dr. Rita Colwell	Keynote Address: "Marine Biotechnology in the 21st Century"
10:00 AM	COFFEE BREAK	

ECOLOGY

Coral Growth, Calcification, Morphology

10:30AM	P. Miloslavich - chair	Reproductive biology of <i>Petalocochus</i> cf. <i>varians</i> (Caenogastropoda, Vermetidae) from the Venezuelan Caribbean
10:45 AM	I.M. Sandeman	Why coral calcification rates are higher in the light
11:00 AM	P. Spiniello	Carbon supply and demand on a coastal planktonic system, Morrocoy National Park, Venezuela
11:15 AM	A.T. Yñiguez	What's in a form? Deciphering messages from the morphologies and growth patterns of <i>Halimeda</i> and <i>Dictyota</i>
11:30 AM	E.H. Gladfelter	Skeletal growth in <i>Acropora palmata</i> : its role in past competitive success and in future recovery
11:45 AM	M. Johnson	Using reef resilience principles to improve staghorn coral (<i>Acropora cervicornis</i>) restoration in the Florida Keys
12:00 PM	LUNCH	

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Restoration

1:15 PM	V.H. Garrison	Using naturally occurring fragments of elkhorn, staghorn and finger coral for reef restoration in the Caribbean
1:30 PM	J. Schittone	Monitoring the recovery of a coral reef following restoration after a large vessel grounding
1:45 PM	A. Thompson	El rol de las alianzas para la conservacion de los arrecifes coralinos – el caso de la alianza para el arrecife MesoAmericano de ICRAN (ICRAN-MAR)
2:00 PM	R. Garcia	Large-scale coral bleaching response plan for South Florida Reef Tract
2:15 PM	COFFEE BREAK	

Time	Presenter	Title
ECOLOGY		
Ecology & Management of Deep (30-100m) Mesophotic Coral Reef Ecosystems		
2:45 PM	R. Ginsburg - chair	Mesophotic coral reefs are the frontier of reef exploration and research
3:00 PM	P. Yoshioka	Ecology, integrity & status of deep Caribbean coral reefs
3:15 PM	R. Ginsburg	Distribution of mesophotic deep water reef species in the Bahamas
3:30 PM	J. Rooney	Deep scleractinian coral reefs and multiple coral optima in the Hawaiian archipelago
3:45 PM	N. Santodomingo	Azooxanthellate coral communities of Colombian Caribbean
4:00 PM	C. Menza	A deep reef in deep trouble
4:15 PM	J.R. Garcia-Sais	Baseline characterization of the marine community associated with Agelas Reef, Isla Desecheo, Puerto Rico
4:30 PM	ADJOURN FOR DAY	
6:00 PM	COCKTAIL RECEPTION AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS	
Tuesday, June 5, 2007		
8:00 AM	REGISTRATION	
8:15 AM	S. LeGore	Introduction of Dr. Venter
8:30 AM	Dr. Craig Venter	FEATURED SPEAKER
CONNECTIVITY		
Genetics and Biodiversity		
9:15 AM	J.L. Stake - chair	Anonymous sequence markers for species-level phylogenetic analysis of the coral genus <i>Porites</i> (Scleractinia, Poritidae)
9:30 AM	E. Salas #	Connectivity and gene flow in <i>Stegastes partitus</i> (Perciformes: Pomacentridae) populations along Costa Rica and Panamá
9:45 AM	J. Hoffmann #	Recent thecideide brachiopods (Thecideoidea) in the Caribbean region – an unrecognized diversity
10:00 AM	D. Ruiz-Ramos #	Patterns of genetic polymorphism in the fire coral <i>Millepora</i>
10:15 AM	COFFEE BREAK	
CONNECTIVITY		
Genetics and Biodiversity		
10:45 AM	P. Sammarco	Distribution, abundance, and genetic affinities of scleractinian corals throughout the northern Gulf of Mexico: the big picture
11:00 AM	A. Domingo	The missing link in the population biology of reef fishes: molecular ecology of larval dispersal in gobies
11:15 AM	A. Zubillaga #	A novel application of polyclonal antibodies to in situ detection of the larvae of <i>Acropora palmata</i> (Order: Scleractinia, Family: Acroporidae)
11:30 AM	J. García	Genetic variability of <i>Acropora cervicornis</i> and <i>A. palmata</i> in Puerto Rico
11:45 AM	LUNCH	
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		
Addressing Management Needs at Ecosystem Level		
1:00 PM	B. Devine - chair	Using GIS/GPS to characterize watersheds, evaluate land-based threats and map endangered marine populations

Time	Presenter	Title
1:15 PM	E. Klein	The use of ecosystem-based models to select areas for the conservation of marine biodiversity in face of offshore gas exploitation in Venezuela
1:30 PM	M.E. Monaco	Characterization and assessment of the St. John, USVI mid-shelf area to support MPA management
1:45 PM	J.W. McManus	Managing coral reefs under changing stresses: information, simulation and interdisciplinary research
2:00 PM	M.A. Phillips #	Analysis of factors influencing southeast Florida coral reef community composition
2:15 PM	V.K. Kosmynin	Evaluation of methods to enhance reef restoration
2:30 PM	J.G. Foster	Acoustic surveys for discrimination of benthic habitats and biomass
2:45 PM	A. Nayegandhi	High-resolution geo-located imagery of benthic communities using the along track reef imaging system
3:00 PM	COFFEE BREAK	

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Marine Protected Areas**

3:30 PM	D. Aldana - chair	Mexican marine parks for restoring the Queen Conch <i>Strombus gigas</i>
3:45 PM	E. Kadison	Using hydro-acoustic tagging to determine the minimum size of fishery closures for protecting grouper spawning aggregations on the USVI
4:00 PM	P.M. Yoshioka	Fish mesograzers as ecological gatekeepers of coral reef communities
4:15 PM	C.E. Morrall	Marine protected area development in Grenada, West Indies
4:30 PM	A.R. Harborne	Reserve effects versus natural variation in coral reef communities
4:45 PM	ADJOURN FOR DAY	
6:00 PM	COCKTAIL RECEPTION AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS	

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

8:00 AM REGISTRATION

**RESOURCE MANAGMENT
Assessment and Monitoring**

8:00 AM	T.J. Goreau - chair	Turks & Caicos Islands coral reef assessment methods: intensive vs. extensive field methods with non-parametric analysis
8:15 AM	T.J. Goreau	Turks and Caicos islands coral reef assessment results: Ecological and environmental interactions
8:30 AM	D. Gulko	CSI on coral reefs: developing standards for underwater injury investigation
8:45 AM	A. Rodriguez-Ramirez	Monitoreo de arrecifes coralinos en América sur tropical: Logros lecciones y perspectivas después de 8 años de trabajo cooperativo
9:00 AM	D.G. Zawada	A new towed platform for surveying benthic habitats
9:15 AM	R.N. Ginsburg	Progress in rapid reef assessments for routine censuses and acute ecological calamities
9:30 AM	S. LeGore	Rapid population assessment of marine ornamental fisheries target species in Western Puerto Rico
9:45 AM	W. Toller	The importance of herbivorous reef fishes (Scaridae and Acanthuridae) to the small-scale commercial fishery of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
10:00 AM	COFFEE BREAK	

Time	Presenter	Title
GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES		
Land-Sea Interactions		
10:30AM	H. Briceño -chair	Nutrient dynamics along a salinity gradient in the mangrove forest, Florida coastal Everglades
10:45 AM	J.N. Boyer	Relationship between water management and cyanobacterial blooms in Florida Bay, USA
11:00 AM	J. Blondeau	Monitoring terrigenous sedimentation rates on U.S. V. I. reefs: from near-shore to offshore
11:15 AM	R.H. Pierce	Assessing levels and effects of organic contaminants on marine mammals, especially Antillean Manatees, of the Wider Caribbean
11:30 AM	N.R. Buitrago #	Erosión costera en el Caribe Colombiano. Ejemplos: departamentos de Córdoba y La Guajira
11:45 AM	A. McCammon	Marine debris removal and monitoring effort at the Cas Cay Mangrove Lagoon Marine Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, St. Thomas, USVI
12:00 PM	LUNCH	
GLOBAL & REGIONAL ISSUES		
Remote Sensing and Physical Oceanography		
1:15 PM	J.C. Brock - chair	Holocene sea level rise and the patch reef population in the northern Florida reef tract
1:30 PM	S. J. Pittman	Predictive mapping of fish species richness across shallow-water seascapes in the Caribbean
1:45 PM	R. Jaffe	Applications of optical properties determinations in surface waters for the assessment of dissolved organic matter in estuaries
2:00 PM	R.A. Watlington	Improved understanding of oceanic processes through an integrated Caribbean coastal ocean observing system
2:15 PM	R. Hays	An analysis of satellite-derived sea surface temperatures from Caribbean and Atlantic coral reef sites, 1982-2003
2:30 PM	D.J. Smith	Near-shore sea temperatures for St. Thomas
2:45 PM	N. Idrisi	Time series (2005-2007) of coastal currents on the shelf south of St. Thomas, USVI
3:00 PM	M. Vega-Rodriguez	Red mangrove litterfall dynamics and remote sensing of leaf area index in southwestern Puerto Rico
3:15 PM	COFFEE BREAK	
ECOLOGY		
General		
3:45 PM	K. Lewis - chair	Abundance, distribution, and condition of the foraging populations of Green Sea Turtles (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) around St. Croix and St. Thomas, USVI
4:00 PM	N.E. Chadwick	Anemone shrimp symbionts of Giant Sea Anemones on coral reefs: comparisons between the Red Sea and the Caribbean Sea
4:15 PM	S. Ratchford	Prevention of burial to host corkscrew anemones <i>Bartholomea annulata</i> by symbiotic snapping shrimps <i>Alpheus armatus</i>
4:30 PM	D. Aldana	Different reproductive strategies of American Oyster <i>Crassostrea virginica</i> in the Gulf of Mexico
4:45 PM	P. Susan #	Macrofauna bentónica asociada a bancos ostrícolas en las Lagunas Cost? Carmen, Machona y Mecoacán, Tabasco, México

Time	Presenter	Title
5:00 PM	D. Banjoo	Assessment of biota quality in the Gulf of Paria, Trinidad and Tobago
5:15 PM	ADJOURN FOR DAY	
Thursday, June 7, 2007		
8:00 AM	REGISTRATION	
ECOLOGY		
Coral Disease, Predation, Damage I		
8:15 AM	L.L. Richardson - chair	Toxin production and virulence factors in Black Band Disease on reefs of the Northern Caribbean
8:30 AM	K. Flynn #	Prevalence, distribution and virulence of Aspergillosis in <i>Gorgonia ventalina</i> (Gorgonacea: Gorgoniidae) populations in La Parguera, Puerto Rico
8:45 AM	J. Lentz #	Designing a methodology for the identification of significant coral disease clusters
9:00 AM	J.D. Voss	Coral disease dynamics and nutrient availability on reefs of the Northern Florida Keys and Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas
9:15 AM	M. Brandt	Coral disease and bleaching relationships in South Florida during the 2005-2006 bleaching event
9:30 AM	J. Miller	Coral bleaching and disease combine to cause catastrophic mortality on reefs in U.S.V.I.
9:45 AM	D. Williams	Effects of multiple hurricanes on <i>Acropora palmata</i> (Order: Scleractinia, Family: Acroporidae) in the Florida Keys (U.S.A.)
10:00 AM	COFFEE BREAK	
ECOLOGY		
Coral Bleaching		
10:30AM	T.B. Smith - chair	Searching for a refuge: impacts of the 2005 mass coral bleaching event on coral reefs of the U.S. Virgin Islands
10:45 AM	K. Woody	An assessment of the October 2005 coral bleaching event in and around Buck Island Reef National Monument, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
11:00 AM	S. Steiner	The impact of the 2005 bleaching episode on the stony corals of Dominica
11:15 AM	D.H. Green #	Coral recruitment along the southern coast of St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands: the influence of temperature in mediating spatio-temporal variation
11:30 AM	P.M.H. Gayle	Coral mortality and recovery on Jamaica's north shore reefs following the 2005 Caribbean Region bleaching event
11:45 AM	M.T. Schärer #	Prevalence of bleaching on scleractinian corals of Mona Island, Puerto Rico
12:00 PM	LUNCH	
ECOLOGY		
Coral Disease, Predation, Damage II		
1:30 PM	E. Weil - chair	Status of coral and octocoral diseases / syndromes in Puerto Rico in 2006: preliminary results and general perspectives
1:45 PM	I.B. McRae - Kenny #	The incidence and prevalence of scleractinian coral diseases along the south coast of Jamaica
2:00 PM	J.L. Myers #	Culture, identification, DGGE analysis, and physiology of cyanobacteria associated with Black Band Disease of corals
2:15 PM	N.J. Quinn	The recent collapse of a rapid phase-shift reversal on a Jamaican coral reef

Time	Presenter	Title
2:30 PM	T. Spitzack	Effects of bleaching and disease on elkhorn coral, <i>Acropora palmata</i> , in St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands
2:45 PM	COFFEE BREAK	
3:15 PM	K.B. Ritchie - chair	In search of mutualistic coral-associated bacteria
3:30 PM	L. Kaczmarzky #	Sewage impact increases Black Band disease prevalence and might alter Black Band microbial community composition on reefs of St. Croix
3:45 PM	E. Weil	Local and geographic variability of the 2005 mass bleaching event in the wider Caribbean
4:00 PM	A.M. Szmant	New ciliate discovered that devours newly settled coral polyps
4:15 PM	D. Bone	Respuesta de los capiteldos (Annelida: Polychaeta) a variaciones de salinidad, Golfete de Cuare, Venezuela
4:30 PM	ADJOURN FOR DAY	
6:00 PM	AWARDS DINNER – CORAL WORLD MARINE PARK	

Friday, June 8, 2007

8:00 AM REGISTRATION

ECOLOGY Reef Fish Ecology

8:30 AM	M.C. Paddock - chair	Assessing change on coral reefs: long-term trends in Caribbean reef fish abundance
8:45 AM	C. Rabascall	Abundancia y riqueza específica de la ictiofauna presente en cuatro estaciones del extreme north de la Península de Araya, Estado Sucre, Venezuela
9:00 AM	D. Nemeth	Among-site and between-species differences in monogenean parasite (<i>Monopisthocotylea</i> : <i>Capsalidae</i>) loads in two sympatric surgeon fishes (<i>Perciformes</i> : <i>Acanthuridae</i>) in the Virgin Islands
9:15 AM	C. Bastidas	Oceanic and coastal reefs in Venezuela 2003-2006: larger differences among sites than between shelf positions
9:30 AM	S. Frias-Torres	Behavior of juvenile goliath grouper, <i>Epinephelus itajara</i> , and its relevance for conservation
9:45 AM	A. Fariña	Variación Estacional De La Comunidad De Peces Asociados A Un Arrecife Rocoso Coralino Del Bajo Las Caracas, Estado Sucre, Venezuela
10:00 AM	COFFEE BREAK	

CONNECTIVITY Recruitment / Habitat

10:30 AM	I. Nagelkerken - chair	What makes mangroves attractive fish habitat – their shallow depth, Cross-shelf location, or presence of structure
10:45 AM	K. Neely	Patterns of fish colonization on artificial reefs varying in live coral cover
11:00 AM	R.S. Nemeth	Identification of essential habitats for juvenile grouper in the U.S. Virgin Islands
11:15 AM	I. Nagelkerken	Utilization of shallow-water habitats by juvenile coral reef fishes in Bermuda
11:30 AM	A.M. Szmant	Settlement and post-settlement of the Caribbean scleractinian corals <i>Montastrea faveolata</i> and <i>Acropora palmata</i>
11:45 AM	S.M. Williams	Recruitment dynamics of <i>Diadema antillarum</i> in La Parguera, Puerto Rico
12:00 PM	LUNCH	

Time	Presenter	Title
SPECIAL SESSION		
Census of Marine Life		
1:15 PM	P. Miloslavich - chair	The census of marine life in the Caribbean: a biodiversity program
1:30 PM	E. Weil	Coral reef biodiversity in the wider Caribbean – new records of corals and the goals of the Census of Marine Life
1:45 PM	T.C. Shirley	Bulletin 89n Redux: Biodiversity of the Gulf of Mexico
2:00 PM	A. Antczak	A global perspective of human – mollusk interaction through history: the HMID Project
2:15 PM	A. Osorno	Implementación del protocolo NaGISA en praderas de pastos marinos (<i>Thalassia testudinum</i>) del Caribe Colombiano durante los años 2006 y 2007
2:30 PM	COFFEE BREAK	
3:00 PM	L.F. Artigas	Towards a Latin American and Caribbean international census of marine microbes: overview of some research directions
3:15 PM	M. M. Antczak	Insights into the Queen Conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>) symbolism in the Caribbean: the claim for the contextual approach
3:30 PM	A. Gracia	Main results in the integrations of the marine biodiversity information system (SIBM) to OBIS
3:45 PM	J.J. Cruz-Motta	Natural geography in shores areas: the Venezuelan experience
4:00 PM	STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS FOR BEST PRESENTATIONS	
4:30 PM	ADJOURN MEETING	