



Caribbean Marine Science

Number 2, December 2006

Official Newsletter of the AMLC
Published Spring and Fall

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Association News

From the Editors' desk

Greetings to all our AMLC members. In this issue we summarize the discussions of our Executive Board Meeting, present a new set of interesting articles, new books, courses, meetings and the first announcement for the upcoming Scientific Meeting of the AMLC in the Virgin Islands. We also want to thank Dr. Anthony Knap and the Bermuda Biological Station for Research for hosting our July Board meeting.

The Executive Board voted to add two new institutional members to the AMLC, and we happily welcome the **Bermuda Department of Conservation Services** located in Hamilton Parish, Bermuda, and the **Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium** in Chauvin, Louisiana. Jack Ward will serve as the BDCS Institutional Representative, while LUMCON will be represented by Nancy Rabalais.

Please introduce yourselves to these new members when you meet them in St. Thomas!

The dates for our 2007 Scientific Meeting in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands have been changed from late July to June 4-8. This was done to avoid potential disruption by the Hurricane Season. **Please see the Meeting Announcement and details concerning registration, hotel reservations and the Call for Papers at the end of this Newsletter.**

The AMLC Executive Board voted to honor three long-time members and contributors to the AMLC by awarding them Honorary Lifetime Memberships. The three honorees are:

Charlene D. Long, who joined AMLC in 1971 in Cúmana, Venezuela. She almost immediately became involved in the functions of the organization and worked diligently and effectively in the AIMLC/AMLCLC for 21 years. Charlene held many AMLC offices, serving as First Vice President in 1984, First Member-at-Large for 8 year (1976-83), Second Member-at-Large for 3 years (1984-86), Editor of the Newsletter for 6 years ((1986-91), Chairperson of the Committee for Outside Support for Student Travel for 4 years (1077-80), Chairperson of the History Committee for 6 years (1981-86), and she performed myriad other tasks in support of meetings and other AMLC activities, attending 15 of the 16 scientific meetings held during her tenure.

Dr. Juan A. Rivero founded the Association at a meeting he organized in 1956 in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, inviting participants from around the Caribbean, and financing some travel and the meeting with research funds from the Office of Naval Research. He served as the first President of the AIMLC (Association of Island Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean). As Director of the UPR Institutional

Member Laboratory, he also served on the AIMLC Executive Board from 1956 through 1964, and was instrumental in the early development and direction of the organization.

Dr. Juan G. Gonzalez helped to organize and conduct the first meeting of the AIMLC in 1956. He was appointed the first Secretary-Treasurer of the AIMLC, serving in that post from 1956 through 1967. He served as Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Director in 1985-86, and he has been a member of the Association ever since.

Future Meetings of the AMLC

2007 - Scientific Meeting – Hosted by Rick Nemeth and the University of the Virgin Island in St. Thomas. The date of the meeting has been modified due to hurricane season. The scientific meeting will be held June 4 – 8, 2006. Dr. Rita Colwell, former director of the U.S. National Science Foundation is scheduled to be our Keynote Speaker. Dr. Colwell served NSF for several years, having been appointed by President Bill Clinton, and she is certain to provide us with new and interesting insights into the future of science in our region. Also, Dr. Craig Venter has accepted our invitation as a featured speaker of the meeting. Dr. Venter is regarded as one of the leading scientists of the 21st century for his invaluable contributions in genomic research and is one of the country's most frequently cited scientists.

2008 - The Executive Board Meeting will be concurrent with the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium, hosted by NOVA University in Ft. Lauderdale, USA.

2009 - Scientific Meeting – Hosted by Clare Morrall of the St. George's University Department of Marine Biology. The Executive Board enjoyed its 2005 meeting in Grenada so much that it prevailed upon Clare to host this Scientific Meeting so all our members may enjoy Grenadian hospitality.

AMLC List Server and Web Site

The purpose of the list server is to facilitate communication and foster collaboration between and among our members. Several months ago, we found it advantageous to transfer our list server operation from

the FIU server to the AMLC server. You should have received a notice by e-mail. We hope all AMLC members will take advantage of this capability – if you have any news, requests, or questions to distribute to the membership, just send a message to the email address below. On-line discussions among members concerning Caribbean marine issues are encouraged. Don't be shy! The list server address is:

members@lists.amlc-carib.org

Only AMLC members in good standing can post to the list. Messages not from a subscribed member will be rejected by the system. Current AMLC members are automatically subscribed, and new members are added as they join AMLC. The newsletter will be circulated electronically through our list server, which insures delivery and that only paid members are in our mailing list.

Our web site is located at www.amlc-carib.org. If you forget the URL, just do a Google search on "AMLC" and it will magically appear! Again, we owe a large debt of gratitude to David Nagle, our Information Officer. David has volunteered a great deal of time and energy to establish and maintain our new website.

Unfortunately, David was recently compelled to resign this post for reasons of health. John Brock and the USGS in St. Petersburg, FL are in the process of learning the system to assure website continuity. Our sincere thanks go to John and to his colleague, Amar Nayegandhi.

Once again, we request contributions for the Newsletter from our members and readers. We have a very diverse membership involved in many different areas of research. Your Newsletter is an efficient way of sharing information about your projects, or even better, finding help or cooperation from other members of the Association.

Ernesto Weil and Isabel Urreiztieta, Editors. Steve LeGore Associate editor.

General Interest

Japan Gains Key Whaling Victory Pro-whaling nations have won their first vote towards the resumption of commercial whaling for 20 years

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting backed a resolution calling for the eventual return of commercial whaling by a majority of just one vote. Japan said the outcome was “historic”, but it does not mean a lifting of the 1986 ban – they would need support from three-quarters of the commission. Anti-whaling countries say they will challenge the decision.

Conservation groups have expressed dismay, with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) saying anti-whaling nations needed to work harder to prevent the ban eventually being overturned. Japan and other pro-whaling nations want to move the IWC away from conservation and towards managing whale numbers.

The resolution declared: “The moratorium, which was clearly intended as a temporary measure, is no longer necessary.” It was tabled by six Caribbean nations, including St. Kitts and Nevis, where the annual IWC meeting was held. The resolution was approved by a vote of 33 to 32, with one member – China – abstaining. Although the ban aimed at protecting the endangered species is still in place, there is no doubt commercial hunting is a step closer, the BBC’s Richard Black in St. Kitts says.

Whalers Club

IFAW spokesman Joth Singh described the decision as a “wake-up call” for countries claiming they care for whales. “It is clear that the intent is for the IWC to revert back to a whalers’ club, which is what it was up to the 1970s,” he said. After the vote, Brazil and New Zealand said they would challenge the resolution. “This is the most serious defeat the conservation cause has ever suffered at the IWC,” New Zealand Conservation Minister Chris Carter told AFP news agency. “It has been a significant diplomatic victory for Japan.”

Some conservationists have singled out Denmark for particular attention, after it voted with Japan despite being a European Union member, our correspondent says. As well as St. Kitts and Nevis, the resolution was drafted by St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, Dominica and Antigua. It says whales consume large quantities of fish, which justifies overturning the ban as an issue of food security – a view dismissed by anti-whaling campaigners. Tokyo believes whale numbers have risen sufficiently to allow the hunting of certain species. But Japan’s Deputy Whaling Commissioner Joji Morishita said any future commercial whaling would be on a much smaller scale than in the past. “It’s not going back to the commercial whaling, it should be the beginning of sustainable whaling, plus protection of depleted and endangered species,” he said.

The slim victory for Japan followed its defeat in four other votes at the IWC meeting, including a proposal to end work on the conservation of small cetaceans such as dolphins and porpoises. Environmental groups have accused developing countries of voting with Japan on whaling issues in return for money for fisheries projects – claims which have been repeatedly denied by all the countries involved, the Associated Press news agency says. Currently, Japan and Iceland kill whales under an IWC ruling which allows nations to catch whales for “scientific research.” Norway, which formally objected to the 1986 ban, openly conducts commercial whaling.

How nations voted

Pro-whaling: Includes Japan, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Russia, Morocco, Cambodia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Anti-whaling: Includes UK, US, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Finland, France, Spain, Germany, Israel.

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Source: BBC News
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/5093350.stm>
Published: 2006/06/19

Caribbean Call to Resume Whaling

Commercial hunts have been banned for nearly 20 years and Caribbean and African nations often urge a lifting of the moratorium at annual gatherings. They

are frequently accused of siding with Japan, leader of the pro-whaling bloc, as a return for foreign aid. But three Caribbean delegates say the accusation is nonsense. “We would welcome the lifting of the moratorium,” said Lloyd Pascal, whaling commissioner for Dominica. “This is a creature like all others that people depend upon for food, and therefore because of its abundance we think that we can take a limited amount and make some money out of it.” His view is that stocks of some whales are large enough that hunting can now be sustainable.

Colin Murdoch, the Alternate (Deputy) Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda, told BBC News that a resumption of whaling would open up new opportunities for local fishermen. “We’re already encouraging them to move away from the traditional inshore fisheries and to go for pelagic species,” he said. “Apart from local consumption, there is the issue of export, and we have Guadeloupe nearby which can be a gateway to France, for example.”

Working quotas

Daven Joseph, from the St. Kitts and Nevis delegation, had a slightly different slant on the issue. “The key point is that if commercial whaling is resumed, then countries in the Caribbean would be given a quota,” he told BBC News. “Even though we might not catch whales ourselves, we could then sell the quota, like we do our tuna quota under ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna).”

Polarized views

For the Caribbean delegates, there is a link between their enthusiasm for whaling and issues of global trade – particularly the mandate of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and removal of traditionally favorable export terms. “We were a country that did what we could with our export of bananas; other countries in the Caribbean exported sugar,” said Dominica’s Lloyd Pascal. “But what we found is that belonging to the WTO, certain objections were taken to our preferential treatment, and this has resulted in a net loss of earnings for our country. “This has caused our country to reach a stage where we are now under a Structural Adjustment Programme with the International Monetary Fund.” This explanation for the Caribbean delegates’ standpoints was rejected by

Leah Garces, campaigns director for the World Society for the Protection of Animals. “There is no relationship between poverty, food problems and food security and whaling,” she told BBC News. “The Caribbean does not need whale meat in order to solve food security problems. I think they are trying to find ways of explaining why they are supporting Japan.”

Whatever the reasons behind the Caribbean support for commercial whaling, it seems extremely unlikely that their wish will be met within the foreseeable future. The IWC remains a deeply polarized body, with little compromise possible between two entrenched positions; one that regards whales as a food source like any other, and the other that sees them as special, sentient creatures which should never again be hunted.

Author: Richard Black

Source: BBC News

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/4117888.stm>

Published: 2006/06/19

Little Cayman Reef to Play Key Role in Global Conservation

As scientists record a decline in the health of coral reefs world wide, marine biologists from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have identified a site at Little Cayman for a new research station as part of a global project to identify the cause. This project is the Integrated Coral Observing Network (ICON), and NOAA will work in partnership with the Central Caribbean Marine Institute (CCMI) and its research centre on Little Cayman.

According to CCMI, this ICON Station will consist of an array of instruments to measure the physical and chemical characteristics of the ocean and atmosphere. Data collected will include salinity, temperature, ultra-violet radiation penetration, water clarity, currents and weather conditions.

The first ICON station to be put into operation is in Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas, which has been producing data since May, 2001. Stations have also been set up in St Croix in the US Virgin Islands, and La Parguera in Puerto Rico. ICON stations in the works are on Heron Island, Queensland, Australia; Discovery Bay, Jamaica; Puerto Morelos, Mexico;

and Antigua, in the Lesser Antilles, as well as in Little Cayman.

The proposed site of the LC station is located right in front of the CCMI Little Cayman Research Centre (LCRC) and a short distance east of a famous dive site, Bloody Bay Wall. It will be set in 20-feet of water, according to Dr Jim Hendee, a scientist with NOAA Coral Health and Monitoring Program. A high diversity of corals, sponges and fishes were identified at a beautiful reef just north of the new site at a depth of 40-feet, he said. The station will provide long-term data sets for Little Cayman that can be compared to all major US coral reef areas, according to information issued by CCMI and may also have an underwater camera which will broadcast images over the Internet. The station will be set on a 40-foot pylon, with twenty feet above water and twenty below. The "brain" will sit at the very top, where data are collected and sent via satellite to a laboratory in Miami, said Dr Hendee. In this way, they will be able to look for combinations of parameters that are conducive to coral bleaching and other marine behavioral events, and thereby continually refine their theories.

CCMI President, Dr. Carrie Manfrino, said that in the early days of planning for the LCRC she had developed the idea of having an Ocean Observatory so that the Cayman Islands community and youth could relate to the important work that scientists actually do on a day to day basis. "The Partnership between CCMI and the NOAA is the realization of this idea and has major implications for CCMI's efforts. It also provides important funding opportunities that will benefit the Cayman Islands economy," she said. One of the major benefits of the ICON project is that observed long-term trends will allow local environmental managers and researchers to make better informed decisions for the reef area, said Dr Manfrino. Near real-time feedback is important because it allows researchers to visit a site right away to see if modeled conditions are met, and also to give the coastal and coral managers a means of knowing more precisely the immediate status of the Park in question.

The organization headed by Dr Manfrino also anticipate this project becoming one of the major attractions for scientists and that it will subsequently

increase the grant funding that would normally not be available to the Cayman Islands. This project will be instrumental in increasing technological capabilities in the Cayman Islands and the data will be available instantly through the World-Wide-Web and will be serviced by NOAA.

Source: Cayman Net News Online

Tues July 4, 2006

Governor and Cabinet Approve Dry Tortugas Regulations

Management policies between State and National Park Service enhance marine protection of Dry Tortugas National Park

Expanding protection for Florida's coral reefs and underwater resources, Governor Jeb Bush and the Florida Cabinet recently approved managing regulations by the National Park Service for the Dry Tortugas National Park. The regulations build upon the management agreement between the parties approved last year, and enhance protection for archeological treasures, marine resources and habitat over 100 nautical square-miles. As part of the approval, the Department of Environmental Protection and the National Park Service will come back to the Governor and Cabinet in five years to review the performance of the regulations.

"This multi-agency collaboration to manage the Dry Tortugas will allow the partners to research and preserve a near pristine subtropical marine ecosystem, while still providing a range of recreational activities for visitors to enjoy," said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Colleen M. Castille.

The Dry Tortugas' management plan separates the park into a 54 nautical square-mile Natural/Cultural Zone and a 46 square-mile Research Natural Area. Upon implementation, available activities within the Natural/Cultural Zone will continue to include recreational fishing, scuba diving, snorkeling and boating. The Research Natural Area will be reserved for non-consumptive recreation, research and educational activities, with a square-mile radius surrounding Fort Jefferson remaining open for recreational fishing.

The Dry Tortugas play a critical role in sustaining the health of Florida's coral reefs. The biologically rich, relatively undisturbed area is home to some of the clearest and cleanest waters in the Florida Keys. More than 40 percent of the Tortugas reefs are covered in coral, compared to 10 percent in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The diverse ecosystem also provides spawning and nursery grounds for more than 300 species of fish.

In 2001, Florida partnered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish the adjacent Tortugas Ecological Reserve as one of the largest marine reserves in the world. Designed to protect coral habitat, the reserve restricts consumptive activities such as fishing. A 2004 expedition by NOAA, the State, the University of Miami and the National Park Service recorded higher fish diversities within the reserve than in fished areas of the Tortugas. For example, scientists documented an approximate increase of 130 percent for black grouper and yellowtail snapper in 2006. According to the report, population increases in reef species have also been documented in other protected marine zones in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

As part of the Dry Tortuga National Park agreement, the state and federal partners will work together to implement a research and monitoring program for the marine ecosystem. In addition, the partners will report back to the Board of Trustees every five years, providing Florida with a status report on the management of the submerged lands.

Located approximately 70 miles west of Key West, the Dry Tortugas is a cluster of seven islands composed of coral reefs and sand. Along with the surrounding shoals and waters, the islands make up Dry Tortugas National Park, famous for its bird and marine life. Fort Jefferson, one of the largest coastal forts ever built, is a central feature of the park. For more information on the Dry Tortugas visit:

<http://floridakeys.noaa.gov> or
<http://www.nps.gov/drto/>.

Source: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 14 Nov 2006

Contact: Yasmin Wallas, (805) 245-2112

New International Rules to Allow Storage of CO₂ in Seabed Adopted

1st Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, 30 October – 3 November 2006

Storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂) under the seabed will be allowed from 10 February 2007, under amendments to an international convention governing the dumping of wastes at sea. Contracting parties to the London Protocol, at their first meeting held in London from 30 Oct to 3 Nov, adopted amendments to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention). The amendments regulate the sequestration of CO₂ streams from CO₂ capture processes in sub-seabed geological formations.

Parties also agreed that guidance on the means by which sub-seabed geological sequestration of carbon dioxide can be conducted should be developed as soon as possible. This will, when finalized, form an important part of the regulation of this activity. Arrangements have been made to ensure that this guidance will be considered for adoption at the 2nd Meeting of contracting Parties in Nov 2007.

This means that a basis has been created in international environmental law to regulate carbon capture and storage (CCS) in sub-seabed geological formations, for permanent isolation, as part of a suite of measures to tackle the challenge of climate change and ocean acidification, including, first and foremost, the need to further develop low carbon forms of energy. In practice, this option would apply to large point sources of CO₂ emissions, including power plants, steel and cement works.

The 1996 Protocol, which entered into force on March 2006, takes a precautionary approach and prohibits the dumping of wastes at sea, except for certain substances, listed in the Annex I to the Protocol. CO₂ streams from CO₂ capture processes have now been added to the list.

The amendments, which will enter into force 100 days after adoption (Feb 2007), state that carbon dioxide streams may only be considered for dumping if: disposal is into a sub-seabed geological

formation; they consist overwhelmingly of carbon dioxide (they may contain incidental associated substances derived from the source material and the capture and sequestration processes used); and no wastes or other matter are added for the purpose of disposing of them.

The 1996 Protocol has currently been ratified by 29 countries and replaces the London Convention of 1972 for those countries. The 1972 Convention has been ratified by 81 countries.

For further information please contact:

Lee Adamson, Head, Public Information Services:
media@imo.org or
Natasha Brown, External Relations Officer: media@imo.org
Or check:
London Convention Website:
www.londonconvention.org/

Fish with Chips Cross the Oceans

A group of scientists from around the world met in June at Dalhousie University (Halifax, Canada) to start a program that will acoustically tag (“mark electronically”) and track migratory movements of various marine species, from squids to sharks. The project will be known as the Network of Oceanic Pursuit and is an extension of two pilot programs that over past years have followed the migrations of several marine species in the waters of California and the Pacific Northwest.

The first of these two programs is the POST (Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking). This program has revealed the migration routes followed by young salmon from Canadian and U.S. rivers of Canada and the US into the Pacific Ocean where they spend their adult lives. The information is provided by small transmitters about the size of an almond installed in their bodies. A network of acoustical receptors to receive data sent by the transmitters has been installed on the ocean floor. Information collected by the receptors will allow tracking of exact movements of the fish in the ocean. The POST Network covers an area of 1750 km² from Oregon to Alaska, including British Columbia, Canada.

The second program, located in California and serving as the conceptual basis for Network of Oceanic Pursuit, is called TOPP (Tagging of Pacific

Pelagics); it focuses on acoustic tagging of larger marine animals. In this case, the information from the transmitters is collected via satellite when the animals breach the water surface. TOPP has followed thousands of individuals from 21 different species, including whales, tuna, elephant seals, sea turtles and sharks.

Source:
DiarioHoy Net
Julio 2006

TNC Mesoamerican Reef Program

The Nature Conservancy's Mesoamerican Reef Program has just launched its new web site <http://www.tncmar.net>. It provides information on the program, links to its partners and others, news, learning tools, publications.

The web page virtual library, still under construction, will also provide downloadable documents (publications or their abstracts; reports) useful for marine conservation scientists and practitioners in the Caribbean region and the rest of the world.

In the next months, as part of the MAR Program Virtual Learning Center activities, we will be working on the development of downloadable digital courses that can be used by any interest party (those looking for self-training or instructors of training courses) on different aspects of coral reef conservation and marine protected areas management.

All contributions from colleagues interested in posting a link or a published paper or training manual on the web page are welcome. For details, please contact:

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Australian Institute of Marine Science Newsletter

The first edition of "Waypoint", an e-newsletter from the Australian Institute of Marine Science, is now available. The newsletter will share the success stories, science discoveries and technological advancements that are helping us to provide cutting-edge marine science for Australia and the world.

To download "waypoint" go to the following web address: www.aims.gov.au/waypoint

EcoAmericas Newsletter

You're welcome to request a complimentary copy of EcoAmericas, the leading English-language publication dedicated exclusively to ongoing coverage of Latin American environmental developments and trends. Now in its eighth year, EcoAmericas covers a wide range of environmental issues, using its network of correspondents in the region. EcoAmericas is available in print and online for \$225 a year. Subscriptions include 12 monthly issues, an annual Guide to Latin American Environmental Agencies and online access to current and back issues in English and Spanish at their web site, www.ecoamericas.com. IP recognition is available for institutions and organizations. To request your free issue, please send a message to ecoamericas@fspress.com or call Fourth Street Press at (310) 451-5630.

Meetings & Conferences

XII International Symposium on Marine Natural Products

Queenstown, New Zealand, 4 - 9 February 2007

You are cordially invited to attend the next MaNaPro series of symposia, to be held at the Millennium Hotel in Queenstown, New Zealand.

A comprehensive program covering all aspects of marine natural product discovery, development and utilization has been prepared, with an outstanding selection of Plenary, Invited and Keynote speakers

having agreed to participate. A listing of these Speakers can be found on the website. We have been able to adopt a low Registration fee for students, in the hope that as many as possible of the young MNP scientists will take advantage of this.

The conference program has been organized around six themes, to be presented by a Plenary speaker, a selection of Invited speakers and a number of Contributed (20 min) talks. The themes are: Discovery (including methodology), Southern Oceans, Genomics, Environmental (including ecological and marine toxin), Development of Marine Natural Products Through Synthesis, Pharmacological Studies and Nutraceutical Investigations, and New Frontiers. There will be an emphasis on the participation of young researchers and students, with reduced fees for students and sponsored student prizes.

We have organized a number of optional events that will allow you to see some of the spectacular scenery of this region, or tour a world-class winery region. Numbers for these tours are limited, so early registration is advised. Information is also provided on other activities that are available, including heart-stopping jet boat river trips, white water rafting, and bungee jumping at the site where this subliminal madness originated some years ago. As Queenstown is a tourist centre there are many attractions on offer (see www.queenstown-nz.co.nz and/or www.tourism.net.nz/region/queenstown/). For this reason the Accompanying Persons programme is rather limited as we do not want to restrict your choices by imposing a programme on you! The fee for Accompanying Persons is at cost for the conference activities that are being offered.

We look forward to seeing you at manapro12. Escape the Northern Hemisphere winter - it will be summer time in Queenstown!

Online registration will be available in August. Abstracts for oral and poster presentations may now be submitted online at the conference website www.manapro12.co.nz

More details about the conference and links to tourism and accommodation in the Queenstown area are also available from the site. We look forward to hearing from you.

Brent Copp
Department of Chemistry, University of Auckland,
New Zealand.

**5th International Conference on Marine
Pollution and Ecotoxicology in conjunction
with the 15th International Conference on
Environmental Bioindicators
Hong Kong, 4 – 9 June 2007**

Organized by the City University of Hong Kong and the International Society of Environmental Bioindicators (ISEBI). It will follow the 5th International Conference on Marine Pollution and Ecotoxicology, being held from 4 to 6 June 2007. A package (reduced) rate will be available for those who register for both conferences. The ICMPE is expected to attract some 200 participants. Interested parties can contact: bhconf@cityu.edu.hk.

**National Conference on Ecosystem
Restoration (NCER 2007)
Kansas City, Missouri, 22-27 April 2007**

Mark Your Calendar and make plans to join us at the 2nd National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration (NCER) to be held April 22-27, 2007 in Kansas City, MO at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center.

Who Will Attend?

NCER provides a forum for physical, biological and social scientists, engineers, resource managers and decision-makers to share their knowledge and research results concerning ecosystem restoration throughout the United States.

Conference Objective

A major goal of NCER is to provide participants with a unique opportunity to collectively identify vitally important issues faced by ecosystem restoration programs around the country. It is important we understand what practices and processes are used for dealing with issues, determine what has worked and what hasn't, and most importantly, why.

Conference Overview

The 2007 conference provides many opportunities to

learn about ecosystem restoration efforts throughout the country and to learn about large-scale ecosystem restoration programs including Missouri River Basin, Parks, Agency efforts, Louisiana Coastal Area, Columbia River, Everglades, San Francisco Bay/Delta, Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Puget Sound and the Mississippi River Basin, just to name a few.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

David A. Vigh, Conference Chair

US Army Corps of Engineers

Environmental Team Leader, Mississippi Valley Division

P.O. Box 80; Vicksburg, Mississippi 39181-0080

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EMAIL: bmt@ufl.edu

www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/NCER2007

**11th International Congress on Invertebrate
Reproduction and Development (ICIRD)
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute,
August 6-9 2007**

Dr. R. Collin, Organizer

Symposium Topics – Organizers

Sexual Selection in Invertebrates – J. Leonard and J. Christy (jleonard@ucsc.edu)

Reproductive Toxicology of Invertebrates – G. Caldwell and M. Bentley

(M.G.Bentley@newcastle.ac.uk)

Genetics and Reproduction of Invertebrates – Fabiola Arcos Ortega (farcos04@cibnor.mx)
Environmental Signals Controlling Invertebrate Reproduction – Gordon Watson (gordon.watson@port.ac.uk)
Parasitic Manipulation of Reproduction of and by Invertebrates – Jack Werren (werr@mail.rochester.edu) and Marie-Jeanne Perrot-Minnot

For more information please contact:
<http://striweb.si.edu/icird>

New Books

Development in Sedimentology Series - Now Available

Elsevier S&T Books [Listman2@elsevier-alerts.com]
The Developments in Sedimentology book series is designed to provide a comprehensive source of detailed information on all aspects of Sedimentology. The series encompasses research into sediments and sedimentary rocks. Topics include analytical techniques to regional or geodynamical aspects of sedimentary systems and basin analysis; subsurface analysis of sedimentary sequences, diagenesis, chemical sedimentology and numerical modeling.

Series Editor: A.J. van Loon, Doorwerth, The Netherlands

Titles in the Series

Cyclic Development of Sedimentary Basins Edited by J.M. Mabesoone and V.H. Neumann October 2005, Hardcover, 530 pp.

Presents the controversial subject of the cyclic phenomena in the earth's evolutionary history and its reflection in the development of sedimentary basins and its lithic infillings.

List Price: \$ 145.00 USD / b_, 130.00 EUR / B# 90.00 GBP
<http://books.elsevier.com/earthscience/?isbn=0444520708>

Introduction to the Physics of Cohesive Sediment Dynamics in the Marine Environment

Edited by J.C. Winterwerp and W.G.M. van Kesteren June 2004, Hardcover, 576 pp.

Focuses on highly dynamic systems, such as estuaries and coastal seas. Processes on the continental shelf are also discussed and attention is given to the effects of chemistry, biology and gas.

List Price: \$ 136.00 USD / b_, 120.00 EUR / B# 80.00 GBP

<http://books.elsevier.com/earthscience/?isbn=0444515534>

Carbonate Reservoirs: Porosity Evolution and Diagenesis in a Sequence Stratigraphic Framework

Clyde H. Moore May 2001, Paperback, 460 pp.

This comprehensive text and accompanying CD-ROM provides the reader with an integrated overview of diagenesis and porosity evolution in carbonate petroleum reservoirs and ancient carbonate rock sequences.

List Price: \$ 90.95 USD / b_, 79.95 EUR / B# 52.95 GBP

<http://books.elsevier.com/earthscience/?isbn=0444508503>

The Bird Call of the Río Beni

Adventures of Father and Son on an Ornithological Expedition in the Jungles of Western Bolivia, South America in 1934-1935. A diary with commentary

Melbourne R. Carriker, 2005, The Narrative Press.

The Bird Call of the Río Beni is a story that blends scientific exploration, jungle adventure, and a young man's coming of age into a single narrative. In the fall of 1934, the author an 18-year-old high school graduate from New Jersey, sailed with his ornithologist father to the jungles of western Bolivia on a bird collecting expedition. From the tops of 15,000 foot mountains and down to the floor of the Amazonian pampas, the author relates his birding mission in a daily diary, to which he adds his later

remarks and integrates quotes from his father's writings. For example, after contracting an illness, his father gives him a potent native medicine, to which he adds these and other undated notes that illustrate how a scientist learns in the midst of his surroundings:

The medicine worked! From his many years of field work in the tropics, he assembled a list of useful medicines for ordinary ailment, surgical dressings, and antiseptics that he brought with us.

For avid birding enthusiasts, who love a blend of scientific field study set against a turbulent historical backdrop, Carriker presents this wonderful tale of life in the wild bush, the challenges of assimilation with new and foreign cultures, and above all the distinctive link between a father and his son.

Available from The Narrative Press
www.narrativepress.com \$15.95

Marine Ecology

Processes, Systems, and Impacts

Michael J. Kaiser, Martin J. Attrill, Simon Jennings, David N. Thomas, David K. A. Barnes, Andrew S. Brierly, Nicholas V. Polunin, David G. Raffaelli, and Peter J. Le B. Williams. 2006, Oxford University Press, 580 pp.

This book offers a carefully balanced, stimulating survey of marine ecology that introduces the key processes and systems that form the marine environment and examines the issues and challenges which surrounds its future conservation. *Marine Ecology: Processes, Systems, and Impacts* is ideal for undergraduate courses in marine biology or marine ecology. It features a companion website, and an Instructor's Manual for adopters.

Contents: An Introduction 1. Patterns in the Marine Environment **Processes** 2. Primary Production Processes 3. Microbial Production **Systems** 4. Estuarine Ecology 5. Rocky and Sandy Shores 6. Pelagic Ecosystems 7. Continental Shelf Seabed 8. The Deep Sea 9. Mangrove Forests and Sea grass Meadows 10. Coral Reefs 11. Polar Regions **Impacts** 12. Fisheries 13. Aquaculture 14. Disturbance, Pollution, and Climate Change 15. Conservation **Weblinks References Appendix**

For ordering information:

www.oup.com/us

To obtain a 20% discount enter Promo code 25364

0-19-924975-X \$49.95 / \$40.00

2006 / 580 pp.; 455 color illustrations

Environment and Livelihoods in Tropical Coastal zones

Managing Agriculture – Fishery - Aquaculture Conflicts

Edited by C. T. Hoanh, T. P. Tuong, B. Hardy, and J. W. Gowing. 2006, Oxford University Press, 350 pp.

This book focuses on the challenges people face in managing agricultural crops, aquaculture, fisheries and related ecosystems in inland areas of coastal zones in the tropics of Asia, Africa, Australia and South America. These challenges can create conflicts in the use of natural resources between different stakeholders. Through many case studies, the book discusses the nature of the conflicts and identifies what is known and not known about how to manage them.

For ordering information:

www.oup.com/us

To obtain a 20% discount enter Promo code 25364

1-84593-107-6 \$120.00 / \$96.00

August 2006 / 350 pp.

Pelicans, Cormorants, and Their Relatives The Pelecaniformes

J. Bryan Nelson. 2006, Oxford University Press, 536 pp.

The Pelecaniformes are seabirds, found all over the world in marine and freshwater environments, encompassing six families and sixty species. They illuminate a variety of extremely important areas of seabird biology, especially ecology, behavior and conservation. Bryan Nelson has researched these birds for forty years and his work is complemented by beautiful pictures, specially commissioned for the book from renowned ornithology illustrators.

Contents: List of color plates, List of abbreviations, Plan of the book, Introduction **Part I: General Chapters** 1. Evolutionary relationships 2. Breeding biology 3. Behavior 4. The Pelecaniformes and man 5. General family accounts **Part II: Species accounts** Appendix, Glossary, Bibliography, and Index.

For ordering information:

www.oup.com/us

To obtain a 20% discount enter Promo code 25364

0-19-857727-3 \$174.50 / \$139.60

2006 / 536 pp.; 62 maps, 12 color plates, 159 b/w halftones

Courses

Conservation Genetics Course

Jan 2007

The American Genetic Association in conjunction with the National Cancer Institute, The Laboratory of Genomic Diversity, Frederick, Maryland, NOAHS-Smithsonian Institution and The Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology is presenting a 12-day intensive course in Conservation Genetics beginning January 7th thru January 20th, 2007 at The Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, Coconut Island, Honolulu, and Oahu Hawaii.

The course will be directed by Dr. Stephen J. O'Brien and taught by renowned scientists in methods, interpretation, and applications of molecular genetic analyses for conservation of endangered species. These instructors include Drs. Scott Baker, Richard Frankham, Jennifer Graves, Stephen Palumbi, Alison Sherwood, Andrew Storfer, Robert Wayne and James Wilgenbusch and local host Dr. Brian Bowen and his colleagues at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

Applicants should be conservation-minded scientists (advanced graduate students, post-docs, teachers, and researchers with advanced degrees) of any nationality from academia, government, NGOs, or industry who are studying the genetics of endangered species and who will apply the knowledge gained from this course to the conservation of such species.

Interested individuals can contact us at congen@ncifcrf.gov or for course details visit the website at <http://home.ncifcrf.gov/ccr/lgd/congen2007/index.asp>

Reef Check Australia Volunteer Internship Position

Reef Check Australia is looking for some motivated and independent people to assist with the coordination of the 2007 survey season for our Great Barrier Reef Project. If you want to gain experience in coral reef monitoring and team management this is an outstanding opportunity!

Project Officer. Jan – Jun 2007

The Project Officer position will involve the planning, coordination and leadership of Reef Check research teams to survey up to 40 sites on the Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea. You will also be responsible for data management, analysis and the creation of a scientific report.

Additional responsibilities subject to interest include helping to design a school education program, fundraising event coordination and grant writing.

Reef Check Australia has 35 trained volunteers and works with 15 dive operators on the Great Barrier Reef Project. Good communication, motivation, delegation and social skills are therefore essential. Minimum Rescue Diver required, however an insured instructor is preferred.

The position is entirely volunteer. However, we can provide applicants with some support in applying to other foundations for funds to support themselves during their stay in Australia.

Required skills and qualifications:

Tertiary qualification in marine biology
Divemaster or instructor with full insurance
Current first aid, CPR and oxygen provider qualifications
Proven experience with team leadership and coordination of projects
Good communication skills, both verbal and written
Ability to take initiative and work independently

Desired skills and qualifications:

Experience with coral reef monitoring

Why Work for Reef Check Australia?

Part of the United Nation's official International coral reef monitoring program
Strong scientific reputation
Work with likeminded people at the cutting edge of coral reef conservation

Benefits to you include the opportunity to:

Enhance your research skills
Enhance team management skills
Enhance project coordination skills
Contribute to Australia's long-term data set
Take part in the most comprehensive Reef Check Training program in the world
Work with like-minded professionals and volunteers at one of the world's leading centres of tropical marine science.
Log up to 100 dives at some of Australia's most spectacular coral reefs
Potential for ongoing opportunities with Reef Check

Applicants should send their resume to Jos Hill at jos@reefcheck.org

Jos Hill
Executive Director
Reef Check Australia
PO Box 404
Townsville
QLD 4810
Email: jos@reefcheck.org
General enquiries: support@reefcheckaustralia.org
Tel: +61 (0)7 4724 3950
Mob: +61 (0) 415 446 646

2007 Curatorial and Research Internships at Reef HQ (Townsville, Australia)

**2007 Curatorial and Research Internships at Reef HQ
Townsville, Australia**

As part of its role of education center for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Reef HQ Aquarium in Townsville (Australia) is once again offering four curatorial internship positions to suitable applicants starting in Feb/Mar and Aug/Sep 2007. Each internship position carries a specialist research

project, as well as water quality and laboratory duties, that will be the core duties of the candidate.

However, interns may also assist Reef HQ staff with animal husbandry responsibilities of all exhibit areas, including feeding, diving, field trip assistance, maintenance of aquarium systems and other related routine duties. This program is designed for individuals intending to undertake a technical or professional career in marine science, aquaculture, or a closely related discipline, and provides a unique opportunity for work and study. Overseas applicants are encouraged to apply. For further details and instructions for applicants, please go to:

<http://www.reefhq.com.au/involved/intern/curatorial.html>.

Shelley L. Anthony, M.Sc.

Biologist
ReefHQ Aquarium
The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
2-68 Flinders St.
PO Box 1379
Townsville QLD 4810 AUSTRALIA

Ph: (07)4750-0876
Fax: (07)4772-5281
email: shelleya@gbrmpa.gov.au

Graduate Fellowships in Tropical Biology

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Short-Term Fellowship Program allows selected candidates to come to STRI year-round and is an excellent resource to provide support for graduate students and introduce them to tropical research. Although focused primarily on graduate students, awards are occasionally given to undergraduate and postdoctoral candidates. These fellowships enable selected candidates to work in the tropics and explore research possibilities at STRI. Deadlines: February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15. For more information see:

http://www.stri.org/english/education_fellowships/fellowships/stri_programs.php

or e-mail fellows@si.edu

WWF Kathryn Fuller Fellowships 2007-2008

World Wildlife Fund is announcing the opening of its 2007-2008 Kathryn Fuller Fellowship competition. Two post-doctoral fellowships will be awarded for a two year period to individuals with outstanding research proposals that are of fundamental and immediate importance to global biodiversity conservation. Fuller Fellows can be based at any institution, including at World Wildlife Fund, and will co-advised by one academic and one WWF mentor. Fellows are provided a stipend of \$50,000 per year, as well as a \$15,000 annual research allowance. Applicants should have received a doctorate degree between January 2002 and January 2007. The deadline for applications is November 15, 2006. Offers will be made in the spring of 2007, with fellowships to begin in the fall of 2007.

For more information, application guidelines, and on-line application forms, please visit www.worldwildlife.org/sfn, or contact us at:

Tel: 1-202-778-9742

Email: fuller.fellowship@wwfus.org

Application deadline: November 15, 2006

NHMI Job Opportunities

Multi-seasonal and year-round positions are available at Newfound Harbor Marine Institute at Seacamp

If you know of anyone who might enjoy teaching experiential marine science programs in the Florida Keys please pass the following job posting along to them. Company Description: A nonprofit, residential, environmental educational organization offering programs in marine science to visiting elementary, secondary, college, and adult groups.

Category: Environmental education

Job Type: Marine Science Instructor/Intern

Description: Instructors and interns lead interpretive programs in tropical marine science for visiting schools and participate in support services required to run a residential facility. Extensive training: science

seminars; ARC lifeguarding, waterfront lifeguarding, oxygen administration, first aid, and CPR/PR; boat handling; teaching techniques; Summer employees also receive NAUI Skin Diving Instructor and Rescue Diver (if SCUBA certified) certifications.

Qualifications (intern): At least a college sophomore. Must have at least one year of college biology and must be working towards a degree in biological science, environmental science, or education.

Qualifications (instructor): Must have a college degree in the biological sciences, environmental science, or education. Must have at least one full year of teaching experience.

Salary (intern): Monthly stipend plus travel bonus upon completion of internship. College credit is available.

Salary (instructor): \$45/day.

Benefits: Paid training, room and board provided on the property, worker's compensation insurance, and staff boat use during time off.

To apply: Send appropriate application (available at www.nhmi.org), resume, official college transcripts, and three letters of recommendation.

Seasonal employment: Fall (September-December). Spring (January-May) Summer (May-August). Multi-seasonal and year-round positions are available.

Jack Seubert, Science Program Director
Katharine Gurin, Internship Coordinator

Newfound Harbor Marine Institute at Seacamp
1300 Big Pine Avenue
Big Pine Key, FL 33043
1-877-SEACAMP
info@nhmi.org

Change of Address

MOVING? To ensure that you continue to receive *Caribbean Marine Science*, notification of upcoming AMLC meetings and other AMLC information, please fill out the following change of address information by e-mail to:

Dr. David Wilson
AMLC Membership Director
The School for Field Studies
10 Federal Street, Suite 24
Salem, MA 01970-3876
USA
davetroywilson@gmail.com

Name & Title _____

Institution/Association _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

FAX _____

E-mail _____

Scientific Interests _____

Dues

Individual membership dues for 2007 are \$25.00 due March 31st, 2007 unless you attend the St. Thomas Scientific Meeting in June, in which case your meeting registration fee will include membership dues. If you are not planning to attend the St. Thomas meeting, please send your dues as discussed here. You may also help AMLC with a donation membership contribution if you wish; the schedule

for these is presented below. Student dues are still \$5 per year.

The AMLC can accept credit cards payments (Visa, MasterCard or American Express) for AMLC dues. A 5% service charge will be added to credit card payments. Checks must be in U.S. dollars from U.S. banks, or a U.S. dollars bank draft from an accredited non-U.S. Bank, made out to "AMLC", and sent to Laurie Richardson. Laurie's address may be found in the list of AMLC Officers on the next page of this newsletter.

Name & Title _____

Institution/Association _____

New Address _____

Telephone _____

FAX _____

E-mail _____

Scientific interests _____

Membership Options: Student (US\$5.00)____
Regular (US\$25.00)____ Sponsor(US\$30.00)____
Sustaining Member (US\$50.00)____ and
Patron (US\$100.00)_____.

My check (bank draft) is enclosed for US\$_____ OR Please charge US\$_____ to my
Visa () Mastercard () (Charge will include
an additional 5% to cover handling expense)

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Cardholder _____

Cardholder Address: _____

Signature _____

AMLC Background & Goals

The Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AMLC) was founded in 1956 by marine researchers with interests in the marine science of the tropical Atlantic and Caribbean. Founded primarily as a scientific organization, the strength of the AMLC lies in the diversity of its member laboratories and the extensive expertise of its membership. Institutional, individual scientist and student memberships are available.

Annual AMLC meetings are hosted by member laboratories which are actively conducting marine research in the Caribbean. The host laboratory arranges for facilities for research presentations, copies of the presented abstracts (the proceedings) and accommodations for participants. The AMLC has no designated official language so researchers are free to make their presentations in their native language.

Caribbean Marine Science, published in English and Spanish, is the biannual newsletter of the AMLC and informs members of AMLC activities, pertinent events, and relevant research.

The purpose of the AMLC is to advance common interest in the marine sciences by:

- a. Assisting and initiating cooperative research and education programs
- b. Providing for a for exchange of scientific and technical information
- c. Fostering personal and official relations among members
- d. Publishing the proceedings of scientific meetings and a newsletter

2006-07 AMLC Officers

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Contributions to the AMLC Newsletter:

All members of the AMLC (individual and laboratory) are encouraged to send relevant news items at any time, to the newsletter. Relevant news items include, but are not limited to: new facility announcements, faculty/staff changes, positions available, research programs and initiatives, publications of general interest, awards, visiting scientist opportunities, and education programs. Submitted items should be sent to the AMLC newsletter office by the end of February for inclusion in the Spring issue, and by the end of September for the Fall issue.

Please send your information and comments to:

Dr. Ernesto Weil
Department of Marine Sciences
University of Puerto Rico
P.O. Box 908
Lajas, Puerto Rico, 00667.
FAX: (787) 899-5500/2630.
E-mail: eweil@caribe.net

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50th Anniversary Conference Announcement
1st Call for Papers
Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean
33rd Scientific Conference
June 4-8, 2007
St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands



We are pleased to announce the upcoming **33rd Scientific Conference** of the **Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean** hosted by the University of the Virgin Islands **June 4-8, 2007** in St. Thomas, United State Virgin Islands. The AMLC Scientific Conference is held every 2 years and is attended by international scientists, managers, professionals, and students whose interest is focused on issues relevant to the greater Caribbean region. Activities include a complete science program, poster exhibits, social events and field trips. We anticipate having simultaneous English-Spanish interpretation at this meeting.

In celebration of AMLC's 50th year since its founding as the Association of Island Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AIMLC), the 33rd Scientific Conference theme is:

**50 YEARS OF CARIBBEAN MARINE RESEARCH: CHANGING SCIENCE, CHANGING ENVIRONMENTS,
CHANGING PERSPECTIVES**

The Program of the 33rd AMLC encourages papers on historical and current research, management or conservation issues within the following topics areas:

- **Connectivity** (habitat linkages between coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass, larval distribution patterns, spawning aggregations, land-sea interactions, biological oceanography)
- **Global & Regional Issues** (global warming, regional patterns of coral bleaching and disease, physical oceanography, remote sensing, GIS, coastal processes, natural disturbances, pollution, sedimentation)
- **Resource Management** (MPA's, ecosystem approaches to coastal management, fisheries, aquaculture, conservation, monitoring and assessment, social economics, public awareness)
- **Ecology** (ecology, behavior, reproduction, disease of Caribbean reef organisms, food web dynamics, reef resilience, deep coral reefs)

Other topics will be considered subject to session time limitations. Please take note of the time schedule for abstract submission, early and late registration, and hotel reservations:

Early registration: January 1- March 16, 2007

Late registration: March 17 – June 4, 2007

Abstract deadline: April 15, 2007

Hotel registration deadline for AMLC special rates: May 15, 2007

Abstracts must be received by March 31, 2007, and may be in English or Spanish. Abstracts must be submitted in the form described in the Abstract Format instructions which are at the end of this package. Upon receipt of your abstract, a brief description of the associated peer-reviewed paper guidelines for authors and submission requirements will be sent to you, along with confirmation of receipt of your abstract. It will be helpful if you assure that your e-mail address is clearly provided when you submit your abstract.

If using postal service to submit your abstract, include a hard copy and an electronic copy on diskette. If using e-mail, attach your abstract to your message – do not incorporate your abstract in the body of your e-mail message – attach the Word file. Submit your abstract(s) to:

Dr. Rick Nemeth
33rd AMLC Coordinator
MacLean Marine Science Center
University of the Virgin Islands
2 John Brewer's Bay
St. Thomas, USVI 00802
Ph: 340/693-1381
Fx: 340/693-1385
nemeth@uvi.edu

We also wish to announce that our keynote speaker for this meeting will be Dr. Rita Colwell, who served as the 11th Director of the USA National Science Foundation, 1998-2004, She now serves as Distinguished University Professor both at the University of Maryland and at Johns Hopkins, as well as serving as Chairman of Canon US Life Sciences, Inc. Dr. Colwell is an internationally respected scientist and educator, and has authored or co-authored 16 books and over 700 scientific publications. In her spare time, she also produced the award-winning film: *Invisible Seas*.

A second featured speaker at the 2007 meeting will be Dr. Craig Venter, one of the world's leading scientists and among the most frequently cited in scientific publications. In 1998, Dr. Venter founded Celera Genomics to sequence the human genome. The successful completion of this research culminated with the February 2001 publication of the human genome in *Science*. He is now working on a broad program to define microbial genomes, including many from marine environments. We encourage you to bring your geneticists and microbiologists to this 2007 meeting. It should be a very worthwhile experience for them.

Finally, we are working on securing funding to support some student travel. The AMLC website www.amlc-carib.org/ will be periodically updated on how to apply for student travel awards, as well as information on the science program, registration, abstract submissions, peer-reviewed paper guidelines and field trips. If you have questions that cannot be answered on the AMLC website please contact Rick Nemeth at nemeth@uvi.edu or at (340) 693-1380.

REGISTRATION

A Registration Form accompanies this Meeting Announcement. Please note that substantial cost saving may be realized by early (before March 16, 2007) registration.

The registration fee covers the initial reception, all meeting rooms, two coffee breaks per day, a book of abstracts, the program, the published meeting proceedings, a souvenir T-shirt and two years membership with the AMLC. Tickets to the closing banquet and local field trips will be sold for at the registration desk when you arrive.

ACCOMODATIONS

The venue hotels will be the Best Western Emerald Beach and Carib Beach Resorts in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands. Our special AMLC room rates for single and double occupancy are U.S. \$119.00 for the Emerald Beach, and U.S. \$99.00 for the Carib Beach. These rates do not include taxes. The Best Western assumes that we will rent a minimum number of rooms, so we encourage all attendees to stay at either of these hotels. We suggest you make early reservations to assure getting these special rates. You will need a credit card to confirm your reservation. To make your hotel reservations toll free at 800-792-2742 or contact:

EMERALD BEACH RESORT
Reservations Manager
Best Western Beach Resorts
St. Thomas, USVI
Tel: 340- 777-8800
Fax: 340-776-3426
E-mail: bookebr@vipowernet.net
Website: emeraldbeach.com

CARIB BEACH RESORT
Reservations Manager
Best Western Beach Resorts
St. Thomas, USVI
Tel: 340-774-2525
Fax: 340-777-4131
E-mail: bookcbr@vipowernet.net
Website: caribbeachresort.com

TRAVEL

Flights should be booked to Cyril E. King Airport, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas , United States Virgin Islands. The Carib Beach Hotel is within walking distance of airport and the Emerald Beach is about half a mile away. Regularly scheduled shuttle service will be available from hotels to conference room on the University of the Virgin Islands St. Thomas campus.

33rd SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MARINE LABORATORIES OF THE CARIBBEAN ST. THOMAS, JUNE 4-8, 2007

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Position : _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

Scientific Interests _____

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mark (X) your registration status: | Early registration | Late registration |
| | <u>Before March 16, 2007</u> | <u>After March 16, 2007</u> |
| Full | (\$ 300.00) _____ | (\$ 340.00) _____ |
| Student | (\$ 110.00) _____ | (\$ 140.00) _____ |

Total included with this registration \$ _____

ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE BY BANK CHECK PAYABLE TO THE "UNIVERSITY OF VIRGIN ISLANDS."

Please write "AMLC registration" on check and send completed registration form with your payment to:

If by postal mail OR Federal Express:

Dr. Rick Nemeth
33rd AMLC Coordinator
MacLean Marine Science Center
University of the Virgin Islands
2 John Brewer's Bay
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

Ph: 340/693-1380
Fx: 340/693-1385
nemeth@uvi.edu

**For information and inquiries, you may contact Dr. Rick Nemeth at:
Tel: 1-340-693-1380 or by E-mail at: rnemeth@uvi.edu**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF AMLC!

**33rd SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
MARINE LABORATORIES OF THE CARIBBEAN
ST. THOMAS, USVIRGIN ISLANDS JUNE 4-8, 2007**

ABSTRACT – RESUMEN - FORMAT

The abstract should be in the following IBM or compatible format: Word processor: MS Word 6- or higher. **Font:** Times-Roman (size 11) - **Margins:** 1.0" all sides. **Title** – All in capital letters; font size 11. Title should be short (2 lines maximum) and include Order and Family of organisms when needed. Scientific names should be in italics. In the next line, name (s) of author (s) with presenter underlined, a complete, but short, address for the senior author and his/her e-mail. **Text:** Leave one line, and then write the 300 word (maximum), single paragraph text (single space between lines) of the abstract, leave one line and write four keywords for the abstract, the session you want to give your presentation, and if it will be an oral presentation or a poster. Please, let us know if you would like to co-chair a session.

Example:

ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A NOVEL STRATEGY OF ASEYUAL REPRODUCTION IN CARIBBEAN MASSIVE CORALS.

E.Weil*, A.L. Ortiz, H. Ruiz & M. Schärer.

*Department of Marine Sciences, University of Puerto Rico. P.O. BOX 908, Lajas, PR 00667, USA. eweil@caribe.net

Corals can reproduce asexually by at least five described strategies. Only fragmentation and asexual larvae have been reported for the Caribbean. A novel strategy of asexual reproduction was observed in massive colonies of the genera *Diploria* and *Dendrogyra* in the Caribbean. These species produce asexual buds which develop as soft-tissue outgrowths on the ridges, and deposit a well organized skeleton which is not connected to the parent colony. We have termed these propagules **gemma** (pl. gemmae). Gemmae may stay attached until they get large and heavy and/or surge conditions are strong. Detached, surviving gemmae form "rolling stones" or re-attach to the substrate. Some ecological characteristics were assessed by band transects, counts of number of gemmae per colony, depth distribution, etc., in several coral reef areas across the wider Caribbean. Results indicate that: (1) gemmae are widely distributed from Bermuda to Venezuela, and were restricted to shallow areas (< 5 m); (2) in Puerto Rico, *D. clivosa* had a higher abundance of colonies with gemmae (25.5 %) compared to *D. strigosa* (11.7 %) and *D. labyrinthiformis* (8.7 %); (3) *D. strigosa* and *D. clivosa* had significantly higher average number of gemmae per colony (14.9 and 6.8 respectively) than *D. labyrinthiformis* (1.2); (4) the number and size of gemmae was not related to parent colony size; (5) average size of gemmae was similar between the three species in Puerto Rico, and significantly larger in *D. strigosa* (5.49 mm) compared to Venezuela (3.62 mm). Maximum size was found in *D. clivosa* (26 mm). This strategy could have evolved as a response to the environmental instability of shallow reef habitats, and may explain the dominance of *Diploria* in these habitats. Further research on the genetic composition of populations of *Diplorias* in shallow reef habitats, and the ecological consequences of this strategy is needed.

Keywords: Massive scleractinian corals, asexual reproduction, gemmae, Caribbean.

Oral Presentation _____

Poster Presentation _____

I AM available _____ or NOT available _____ to Chair or co-Chair a session at the meeting