

LOGO OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MARINE LABORATORIES OF THE CARIBBEAN THE CURSE OF THE DRUNKEN SHRIMP

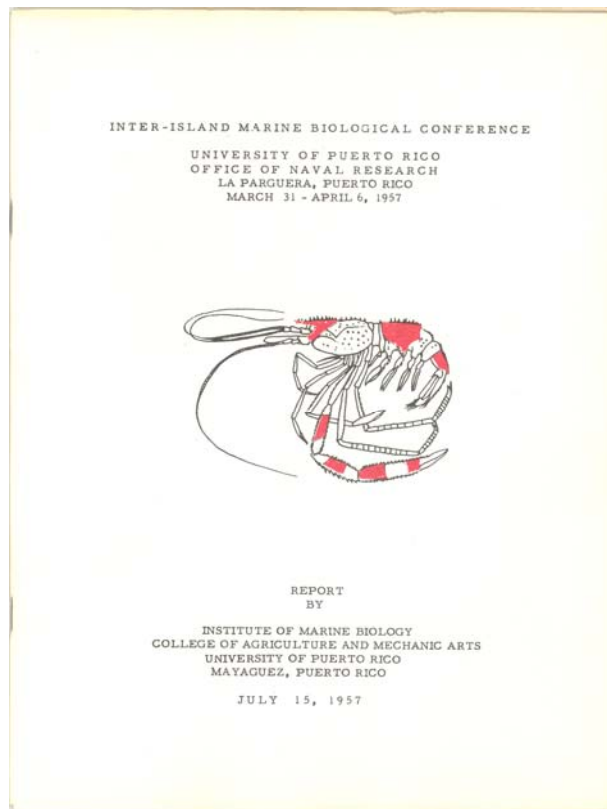


The Executive Board of the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AMLC) recently approved an attractive 16-point compass rose as the new official logo (left, Fig. 1, Table 1, Williams and Bunkley-Williams, 2007) with special adornments for the 50th Anniversary Meeting (33rd Scientific Session, 2007). This elaborate process was developed by artists Betsy Boynton and Laurinda Travers and coordinated by David Zawada, all from the US Geological Survey in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Since no history or even a list of the logos of the AMLC exists, we thought the brief summary we provide below may be of value. As is involved with most aspects of the rather quaint history of the Association, we must confess a number of sins and crimes committed to keep the AMLC functioning. The 2006 Executive Board,

like the 1988 Board that approved another Official AIMLC Logo assumed that the AMLC actually possessed an official logo. As far as we have been able to determine, this was not the case. A real and official logo of the AIMLC only existed for a few days in the History of the Association. We established that logo in treachery and almost immediately destroyed what we had created with willful neglectful deceit. Even a simple logo in the AMLC must involve convoluted and dangerous court intrigues. For almost all of its History, the Association has existed in logo chaos.

The logo displayed on the first (1957) “Inter-Island Marine Biological Conference” (First Proceedings, p. 1), “Association of Island Marine Institutes of the Western Atlantic” (ibid., p. 7), or “Association of Island Marine Laboratories” (ibid., p. 12) Proceedings



was a Barberpole Shrimp, *Stenopus hispidus* Olivier, 1811 (Decapoda: Stenopodidae) with red highlights (left, Fig. 2, Table 1). This was created specifically for this meeting and proceedings and was not the logo of the hosting laboratory, the Institute of Marine Biology (IMB) in the Biology Department of the University of Puerto Rico, as almost

everyone now believes. The shrimp was drawn by Mr. Diego Mejia of IMB (Dr. Juan A. Rivero, President 1957; Dr. Juan G. Gonzalez, Secretary-Treasurer 1957-1969, 1985-1986, pers. comm.). We have been able to locate no paperwork certifying this was any sort of official logo of the Association. The First Proceedings gave extensive business-meeting details, but did not mention the logo. We may assume this was de facto the logo of the Association even if it was informal, unapproved, and short lived.

Table 1. Logos of the Association of Marine laboratories of the Caribbean

Year	Figure/ Logo	Brief Description ¹
1957 ^E	2	Barberpole Shrimp with Red Highlights
1958-62 ^E	3	Insular Caribbean Map with Marine Animals
1963-65 ^E	2	Barberpole Shrimp with Red Highlights
1969-81 ^E	4	Barberpole Shrimp
1983-87 ^E	5-8	Caribbean Maps with Labs Marked
1987 ^D	9-20	Rejected Logos
1987 ^D (1989-05 ^E)	21	Caribbean Map in Circle Surrounded by Name
1987 ^D (1988 ^A)	22	Elkhorn Coral
2007-08 ^A	1	Modified Caribbean Map in a compass Rose

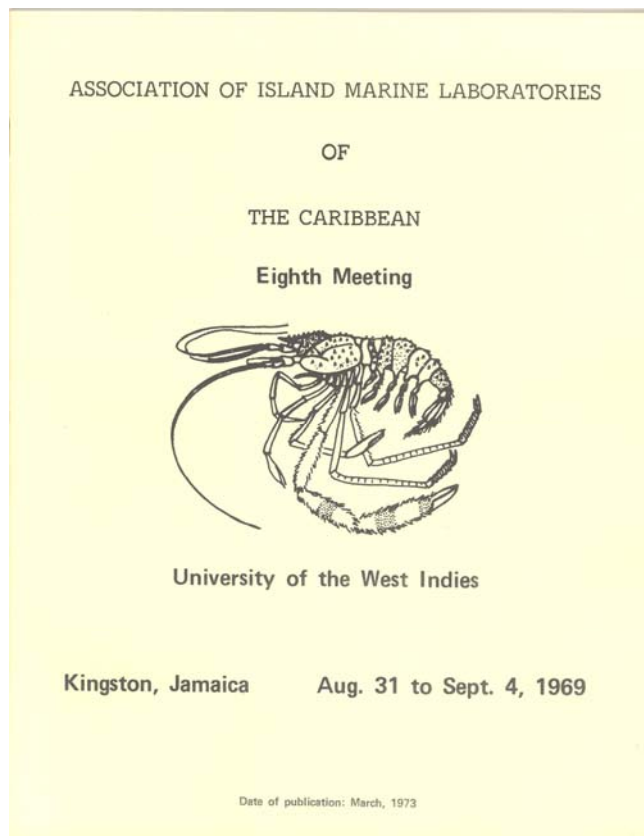
¹Please see illustrations. ^AApproved, ^DDesigned, ^EEmployed.



The next logo displayed in the second, third, and fourth (1958, 1960, 1962) Association of Island Marine Laboratories Proceedings and first and second Bulletins (1958 and 1959) was a line drawing of a map of the Insular Caribbean surrounded by Caribbean marine organisms (left, Fig. 3, Table 1). This was designed by Mrs. Christine Boyce of IMB specifically to represent the Association (J. G. Gonzalez, pers. comm.). We have been unable to determine if this logo was approved by the Association Board to represent the Association or was just used to unofficially adorn Association publications.

No one that we have been able to interview can recall the reason for the next logo shift. We suspect that the Institutional

Membership of the Oceanographic Institute, Cumaná, Venezuela, may have caused the change. The Insular Caribbean logo probably did not suit an Association that was now recruiting marine laboratories from the mainland of South America. In any case, the newly named “Association of Island Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean” 5th Proceedings (1963) reverted to their original shrimp logo (Fig. 2, Table 1). The Association logo thus fell into 25 years of what we may call the period of the “Stolen Drunken Shrimp.” The default to the former logo was probably the easiest course and avoided a squabble over a new symbol for the Association. In 1967, Dr. Maximo Cerame Vivas was creating a new university department out of IMB and needed a symbol. For some reason the drunken shrimp struck his fancy and he stole this logo from the Association. Possibly he just assumed that it belonged to IMB. Mrs. Vangie Fradera de Hernández placed the shrimp in a slightly different position and added a blue ocean wave under it to create the Department of Marine Sciences (DMS) logo in 1968 (Anonymous, 2002).



Since that time almost everyone has assumed it was the IMB/DMS logo and that the Association had stolen it from them. Dr. Cerame had three flag poles erected on top of Magueyes Island, where the DMS Marine Laboratories reside. The outer poles were for the USA and Puerto Rican flags and the center one for the shrimp. The flag poles stand bare and unfurled in the tropical sky to this day in a sad sign of unrequited potential. In 1969, the shrimp somehow lost its red highlights and became a mere shadow of itself (left, Fig. 3, Table 1). This was probably because the format and publisher of the Proceedings was changed, possibly the color highlights became too expensive, and since Juan Gonzalez was away studying for his PhD Degree, a new Secretary-Treasurer (1969-1975), Chuck Cutress (Charles E. Cutress 1921-

1992) was elected and took over the Proceedings. Without contesting the drunken shrimp as the logo of the Association, or consulting the Board, we changed the illustration on the cover of the 17th Proceedings (1983) to a map of the western North Atlantic with large dots indicating the localities of all of our Laboratory or Institutional Members (below, Fig. 4, Table 1). This map was continued in subsequent Proceedings (logos 5-7, not illustrated, Table 1) and more new Laboratory members were added up until the 20th Proceedings (1987). We wished to emphasize the expansion and geographic coverage of the Association; however, this pseudo-logo change may have also awoken the Executive

ASSOCIATION OF ISLAND MARINE
LABORATORIES OF THE CARIBBEAN

SEVENTEENTH MEETING



ROSENSTIEL SCHOOL OF MARINE AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

MIAMI, FLORIDA, USA

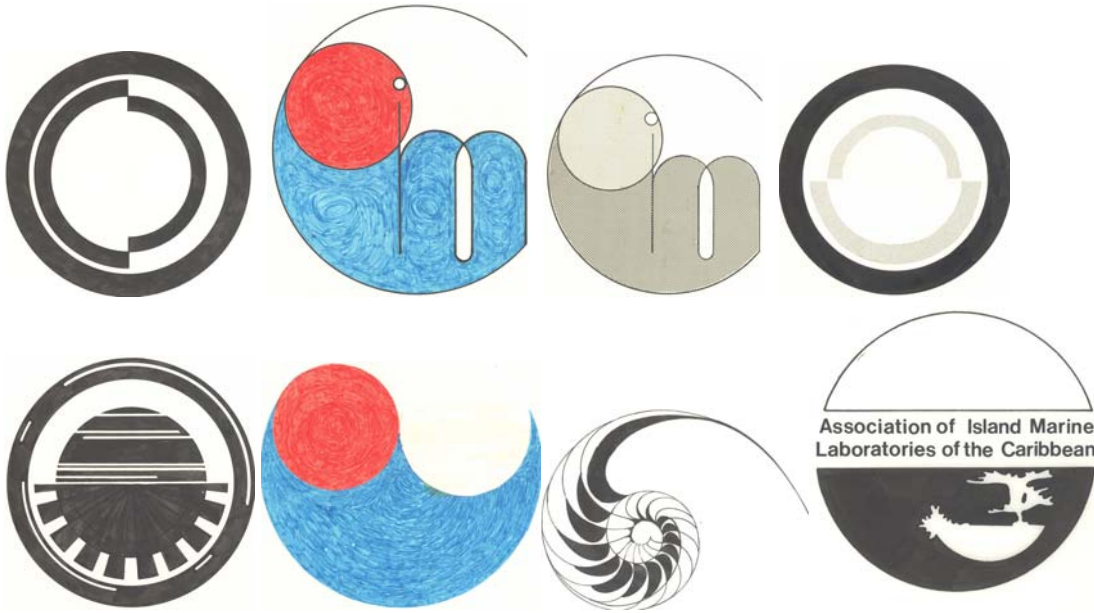
16-20 MAY 1983

ERNEST H. WILLIAMS — EDITOR

Board to the realization that a better logo of the Association was needed. Our map was entirely too cumbersome for a real logo and was never intended as such.

Sometime in 1987, members of the Association Board decided they wanted a new Association Logo. First because they thought the shrimp was actually the logo of DMS and not the Association (although the reverse was true), second because the shrimp had its antennae in a pose that only occurs in alcohol-preserved museum specimens not living ones (hence the “Drunken Shrimp”), and finally because they just were just tired of quote “That Damn Shrimp!” In an outrageously democratic mood, the Board announced an open contest to establish the new logo to the chagrin of the Executive Director and the Secretary-Treasurer (1977-1992), yours truly, who had to arrange this fiasco and offend Association Members across the spectrum of the Caribbean by choosing only one design. Juan Gonzalez had been wise indeed to just revert to the shrimp logo in 1963.

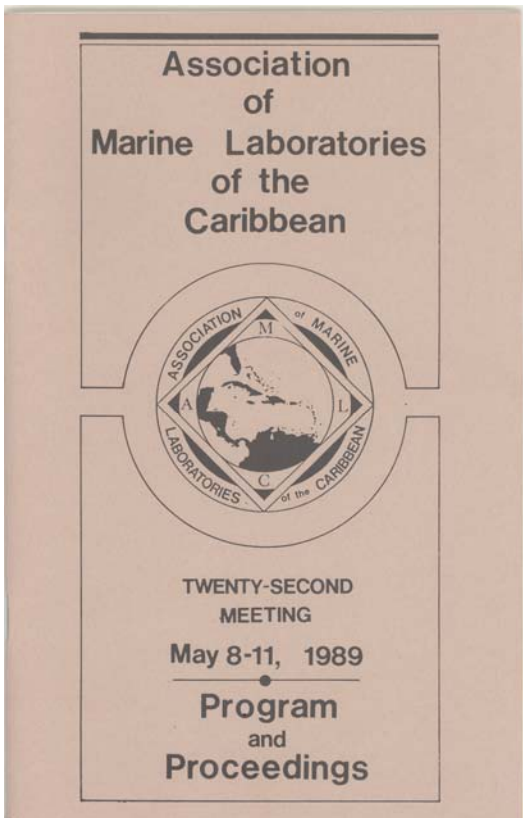




The Illustrator at DMS, Liz (then Elizabeth Bard, now divorced), created a series of potential logos for the Association (above, Figs. 9-20, Table 1). Most were considered

either too futuristic or too modern by the Board. The Association has always been into old and archaic. The former Illustrator at DMS, Vangie Hernández who was then working for Sea Grant (and not insignificantly, our boss's wife), submitted her own design of a Caribbean map in a ring with the Association name around it (left, Fig. 21, Table 1). She was also the creator of the original DMS logo (see above). The only other design considered credible by the Board was submitted by Mote Marine Laboratory of a colony of Elkhorn Coral, *Acropora palmata* Lamarck, 1816 (Scleractinia: Acroporidae) (below, Fig. 22, Table 1). It was drawn by Robert Dixon then at Mote, but now with the Dauphin Island Aquarium. We considered the map design to be the best choice; however, politics, as usual, became more important than reality. We could either offend our boss's wife and our boss and bring down ill feelings on our heads or offend a new and powerful Laboratory Member that was in the process of hosting an Association Meeting with untold

dire consequences for the Association. The new Official Logo turned out ironically to be the very one designed by the Hosting Institution. So much for a brief flirt with democracy. This Official New Logo appeared on the 21st Association Proceedings

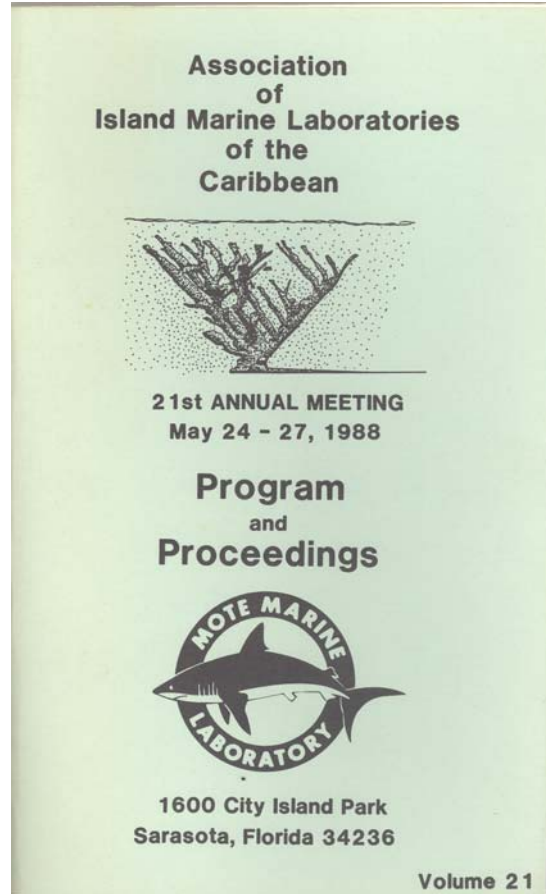


(1988). The next President of the Association was none other than our boss, Dr. Manuel L. Hernández-Avila, so naturally, he used his wife's logo on the 22nd Proceedings of Association (above, Fig. 21, Table 1). So all we had to do was to not remind anyone that this was the incorrect logo and it just kept rolling along wrong meeting-to-meeting. Nice when you have the luxury of allowing inertia to do your dirty work for you. We had many reasons for illegally killing the Official Logo of the Association. The contest was rigged and the best logo needed to be restored (two wrongs making a right). No animal can ever be the Symbol of the Association. Either it does not occur at some lab (no Elkhorn Coral at Bermuda), some Director does not like it, or, like the stolen drunken shrimp, it is too associated with one or more labs. Our treachery was at least partially vindicated when Elkhorn Coral was almost made extinct by White Band Disease (Williams and Bunkley-Williams, 2000). Having an extinct symbol would be just a little too old and too archaic even for the Association. We doubt the Hernándezes ever appreciated or even noted this effort. If she did not receive the accolades of winning the Logo Contest, then what possible value could she derive in having designed an undercover illegal Logo? In-line-with-the Standard Operating Procedures in our Association dealings, we again made everyone involved mad at us for one reason or another (SOP offend everyone). Now that the Board, acting in good faith, has made a slight modification of this false logo the real official logo (Fig. 1, Table 1); the irony is complete. We suggest that the Association officially cede the old-stolen-drunken-shrimp logo to DMS and pardon Dr. Cerame Vivas. Possibly, some day, even our sins may be forgiven.

To the best of our research and memory, the Association has only had an official logo for a grand total of four days or 0.02% of its existence. We hope the new official logo of the Association will have a longer and useful service despite its fundamentally flawed fraudulent foundation.

Literature Cited

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