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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 13th instalment of the Centre for Marine Sciences Newsletter. As this is my first newsletter I will endeavour to maintain the high standards established by my predecessor Peter Edwards. This newsletter highlights specifically the changes that have taken place with respect to staffing and the impact of Hurricane Ivan on CMS facilities and projects. I hope you enjoy this issue and find it informative and as always your input, comments and suggestions are welcomed.

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Editor

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Staff Matters

A number of significant staff changes took place during the latter half of 2004, these included the following:

Scientific Officer **Peter Edwards** left CMS at the end of August to start a graduate program at the University of Delaware. This is intended to lead to a PhD in Marine Policy with particular specialization in marine environmental economics and valuation of resources. Peter will be greatly missed, but we wish him well in his studies. Over the last year he has made outstanding contributions to our diving surveys of reefs with the Jamaica Coral Reef Monitoring Network (JCRMN) and particularly to the Rackham's Cay EFJ project.



Send off function for Peter Edwards and Dulcie Linton.

Mrs. Marcia Creary joined CMS at the beginning of September replacing **Mrs. Dulcie Linton** in the post of Manager of the Caribbean Coastal Data Centre (CCDC). Mrs. Creary will also take over some of the duties of Scientific Officer, since that post was lost in the wake of the financial challenges currently being experienced by UWI Mona. Mrs. Creary is no stranger to the CMS as



Dr Warner presents gift to Dulcie Linton

she worked here as the Coral Reef Monitoring Coordinator for the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change (CPACC) project from 2000-2003.

Miss Claudia Lewis, after completing her Masters of Science in Digital Technology, moved to a new post of Data and Network Manager jointly in Life Sciences and CMS. She provides network support for the computers in the two departments and assists, as required, with the data management activities of the Data Centre.

Secretarial and administrative duties at CMS are now being provided by **Miss Karlene Anderson** who joins us from the Life Sciences Department.

Mr. Leslie Whitby (Groundsman) the DBML's longest serving employee retired after 35 years of service. His contribution to the lab was celebrated at the annual Christmas party where he was presented with gifts from the staff.

Hurricane Ivan

Damage Assessment – The passage of Hurricane Ivan on 10-11 September 2004 caused minimal damage to the CMS, Mona office with only the re-opening of a persistent leak in the roof. At DBML, however, the docks were severely damaged by waves, while leaks in many of the roofs caused damage to ceilings, walls and a few items of electrical equipment.

Corals at Rackham's Cay - A visit was made on 22 September to start evaluating the damage caused by Ivan to our EFJ project research sites. NEPA, CMS and Life Sciences were represented. The underwater cliff cut by the dredge has suffered some slippage. The site of shallow coral relocation showed only one out of seven elkhorn coral colonies surviving of those that had been planted in concrete; others had been broken, overturned or had disappeared (two were later relocated about 20 m away from their original positions but still fixed to their concrete bases). Many boulder corals had survived apparently undamaged. Damage to loose and weak branching corals was severe at most sites shallower than about 10 m, the waves turning the loose corals into mobile rubble (many of the relocated corals at Rackham's Cay had been simply placed on the sand). Some bleaching and coral disease was observed, and the mobile rubble probably caused the apparent bruising of stable corals. Post-Ivan video recordings were made of damaged observed.



Section of Rackham's Cay following Hurricane Ivan in September

Post-Ivan studies on South Coast coral reefs – The Jamaica Coral Reef Monitoring Network (JCRMN) assisted the Caribbean - Coastal Area Management (CCAM) in Post-Ivan surveys of reefs in Portland Bight. Post Ivan monitoring was also carried out in Negril in association with Dr Judith Mendes of the Life Sciences Department.

CCDC News

MACC coral reef monitoring program - Mr. Leslie Walling, Technical Coordinator of the Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) project and Mr. Jeff Miller (USVI National Park) visited the CCDC (December 13-15, 2004) to discuss the extension of the coral reef monitoring for climate change programme to the Eastern Caribbean. Aspects of this part of the MACC project were discussed and new video capture hardware and software required for the analysis of video-transect data were installed on the CCDC computers.



Leslie Walling with Marcia Creary during his visit to the CCDC office.

DBML News

ICBG Project funding at DBML – Dr. Quinn received a \$J450,000 grant from the International Cooperative Groups for the 2nd year of his work with the University of Mississippi.

Coral reef restoration Open Days- DBML hosted 6 open days to further increase the awareness and to help establish partnerships in their USAID coral restoration project. Over 50

fishers, members of NGOs and other local stakeholders attended the open days.

Educational Outreach at DBML - Several school groups visited DBML on day trips.

Award to Dr Mishka Stennett - Dr Mishka Stennett (Coral Restoration Project Scientific Officer) was awarded the 2004 Young Technologist / Scientist award at the Scientific Research Council 18th annual meeting on 25 November. Dr. Stennett presented a paper discussing her work on the DBML coral restoration project. The follow up coral restoration workshop was held 29 November - 3 December at DBML and was attended by Dr. Austin Bowden-Kerby and members from Counterpart Caribbean and CERMES, Barbados.

Research in progress

Rackham's Cay (EFJ) project

The EFJ project transect lines on Rackham's Cay were all marked and GPS readings taken to locate the transects on a GIS map of the Cay. Progress in this project included setting up video-transects at the control site at Drunkenman's Cay, calibrating the new Hydrolab bought through the project, and taking an initial set of readings of environmental parameters using the Hydrolab. The turbidity and light sensors gave rather variable readings. On-site experience suggested that turbidity has remained relatively high since Hurricane Ivan in September.

JCRMN project for ICRI in Portland Bight

Two monitoring trips were carried out from PRML to Wreck Reef and to Tern Cay. Considerable hurricane damage made site selection difficult. However, sufficient undamaged coral remained to allow one full transect at each site.

Local Conferences, Workshops and Meetings

Presentation at SCR Conference

Stennett, M, NJ Quinn, PMH Gayle, A Bowden-Kerby. 2004. Enhancing coral habitat for the benefit of the tourist and subsistence fisheries sectors. 18th Annual Scientific Research Council Conference, Kingston, Jamaica. 24-26 Nov 2004.

International Conferences, Workshops and Meetings

Presentation at the URSIA Caribbean GIS conference in Barbados 13-17 September

Nadia Ferguson presented a paper entitled "Using GIS technology to map marine biodiversity on Jamaican coral reefs in the discovery of new drugs". The paper was coauthored with Dr N.J. Quinn and Dr B.L. Kojis (who contributed while she was Senior J.W. Fulbright fellow at DBML during 2004).

CARICOMP Site Directors' meeting, Bocas del Toro, Panama 17-22 October

Mrs Creary, Ms Jones, Dr Warner, Mr. Gayle and ex-CMS Director Dr Jeremy Woodley attended this meeting in various capacities, all funded by CARICOMP. The meeting was hosted by the Marine Laboratory of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute at the Bocas; the Panama CARICOMP site is situated nearby. The meeting was designed to review progress and future directions for this regional research and monitoring project. Detailed discussions were held and several new publications planned.



Members of CMS staff on field trip while attending CARICOMP Site Directors meeting, Panama

57th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Meeting, 8-12 November 2004.

Dr Norman J. Quinn was elected to the Board of Directors of the GCFI at their recent meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida. He also presented two papers on his recent work in the area of fisheries:

- *Montego Bay to Ocho Rios in one hour at the cost of essential fish habitat.*
- *The value of documenting fishing practices and aquatic knowledge of local fishers.*

Up Coming Events

National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), USA Conference April 16-20, 2005. Alexandria, VA. – M. Creary to present a paper entitled "Climate Change - the Caribbean Perspective".

Seventh Conference of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences. Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies. May 17-19, 2005.

32nd Scientific Meeting of the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean. Curacao, June 13-17, 2005. Dr Warner and Dr Quinn will attend and make presentations on the work of the CMS.

Jamaica Institute of Environmental Professionals (JIEP) Second National Conference on the Environment entitled "Sustainable Development – the Myths and Realities". The Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, June 15-17, 2005

Publications

Bush, S.L., Precht, W.F., Woodley, J.D. and Bruno, J.F. 2004. Indo-Pacific mushroom corals found on Jamaican reefs. *Coral Reefs*, 23: 234.

Jones, L., Warner, G., Linton, D., Alcolado, P., Claro-Madruga, R., Clerveaux, W., Estrada, R., Fisher, T., Lockhart, K., Pardee, M., Pitt, J., Schelten, C. and Wild, R. 2004. Status of coral reefs in the Northern Caribbean and Western Atlantic Node of the GCRMN. Ch 17 (pp 451-470) in Wilkinson, C. (ed), *Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2004. Vol. 2.* Australian Institute of Marine Science, Townsville.

Woodley, J.D. (2004). Lister, Martin (bap. 1639, d. 1712), physician and naturalist. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 33: 986-987.

Woodley, J.D. (2004). Lister, Susanna (bap. 1670, d. 1738), natural history illustrator. *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 33: 994-995.



Marcia Creary and Loureene Jones, CCDC