

IN THIS ISSUE

- ??Grants
- ??Graduate Matters
- ??Workshops and Conferences
- ??CMS Visits and Exchanges
- ??New Boats at DBML

EDITORIAL

Greetings and Salutations from the Centre for Marine Sciences! This is the fifth issue of our quarterly e-newsletters and the last for this calendar year. We will try to bring you up to date with the activities that occurred between July and September. Please take some time to read the information provided. As per usual you are more than welcome to give us your comments and feedback.

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Editor

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Grants

50,000 \$US has been granted to the CCDC by the United Nations Environment Program (CAR/RCU) to assist the Caribbean Coastal Data Centre (CCDC) in coordinating the Northern Caribbean and Atlantic Node of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN). The award is under UNEP's regional program: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Major Ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean. The funds will be used to establish reporting links, facilitate coral reef monitoring in the northern Caribbean and Atlantic region, periodically to report coral reef status in the region to the GCRMN and to prepare a proposal for sustainability of these activities.

Graduate Student Matters

Sean Townsend's transfer from MPhil to PhD was approved following his seminar entitled "The importance of phytoplankton in coastal embayments to understanding long shore distribution and dispersion patterns." Dr Dale Webber (Life Sciences) is supervising the study.

Judith Mendes, CMS PhD student, successfully defended her thesis "Skeletal density band formation in the stony coral *Montastraea annularis* at her Oral Examination. Her research has revealed details of skeletal banding patterns in the coral *M. annularis* in relation to growth, spawning, environmental factors and a bleaching episode. Dr. J.D. Woodley supervised the study.

Publications

The following were published during the quarter:

- ?? Haley M.P., Müller C.R., 2002. Territorial behaviour of beaugregory damselfish (*Stegastes leucostictus*) in response to egg predators. *Journal of Exp. Mar. Bio. & Ecol.*, 273: 151-159.
- ?? Gayle, P. & Quinn, N. (eds) 2002. *Discovery Bay Marine Lab. 2001. Annual Report*

Undergraduate Teaching

Eleven UWI students and six from overseas (Colombia, Finland, Hungary, Israel, UK) assembled at DBML to participate in the Tropical Marine Invertebrate Biology field course taught in early July by Prof Peter Newell (formerly Head of Biology at the University of the South Pacific), Dr. Barbara L. Kojis, (Director Division of Fish and Wildlife, US Virgin Islands), Dr. Norman Quinn and Dr. George Warner. Following lectures on particular taxonomic groups, students were taken into the field to gain first hand knowledge through snorkeling and diving, and to carry out project work in the field and in the lab. The course will be repeated next summer.

CMS Web Link

Our featured Web Link for this issue is a web site dedicated to integrated coastal management (ICM). Click on <http://www.icm.noaa.gov>. The web site is exclusively devoted to developments and advances in ICM at the international, regional, and

national levels, and is a good “all in one” coastal zone site.

Workshops and Conferences



A student in the wet lab with a juvenile lobster

Dr Mona Webber represented CMS at a workshop entitled International Collaboration in Marine Scientific Research to Enhance Understanding of the Deep Ocean Environment, (July 29th to August 2nd). The meeting was held at the International Seabed Authority (Kingston). 37 persons from 23 countries attended. The funding of research projects to study the effects of mining polymetallic nodules on deep-sea fauna was discussed. Interesting information was given on the abundance, distribution and species composition of deep-sea fauna as well as the methods to be employed in their sampling and identification (including DNA analysis).

Dr Warner attended an ALO meeting at the Watergate Hotel in Washington DC and gave a presentation entitled “US-Caribbean Cooperation in Integrated Coastal Management”, detailing progress on our USAID-funded project with the Centre for the Study of Marine Policy, University of Delaware. The development of our distance learning modules is nearing completion and several exchanges have taken place. The opportunity was taken at the meeting to discuss future strategies to maintain and expand our partnership.

Arising from research at CMS, Dr Warner and Dr Greenaway (Chemistry) presented papers at the National Coastal Conference, (23-24 July, 2002). The main conference

theme was: “Coastal Water Quality”. The papers were entitled; “Coral reefs and coastal water quality” and “Proposal for a National Programme and Strategy” (for water quality monitoring), respectively.

CMS Visits and Exchanges



Visit to the Lewes Campus

Ms Leandra Cho and Mr Peter Edwards were funded through our USAID grant to visit the University of Delaware and work on the development of our joint distance learning modules in Integrated Coastal Management (ICM). They also visited the Delaware Coastal Zone Program and Sea Grant Program staff, the Urban Harbors Institute (Boston) to work on a case study of harbour management and visited various NOAA offices in Washington DC.

Deborah-Ann Rowe, representing the Centre for Marine Sciences and the Marine Geology Unit of the University of the West Indies, acted as Jamaican scientific observer on board the French Research Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER) research vessel L’Atalante for the voyage entitled CAYVIC. The project consisted of sampling the seafloor of the Cayman Trough in the northern part of the Caribbean Sea. The eastern part of the trough, including both oceanic seafloor and the eastern rifted passive margin located north of Jamaica is poorly sedimented, and the basement is cropping out on the seafloor along fault escarpments. These conditions

allow clear seismic imaging of the crustal structure, and sampling by the ROV as well. Three areas within Jamaica’s exclusive economic zone were mapped and sampled.



The Remotely Operated Vehicle VICTOR 6000 being lowered from L’Atalante into the Caribbean Sea

Community Outreach and Public Relations at DBML

For two weeks in July, DBML hosted its first ever EcoCamps for youth aged 8-12. Nine young persons participated and were introduced to boating, swimming, snorkeling, nature walks and the use of a microscope. The Senior EcoCamps for youth aged 13-18 was conducted in August. Despite a low turnout (three participants), the experience was truly rewarding. Michael Sikora, Peace Corps volunteer and Kemesha Purser NYS volunteer were facilitators.



Boat naming ceremony

New Boats at DBML

An informal ceremony was held at DBML to name the new “Workskiff” aluminum boats recently purchased for CMS by UWI. The boats were blessed by Rev. Donald Lawrence and

subsequently named. The names of the boats are as follows: *Scomber* (mackerel), *Panulirus* (lobster), Seahorse and *Dasyatis* (sting ray). In attendance were the Principal of the Mona Campus Professor Kenneth Hall, Deputy Bursar Mr Herman McDaniel, Dean of Pure and Applied Sciences, Professor

Ronald Young, Emeritus Professor Ivan Goodbody, a contingent from the US Peace Corps including new volunteers, and staff, students and friends of DBML. For further details on the boats you may click on the link below.

http://www.sportdiver.com/SD_Ma_in/1,1106,4-1-1-6530-0-102,FF.html

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Staff Matters

Ms Shauna-Li Chai, 2002 Life Sciences Graduate, worked in the Centre during August entering our collection of books and reports into a searchable library database recently obtained by CMS. Ms Chai reorganized, catalogued and numbered all books and a large number of reports, newsletters, papers, etc

August was the final month of Ms Leandra Cho-Ricketts’ part-time employment in CMS working as Research Assistant on our joint project with the University of Delaware. She left to take up an appointment as Director of the Coastal Zone Management Institute, Belize. Leandra is in the final stages of submission of her PhD thesis. We congratulate her, wish her well and look forward to future collaboration.

Dr Quinn was on study leave during September, and traveled to the University of the South Pacific to collaborate on the subsurface seawater temperature monitoring programme he began in 1996. A manuscript was completed and submitted to the *Australian Journal of Freshwater and Marine Research*.

News from Montego Bay Marine Park

The Montego Bay Marine Park has been collecting data on grouper

populations in the area with the aid of the Whitehouse Fishers cooperative. They have been collecting the following; species, date, depth and area of catch, method of catch, length and weight data, as well as samples of otolith, stomach and gonads. SCUBA dives are conducted every evening in the areas where the fishers have been making their catches in order to document any grouper sightings.

Meetings

CMS personnel have been involved in a number of meetings over this quarter. The Centre was represented at the following meetings:

National Commission on Science and Technology (NCST)
NCST – Science and Technology Policy Dialog
Ocho Rios Environmental Advisory Group
St. Ann’s Bay Chamber of Commerce
Scientific Authority for CITES
IOJ Workshop on Alien Invasive Species
Institute of Jamaica Natural History Board