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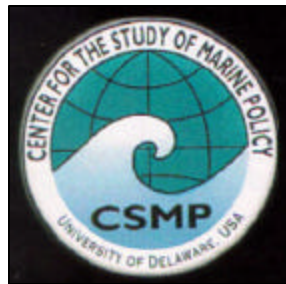
Greetings from the Centre for Marine Sciences! This is the third issue of our quarterly e-newsletters. In this issue we will highlight the activities that occurred from January to March. Once again we hope that you will take some time to read the information. Feel free to give us your comments and feedback, as well as any related information you or your organisation may have to contribute. Our contact information is provided below.

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*Editor*

## Contact Information

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## International Collaboration, University of Delaware



CMS was pleased to have hosted a team from the Centre for the Study of Marine Policy (CSMP), University Of Delaware. The team was comprised of Professor. Biliana Cicin-Sain, Stefano Belfiore (both from the CSMP), and. Richard Delaney, Urban Harbors Institute, University of Massachusetts. They were in the island from February 26 to March 2, 2002, and conducted meetings with our project partners on the ECOCOAST project.

## Public Relations



This first quarter was somewhat quiet with respect to our public relations activities. Through the efforts of the University Public Relations Office, our activities in the previous quarter

were highlighted in the Daily Gleaner and on Radio Mona. In particular one of the articles highlighted was the AGRRA Coral Reef Survey in 2000. Dr Warner also gave an interview with a reporter from JIS on pelican research.

## Training

*SCUBA training at DBML, Jan 2-11.*

In January our new Diving and Maintenance Officer at DBML, Mr. Solomon Clayton, delivered SCUBA training (PADI Open Water Standard) to four UWI students. Thus increasing the pool of qualified divers who are also final year marine ecology students.

*Reef Check Workshop at DBML, Jan 7-9*

In January, Dr Quinn conducted a Reef Check training workshop at DBML for nine UWI students. Reef Check is an international protocol for coral reef monitoring coordinated by Dr. Gregor Hodgson at the University of California at Los Angeles that has been used in 40 other countries since 1997. Dr. Quinn has been appointed as Jamaica Reef Check Coordinator for 2002, with a budget of US\$1000 from Reef Check.

In February Dr. Quinn conducted follow up training with 4 UWI students in the Reef Check coral monitoring protocol and 12 students participated in Reef Check surveys of

the north and south coasts of Jamaica during two weekends

*CDS/ISIS Acquisition and Training*

The Caribbean Coastal Data Centre (CCDC) has acquired, through the

National Library of Jamaica (NLJ), UNESCO's Database program CDS/ISIS (Computer Document Service/Integrated Software Information Systems). This is a menu-driven generalized information storage and retrieval system for the management of text data. CMS staff were trained in the use of the system by NLJ staff on January 31 and February 1. The CCDC will use the database to store bibliographic data on marine and coastal science in Jamaica and the Caribbean, and will be able to make this information available via the Internet.

## Visitors to DBML



During the month of February Dr. Rupert Ormund from the University of London, visited the lab. Dr. Ormund is considering various marine labs in the Caribbean as a future site for his field work and for running courses. Faculty and students from Dartmouth and Northeastern University were also engaged in marine and tropical ecology classes at DBML. March saw the completion of a second successful undergraduate field course in environmental science from the University of Edinburgh. Staff were very pleased with the course, which is now likely to become an annual event. Dr. James Crabbe from the University of Reading is leading an "Earthwatch" project at DBML over March and April. Earthwatch supplies international teams of volunteers to approved projects. Dr. Crabbe's project involves videoing and measuring corals along marked transects and measuring coral growth; the intention is to repeat the measurements next year

## Research in progress

### New Species of Black Coral?

Two undescribed species of black corals may have been found off Discovery Bay. They both have the form of an unbranched whip (commonly called "wire coral") and are common on Jamaican reefs below a depth of 25 m. They were previously thought to belong to a similar described species, but scanning electron microscopy revealed differences in the spines, and other differences are being investigated.

### Report on the Ocho Rios fishery

DBML and the NGO Friends of the Sea collected fisheries data in Ocho Rios from August to December, the work being funded by CWIP as part of a project to develop a management plan for the Ocho Rios Marine Park. These data were entered in a database at the CCDC, analyzed by Mrs Linton and Dr Warner, and a Report was submitted to CWIP at the end of March.

## Publications

The following were published or accepted for publication during the quarter:

- ?? Quinn, N.J. (in press). Subsurface seawater temperature variation in the waters off Manununa Island, Bootless Bay, Papua New Guinea, 1998 – 2000. *Science in New Guinea* 26.
- ?? CARICOMP (Woodley, J.D., Linton, D.M., Gayle, P.M.H. & 31 others) 2001. The Caribbean Coastal Marine Productivity Program (CARICOMP). *Bull. Mar. Sci.* 69: 819-829.
- ?? Haley, M.P. & Solandt, J-L. 2001. Population fluctuations of the sea urchins *Diadema antillarum* and *Tripneustes ventricosus* at Discovery Bay, Jamaica: a case of biological

succession? *Caribbean Journal of Science*, 37: 239-245.

- ?? Quinn, N.J. and Kojis, BL. 2002. The community structure and recruitment pattern of coral reefs of the northern Mariana Islands 27 years after a crown of thorns outbreak. *Bull. Mar. Sci.* (in press).

## Seminar Series

The CMS seminar series resumed in February 2002 with more interesting and stimulating topics. Two seminars were held in the months of February and one in March. The topics and presenters are outlined below.

- ?? In February, Paula Lindo, "Status of Pelicans in Kingston Harbour", Gale Persad "Zooplankton population dynamics", and Loy Malcom on "The Economics of Tilapia Mariculture"

In March only one seminar was possible, and Ms Ava Maxam and Mr Sean Townsend presented aspects of their work on the Oceanography of offshore Hellshire waters.

## Meetings

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

- Sea Turtle Recovery Network Steering Committee National Commission on Science & Technology Secretariat
- Ocho Rios Environmental Advisory Group
- Scientific Authority for CITES
- CWIP 5th Annual Work Planning Meeting
- Institute of Jamaica Natural History Board
- Meeting re dredging of marine aggregate at Yallahs
- Council on Ocean & Coastal Zone Management
- Kingston Harbour Seabird Count

## Grants and Equipment

The Caribbean Coastal Data Centre (CCDC) has received US\$10,000 from AIMS to facilitate our management of coral reef monitoring data from the Northern Caribbean. The funds will be used to purchase a server so that data can be made available online, and to assist in compiling reports to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network

## CMS Web Link

Our featured Web Link for this issue is the National Environment and Planning Agency. Click on <http://www.nrca.org/> and be sure too look at the EIA for the dredging of Kingston Harbour.



CMS receives a RIB from British High Commission (Dec 14, 2001).