

CARIBBEAN CORRESPONDENCE

Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean Monthly Note to Members

Please continue to send education and research updates to be featured in upcoming issues as well as opportunities for collaboration to communications.amlc.carib@gmail.com.

AMLC Collaborations: All abuzz with sargassum...

The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the University of the West Indies, recently brought together scientists from across the University and key stakeholders in the Caribbean's tourism, business and fisheries sectors to discuss the sargassum seaweed phenomenon invading the region's beaches and threatening key economic sectors. The *Sargassum Symposium* took place at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados on 17 August, 2015. A keynote address by Prof. Hazel Oxenford, CERMES, in collaboration with Dr. Jim Franks, University of Southern Mississippi set the stage for what is and isn't known about the ecology and source of this new sargassum influx. This was followed by two lively panel discussions "The Impacts of the Sargassum Seaweed in the Caribbean" and "Adaptation and Mitigation: Social and Economic Opportunities" in which many ideas and experiences were exchanged. The proceedings and discussion summaries, together with many other sargassum-related resources and links are being hosted at: www.sargassum-at-cermes.com

Research Highlight

Operated and owned by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the Glover's Reef Research Station is located approximately 45 km off the coast of Belize on Middle Caye and is surrounded by Glover's Reef Atoll and Marine Reserve. Research activities in 2015, in collaboration with local partners, have included the 10th annual assessment of atoll's Nassau grouper spawning aggregation and the 9th in-water turtle monitoring survey to estimate the abundance, growth rates and movements of marine turtles (green, hawksbill, loggerhead) that regularly occur at Glover's Reef Atoll. In addition, the long-term atoll monitoring, begun in 1998, continued to collect fisheries independent data (e.g. lobster, grouper) and assess biodiversity and health across all habitats and management zones, as well as collect monthly catch data from fisheries operating in the general use area.



AMLC and Education



The Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation is expanding their [mangrove education and restoration program](#), which aims to increase environmental awareness and restore mangrove forests in the Caribbean. The Foundation has partnered with local educational institutions to teach students and teachers about the ecological importance of their mangrove forests and help them get involved in mangrove restoration efforts. This fall, their Education Director, Amy Heemsoth, will travel to schools in Jamaica, The Bahamas, and Montserrat to educate students and teachers about mangroves and help them study mangrove propagules, which they will plant at the end of the school year to help restore a local mangrove forest.