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Issue 2



ReefComm

A bi-monthly bulletin of the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management project

Project Notices:

- Preparation for the Folkestone Summer Programme

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Welcome

Welcome to the second issue of ReefComm. We are pleased to present this issue to you during June, also known as Environment month. We will share with you some updates of our critical project activities. Please enjoy!

JCRA at Folkestone

Our children are the true changing agents especially when it comes to changing knowledge, attitudes and behaviour in relation to the marine environment. In this light, the Folkestone Marine Reserve (FMR) will soon become the focus of an environmental programme being introduced to selected primary and secondary schools to increase their awareness of the FMR and its importance to marine conservation.

The Junior Coral Reef Ambassador (JCRA) programme is currently being developed with the assistance of teachers and students who attended a workshop on Friday May 2nd 2008 facilitated by Ms. Susan Mahon (Future Centre Trust), to introduce them to the programme which is based on the Negril Junior Ranger Programme in Jamaica.

The training manual for the programme has been drafted and involves coral reef ecosystem workshops, field trips to various ecosystems which exist in the Folkestone area and around Barbados and interactive exercises, amongst other things. The manual is currently being reviewed by the teachers.



“Susan going through -The importance of coral reef exercise”



“Students receiving participation award”



"Reef Watchers prepared for first dive at North Bellairs"



"Diver conducting fish counts at North Bellairs"



"Divers conducting substrate type transect at Sandy Lane bank reefs"

Reef Watchers making head start

Involving local communities in reef conservation is important in the on-going efforts to safe guard the reefs around the Folkestone Marine Reserve. With the concern of the status of the reefs around the island, the local community made up of divers now has the ability to assist with monitoring the reefs within the Folkestone Marine Reserve.

At a workshop held from 10th to 11th June 2008, the pool of divers from Hightide Watersports, Barbados American Divers Association and CERMES were introduced to the Reef Watchers monitoring protocol. Reef Watchers is the Bajan version of Reef Check methodology according to Ms. Renata Goodridge, Marine Technician

at CERMES. She has been diving for over 20 years and has witnessed the declines of populations on the Folkestone's reefs. Renata stated that local divers should be more aware of the status of the reefs offshore and was impressed with the enthusiasm and generosity of all the divers involved.

Thus far the divers have surveyed two reefs within the Reserve: North Bellairs fringing reef and Sandy Lane bank reef. The other five reefs are expected to be surveyed during the rest of the year. Special thanks go to High Tide Watersports for providing tanks and dive boat for the monitoring sessions.

Bibliography completed

Many studies have been conducted and data have been collected from water quality, reef characteristics to fisheries in relation to the Folkestone Marine Reserve. Unfortunately this information has not been catalogued or made accessible to the public. Therefore an annotated bibliography was prepared to improve information sharing between scientists, local

communities and resource staff. The bibliography will be available at the Folkestone Park and Marine Reserve Office. Also a complementary CD has been provided that has selected articles found in the bibliography. This package will be an asset to the Folkestone's library.



In the spotlight

“Protect our sea and land...”

For the 2008 Community Independence Celebrations, the parish of St. James will be represented by two outstanding young persons, Jason Marshall and Jevonne Browne. Jason, 22, just recently completed studies in Psychology and History at UWI, Cave Hill and wishes to pursue a career in Social Psychology. Jevonne, 21, is currently studying Spanish and Management also at UWI, Cave Hill but is open to career options.

Both of them became involved in the programme because of the great love of their communities. The broad theme given for this year's project is the Environment. After conducting research, The St. James Parish Independence Committee, was able to deduce that there is a specific issue that significantly affects the parish. This problem lies in the fact that dumping that happens inland contributes to the blockage and contamination of water courses, which further leads to the damage of watershed areas, beaches, coral reefs and the marine reserve.

Jason and Jevonne are leading the St. James Environmental Movement also known as JEM in an effort to encourage community participation in a number of environmental activities that can halt this occurrence, and all



Barbadians, in general, to take pride in their environment. They are encouraging all residents to ‘**Protect our Sea and Land, Put your Waste in a Can**’.

The ambassadors and JEM will be partnering with the CCA's Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management project to assist with sensitising the public about the importance the Folkestone Marine Reserve and how it is beneficial to the wider community. *Welcome aboard ambassadors!!*

Website launched

The Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management the project's website has been launched. Visit us at our website at:

<http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/folkestone.html>



ReefComm newsletter

The Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management is a project of the Caribbean Conservation Association in collaboration with:
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and
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies



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