



## **Fishers Forum 2013: *Collaborative science towards sustainable fisheries***

66<sup>th</sup> Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute  
Corpus Christi, USA, 4-8 November 2013

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(2 May draft)

**Purpose:** The 2013 Fishers Forum is designed to highlight and enhance collaboration among fishers, scientists, and managers to achieve sustainable fisheries and improve livelihoods through collaborative social and ecological fisheries science. There are clear links between identifying changes, monitoring and evaluating them, and developing adaptive management strategies and stewardship. We pose that better engaging multi-stakeholder groups throughout the process will build legitimacy and increase efficiency. The 2013 Fishers Forum brings together leaders from industry, science and management to address (a) successful examples of collaborative monitoring and evaluation programs and (b) creating new opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

The Forum will provide an opportunity to address major issues in monitoring and evaluation from the bottom-up by sharing the experiences and views of leading fishers from around the region. This will allow GCFI members and the F4F Initiative to develop practical actions to address identified issues in consultation with fishers and other stakeholders. We aim for fishers to play an increasing role in local through to regional fishery management and policy advice, decision-making, and implementation that contributes to more sustainable resources and livelihoods.

### **Process**

The 2013 Fishers Forum, as in previous years, is developed and implemented through a process of partnership and participation. Organizations and individuals involved in the GCFI F4F and Gladding Memorial Award (GMA) initiatives all assist. These include the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) research partnership, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and many more. Along with the conference Program Committee, the partnership arranges for a forum in the main conference program for interactive information sharing, a fishers field trip for knowledge exchange, and a strategic planning session for F4F. So that resource users can attend with minimal sacrifice of their livelihood earnings, similar to scientists and managers, F4F seeks travel sponsorship for fisher leaders to actively participate in the Fishers Forum and GCFI conference.

Tangible outputs from the 2013 Fishers Forum will include a report that is made available on the GCFI web site along with video clips, slide shows, or other communications that help to share the experience. Each year one or two fisher leaders receive the Gladding Memorial Award for excellent leadership in demonstrating and promoting sustainable fisheries practices. The award is tangible, but more important is the recognition among peers and others as a true fisher ambassador. Other intangible outputs include the information exchange, capacity building and networking across fisheries, languages and cultures that contribute to the development of solidarity in the regional stewardship of marine resources.

## Program

### Monday 4 November, 1615-1800: Fishers Forum conference session and Gladding Memorial Award

Time	Session theme: <b>The changing climate of collaborative monitoring and evaluation</b>
1615	Introduction to F4F and the 2013 Fishers Forum theme - Will Heyman, Master of Ceremonies
1620	The value of fishermen and scientists working together - Don de Maria, Fisher, Florida USA
1640	Collaborating on sharks in Antigua and Barbuda - Mitchell Lay, Fisher, Antigua and Barbuda
1650	Case of collaboration from Guatemala - Angelica Mendes, Fisher, Guatemala
1700	Together to the bottom of the ocean - Andy Maldonado, Fisher, Puerto Rico
1710	Shrimpers, science and fishery management policy – Glenn Delaney, Southern Shrimp Alliance
1720	Discussion and session close - Patrick McConney, Moderator
1745	Gladding Memorial Award Presentation - Eddie Toomer, winner; Mitchell Lay, Committee Chair
1800	Close

### Tuesday 5 November, [about 3 hours]: Fishers Field Trip

Social learning and capacity building excursion for fishers and select others to exchange information and interact with theme-relevant fishing industry participants and facilities in the Corpus Christi area

### Wednesday 6 November, 0830-1000: F4F strategy session

Time	Activity
0830	(Re-) Introduction to F4F aims, implementation and intended outcomes
0840	Summary of key learning from Forum conference session and field trip
0900	Discussion and decisions on F4F strategy and work plan implementation
1000	Close

For further information on the Fishers Forum, the GMA and the 66<sup>th</sup> GCFI visit: [www.gcfi.org](http://www.gcfi.org)

