



NEGRIL MARINE PARK NEWS

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Launch of Educator's Training Manuals

Throughout the years, the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society has promoted preservation of the environment through Environmental Education both in schools and in the wider community. Therefore, on February 28, 2005, the Society was proud to launch two Environmental Education Manuals, the NCRPS' "Environmental Educator's Training Manual" and "Peoples and Corals" on behalf of the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA).

This event held at Swept Away in Negril was attended by a crowd of about 50 persons who traveled from far and wide. Speakers for the event include members of the Ministry of Education, Youth & Culture, the National Environment & Planning Agency, the Caribbean Conservation Association and NCRPS. The Guest Speaker for the event was Ms. Paula Hurlock (Dolphin Head Trust) who gave the guest address on behalf of the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica. The official launch was followed by an awards ceremony where awards were given to schools and teachers that have been an asset to NCRPS' Junior Ranger Programme over the years.



Ms. Jean Brown, NCRPS Director of Public Education



Dr. Joth Sighn, CCA, presents area school with "Peoples and Corals" manual



Ms. Paula Hurlock presents Mr. Blair, Churchill Primary Principal, with NCRPS award

Did you Know...

- Coral reefs provide shelter for over 25 percent of marine life!
- Some deep water corals grow very slowly—as little as one foot in 1,000 years while some shallow water corals may grow up to 6 inches per year!
- It is illegal to remove or destroy any natural features and marine life within marine parks!

NCRPS's work with schools in the Negril Environmental Protection Area (EPA) began in 1994 through the Junior Ranger Programme. However, the programme has undergone much development to improve the quality of Environmental Education being offered to the young people of the Negril EPA. As a result, NCRPS Programme Coordinators and Directors saw the need in 1997 to develop this practical "Environmental Educators Training Manual".

NCRPS has also been in many collaborative conservation efforts with the Caribbean Conservation Association. Through this partnership, NCRPS was proud to be a part of the development of the Regional Manual on Coral Reefs, entitled "Peoples and Corals" spearheaded by the CCA and Field Studies Council, UK. This project was sponsored by the Darwin Initiative for the Survival of the Species.

Through funding by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, NCRPS was proud to launch these two multifaceted manuals in hope that both will be used as an effective resource manual for the Negril Marine Park, EPA, nationally and throughout the Caribbean.

Revival of the Junior Ranger Programme

On February 17, the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society organized a consultation meeting with Environmental Teachers from within the Negril Environmental Protection Area. The meeting held at the CoCo La Palm Resort was arranged to facilitate discussions on reinstating the Junior Ranger Program into area schools.



Teacher consultation meeting

During the meeting, teachers discussed the positives and negatives of Environmental Education currently offered in schools. They also brainstormed ideas of how to make it more successful, suggesting some qualities that they thought were present in the dormant Junior Ranger Program. By the end of the meeting it was felt that all were eager and supportive for the reestablishment of the Junior Ranger Program into the schools.

Due to the productive outcome and positive responses of this meeting and the Junior Ranger Program, NCRPS will commence with the program this month, conducting workshops in twelve area schools. For more information about the program, please contact NCRPS at 957-3735.

National Youth Service Volunteer



Sharia Patterson

The Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society welcomes Sharia Patterson, a National Youth Service Volunteer to the Marine Park Management. From January to June, Sharia will be assisting with many of NCRPS' daily functions.

My name is Sharia Patterson. I am 20 years old and live in the District of Orange Bay, Hanover. My primary responsibilities during my time at NCRPS will include assisting with administrative and financial duties. During my six months I hope to experience lessons in environmental conservation while being an asset to my environmental community.

The objectives of the NYS Volunteer Program consist of recruiting skilled and motivated youths to identify and assist with projects that support positive movements at all levels of society.

Social and Economic Monitoring for the Marine Park

The Negril Marine Park, managed by the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS) is used for fishing, tourism and other activities. Many individuals, communities and businesses benefit from the Park. NCRPS wishes to manage the Park according to the best international practices for the users. For that reason, NCRPS deemed it necessary to engage the Negril Marine Park in the Social and Economic Monitoring Program to determine ways in which users of the Negril Marine Park believe it necessary to be managed, rather than based on biophysical factors alone.

This Social Monitoring Program (SocMon) is a set of guidelines that will provide a prioritized list of socioeconomic variables useful to coastal managers. This socioeconomic information will provide an understanding for the social, cultural, economic and political characteristics and conditions of individuals, households, groups, organizations and communities. It will help coastal managers identify potential problems and focus management priorities accordingly.'

To do this, NCRPS needs to obtain social and economic information on the uses of the Park and the people (local and visitors) who use it. Therefore, NCRPS will soon be conducting a series of interviews with users of the Negril Marine Park to discuss the management of the Park. Interviewers will simply ask people questions about how they use the park and tell them how their information will be used.

This is an international program funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration done in collaboration with the World Commission of Protected Areas, Center for Resource Management and Environmental Studies at the University of West Indies (CERMES) and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network.

Negril Marine Park Signs Along the Seven Mile Beach

Thanks to funding by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society has recently placed signs along the seven mile beach. Prominently displayed, these two sided signs serve as information not only for tourists but also for residents of Negril. Through placement of these signs, it is hoped that beach-goers will be reminded and informed of safe and environmentally friendly practices while enjoying their time at the beach.

One side of the sign displays a map of the Negril Marine Park. This map shows the entire Negril Marine Park Area which extends from Davis Cove in Hanover to St. John's Point in Westmoreland. The map also displays the user zones set by NCRPS in collaboration with NEPA to serve and protect the users of the Marine Park as well as the ecosystem itself.

The other side displays suggestions for beach-goers to follow that will help protect and preserve the living coral reefs. Elaborately decorated, Eric the Eel, NCRPS' mascot, displays 8 simple tips such as no littering, no touching marine life or corals and adhering to Marine Park zoning. These tips help remind us that every little bit counts in helping to preserve our beach.



Hawksbill Turtle Eggs

During a Marine Park patrol late last year, NCRPS Marine Park Rangers attention were called to a group of Hawksbill Sea Turtle egg nests on the seven mile beach near Daniel's Beach Villas. Partially engulfed by a colony of ants, a worker of the hotel notified NCRPS' rangers of the situation. Rangers discouraged the man from moving the undisturbed turtles eggs, insisting they remain covered and intact. They explained how it is imperative for the turtles to use their juvenile fins on their way back to sea, a procedure essential for proper physical development.

Over the years, there has been a steady decline in the number of Hawksbill turtles as people unknowingly disturb the nesting sites or deliberately take the eggs for their own uses. Human exploitation has left this sea turtle among Jamaica's endangered animals, listed as Endangered under the U.S. Federal Endangered Species Act and Critically Endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Therefore, the community and world needs to do all that it can in order to save the Hawksbill sea turtles species. It is imperative that if you spot these or any other sea turtle nesting sites please do not disturb it, but contact the NCRPS at 957-3735 or the Marine Police at 957-4148.



Hawksbill sea turtle



Hawksbill sea turtle egg nest

Photos by Asghar Mobaraki

Marine Park Regulations

Under the NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACT, the Marine Park Regulations Regulation 4.1.a, specifically states, a person shall not destroy, injure, deface, move, dig, harmfully disturb or remove from a Marine Park any sand, gravel or minerals, corals, seas fans, shells, shell fish, starfish or other marine invertebrates, seaweeds, grasses or any soil, rock, artifacts, stones or other materials . If found liable, a person may be convicted before a Resident Magistrate to pay a fine or possibly face imprisonment.

All users of the Negril Marine Park should endeavor to become more aware of the Park, so as to become conscious of the potential threats to the reef and other natural marine resources in general. If you have any questions regarding the NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ACT, please call the National Environment & Planning Agency (754-7543), stop by the Negril Marine Park Headquarters or call NCRPS at 957-3735.



For our children's children.....

The Mission of the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society is to protect and preserve coral reef ecosystems, locally, regionally, and globally, through education, research, training, monitoring, lobbying, and the creation of marine protected areas.

Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society

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Join NCRPS and Support the Negril Marine Park!

You can support the Negril Marine Park and help protect the fragile coral reef ecosystem by becoming a member of the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society.

Members receive newsletters.

I wish to become a member of NCRPS (Membership fees are for a one year period)

- Business Membership, \$1000 JA/\$50 US
- Family Membership, \$700 JA/\$35 US
- Full Individual Membership \$500 JA/\$15 US
- Student Membership, \$50 JA/\$5 US



I wish to make a tax deductible donation to NCRPS to benefit the Negril Marine Park

(NCRPS is registered as a non-profit, charitable organization in Jamaica, West Indies)

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of \$ _____

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ E MAIL _____

Please make cheques payable to: NCRPS, Negril P.O. Box #2563, Westmoreland, Jamaica, West Indies

US TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS THROUGH FRIENDS OF JAMAICA USA

NCRPS works in partnership with Friends of Jamaica (FOJ) USA, a US based organization dedicated to providing economic assistance to organizations in Jamaica. FOJ is recognized by the US Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit charitable organization, 501 (c) (3). All contributions made to NCRPS through FOJ are US tax deductible. FOJ will retain 5% of all contributions for administrative purposes. Those wishing to make donations to NCRPS through FOJ will become members of FOJ and receive membership benefits. www.friendsofjamaicausa.org

Please make cheques payable to Friends of Jamaica USA, 1312 W. Empire Street, Freeport, Ill. 61032