



CARIBBEAN



## GCRMN-Caribbean Workshop on standardized Data Analysis and Reporting the Wider Caribbean Workshop



*A workshop under the framework of UN Environment-Caribbean Environment Programme with the support of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre*

**Key Marine Laboratory – Florida, USA  
9-12 April 2018**

## Participants and Facilitators



## Participants



### **Aldo Cróquer Pedron**

*Full Professor*

*Laboratory of Experimental Ecology*

*Simón Bolívar University*

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*Aldo is a full professor and leader of the Laboratory of Experimental Ecology (LEE) at Simón Bolívar University in Caracas-Venezuela. Aldo holds a PhD degree in Biological Sciences and 5 years of post doctoral experience. Since 1998 Aldo has dedicated himself to studying the structure and function of coral reefs ecosystems. His research interests are benthic communities, coral diseases, coral reef health, responses of coral communities to global climate change, monitoring programs and relationships between fish and benthic assemblages. Aldo has over 15 years of experience participating and collaborating with monitoring programs across the Caribbean region. In the past years, he worked for the CARICOMP and the GCRMN-Caribbean, developing and putting in practice standardized protocols, collecting and managing the data and participating in global reports of coral reef ecosystem health published in books, proceedings and scientific journals. Aldo is also a member-at-large of the GCRMN-Caribbean.*



### **Andy Estep**

*Science and Field Manager*

*Waitt Institute*

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Andy is a marine biologist with a background in marine geology, and a particular interest in comparing modern reefs with early Holocene analogs. Prior to working with the Waitt Institute, Estep worked for the South Florida / Caribbean Inventory and Monitoring Network conducting long-term





marine monitoring and benthic mapping in South Florida and the US Virgin Islands. Completing over 1000 scientific dives, he has expertise in Caribbean benthic and fish identification, collecting underwater photo and video data, and data management. Andy is also a member of the GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee.



**Melanie McField**

*Director*

*Healthy Reefs for Healthy People Initiative (HRI)*

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*Melanie McField is the founder and Director of the Healthy Reefs for Healthy People Initiative (HRI), a multi-institutional effort to track the health of the reef ecosystem and our management progress in ensuring its long-term integrity. Melanie lived and worked in Belize for over 20 years; first as a Peace Corps volunteer/field biologist and then with World Wildlife Fund, and since 2006 with the Smithsonian Institution. She has a PhD from the University of South Florida, with published research interests focused on coral reef community ecology, coral bleaching, chemical contamination, and management effectiveness evaluations. She is an effective communicator, and has been featured on television appearances including the TODAY show, MSNBC, National Geographic, Animal Planet and the BBC. Melanie is also a member of the GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee.*



**Chris Sullivan**

*Staff researcher at Sandin in the Sandin Laboratory*

*Scripps Institution of Oceanography*

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*Chris is a Staff Researcher for the 100 Island Challenge at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Chris manages the day-to-day logistics for the project, from expedition preparation to field collection. He is also managing the build out of the 100 Island Challenge database, outreach media, and VR for the project. Chris is also an experienced field coral reef ecologist having logged over 450 dives at 45 islands across the tropical Pacific.*





**Mark Vermeij**  
Coral Reef Ecologist  
CARMABI  
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*Dr Mark J.A. Vermeij is the scientific director of the CARMABI research station on Curaçao, an island in the Southern Caribbean. His research interests include evolutionary and ecological dynamics of benthic marine organisms, with particular emphasis on corals, algae and, more recently, microbes. Currently, his work focuses foremost on the earliest life stages of corals and the processes that operate during these earliest life stages. The results of all scientific work conducted at Carmabi are disseminated through the organization local network (i.e., parks, museums, educational programs) to stakeholder groups that are directly or indirectly involved with coral reef management and conservation. Mark is also a member of the GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee.*

Picture

**Patricia Kramer**  
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Text

Patricia is also a member-at-large of the GCRMN-Caribbean.



# Facilitators



**Lucie Labbouz**

*Project coordinator*

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*Lucie has been working as a programme coordinator and Assistant Director for the Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW) since January 2017. The SPAW-RAC aims at supporting implementation of the SPAW Protocol by the UN Environment/Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) under the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention). In this context, Lucie develops and implements projects dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems. Currently, Lucie acts as the regional coordinator of the GCRMN-Caribbean and Co-Chair of the Steering Committee as well as assuming other missions related to the Direction of the RAC.*

**Sophie Mjati**

*Junior officer*

*SPAW-RAC – Guadeloupe*

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*Sophie Mjati is a French jurist specialized in international environmental law. She previously worked for UNESCO, where she was involved in the communication campaigns around education for sustainable development. In 2015, Sophie was part of the WWF, in Colombia. She also dedicated herself to the elaboration of practical and legal advice for Native Communities confronted with the establishment of mining companies in their lands. She is currently assisting the SPAW-RAC team on the conservation of coral reefs in the Caribbean.*