



# UKOTCF

## Wider Caribbean Working Group (WCWG) e-Newsletter

August 2011

Number 7

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**Welcome and Editorial** Our previous newsletter highlighted conservation issues caused by development decisions. Unfortunately, this theme continues. We have recently been informed of decisions in Cayman and BVI which are causing concern. Recent discussions with colleagues and partners have focussed on the need to discuss with politicians and decision makers the value of adopting a longer term approach to development considerations, especially regarding mitigation for climate change and the value of marine protected areas. The interesting paper on groupers eating lionfish highlights the value of marine protected areas in allowing the survival of large groupers, which are then able to eat lionfish. Many recent studies have reported the value of mangrove forests in carbon sequestration and coastal protection against storm surges and hurricanes. However, alongside the challenges, there are also success stories. The opening of the bird watching trails in Grand Turk, together with recently announced protection of two of the salinas, their value for environmental education and provision of opportunities for small local business enterprises, demonstrate how protected areas can benefit the local community. This demonstrates that mega-development is not the only model. Continuing education is clearly important for all stakeholders, as demonstrated by the BVI Great Tobago Frigate Bird mortality, seemingly caused by monofilament fishing line. The issue of climate change is one we all have to consider, and perhaps the Anguilla Renewable Energy project will provide a stimulus for other Caribbean UKOTs who have not yet taken on board that this is an option which must not be ignored.

Comments and news items for future issues, and WCWG meeting discussions, are very welcome. Please email [apienkowki@ukotcf.org](mailto:apienkowki@ukotcf.org)

Ann Pienkowski, Secretary UKOTCF Wider Caribbean Working Group.

### Cayman

#### Cayman Emerald / South Sound development application approved

A proposal to develop an inland area adjacent to South Sound, including dredging a canal from the Sound into the development area, along with further canals inland, was approved by the Central Planning Authority (CPA) on 3 August 2011, despite overwhelming local opposition.

A similar proposal was first put forward in early 2007, and generated a great deal of local opposition. The planning documents were re-submitted for approval in December 2009. At that time the Department of Environment expressed their concerns, which primarily centred around the issues of water quality and the impacts of establishing a direct connection between a mangrove peat environment and South Sound, and the precedent-setting nature of permitting this type of development, not only in relation to



**Emerald Sound / South Sound  
Development Area**

South Sound, but also for the rest of the island.

In January 2010, a petition of more than 1,100 signatures of people objecting to the plans was given to government, and over one hundred letters of objection were sent to the planning authority.

Major concerns are: the plan to realign a section of South Sound Road alongside the development, fears of flooding and nearby beaches turning red from the peat found on the site. Opponents believe that the realignment of the road is being planned to expand seaside lots across from Emerald Sound. This would also apparently involve the developer taking over Crown Land.

The application was considered again by the CPA on 3 August 2011. Despite overwhelming local opposition, the planning application for the inland component of the development, including canals, was approved by the CPA.

A community organization *Protect South Sound* are appealing this decision with the Planning Appeals Tribunal. However, another aspect of the development, to dredge a canal from South Sound, opening the canal system into the sound, and to re-align a road, needs a Coastal Works Licence. Objectors are hoping that the Coastal Works Licence will not be approved.

The *Protect South Sound* group have established a Facebook page, and are inviting people to sign an online petition. <http://www.facebook.com/SaveSouthSound>

The objectors claim that this development would cause irreversible damage to the delicate marine ecosystem of South Sound, a designated Marine Replenishment Zone, and increase the flood risk from storms and hurricanes to the surrounding inland residents.

The developer and objectors explained their viewpoints in a TV interview which can be seen at: <http://cayman27.com.ky/2011/08/04/emerald-sound-project-approved>

The minutes of the Central Planning Authority meeting held on 3 August 2011 contain reports from the Department of Environment, Water Authority and National Roads Authority. The report can be read at

[www.planning.gov.ky/HTML\\_BODY/CP/CP\\_Library/CPA\\_Minutes/2011/Acpa1611.pdf](http://www.planning.gov.ky/HTML_BODY/CP/CP_Library/CPA_Minutes/2011/Acpa1611.pdf)  
(page 4 onwards)

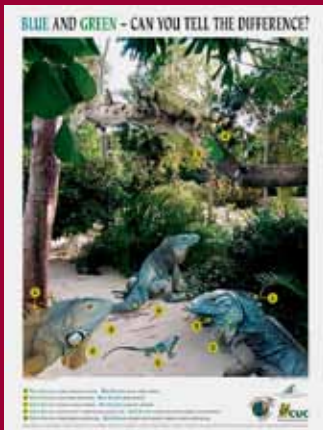
Detailed comments from the Department of Environment, in this report, include:

*Precedent: The Emerald Sound Development represents a precedent setting development for the Cayman Islands whereby the historic beach ridge and coastal road are both proposed to be breached by a channel connecting the sea to an interior canal subdivision. A decision to approve a canal development outside of North Sound is essentially a policy decision that affects the future development of the rest of the country.*

*Climate change adaptations: Historically this area has been repeatedly impacted by storms of various intensities and strike distances. Properties in the South Sound area received considerable structural damage as a result of Hurricane Ivan. Whilst Ivan may not be the 'typical' storm against which building codes and design standards have been set in the past, it is important to recognise the widely accepted Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projection that storms of Ivan's intensity or greater (e.g. category 4 and 5) will occur more frequently and start planning developments accordingly. Additionally, over the last century global average sea level has risen by 17 cm and is projected to rise between 1 m and 3 m by 2100.*

*Changes in the Caribbean are expected to be near the global estimate. This has serious implications for existing and future development as present extreme high water levels resulting from storm surges, tides and waves would be attained more frequently and a significantly larger area would be threatened with inundation. Therefore, the increased*

## News from the National Trust for the Cayman Islands



*Iguana identification poster reproduced from The Preserver, Summer 2011*

## Montserrat

### New National Museum Ground Breaking



*Chief Minister Meade and Dr Erica Gibbs, long standing MNT member, turn the sod for museum building*



*Parliamentarian David Osborne presenting Lady Eudora Fergus, Executive Director MNT, with a gift for the Museum*

## Turks and Caicos Islands

### Bird Trail Opening

*risk of impacts from highly destructive hurricanes (with up to a 20% increase in peak wind speeds and rainfall intensity) combined with rising sea levels necessitate climate resilient building practices (e.g. adequate building elevations, piling construction, wash-through ground floors) and greater setbacks in coastal and low-lying areas given the heightened threat of coastal inundation and inland flooding.*

## News from the National Trust for the Cayman Islands

Cayman Iguanas. Wider Caribbean Working Group members will be aware of the fantastic achievements of the Blue Iguana Recovery Programme. Unfortunately, Cayman also has an invasive alien species iguana – the green or common iguana. The latest issue of the *Preserver*, the newsletter of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands, carries a very interesting article about the differences between the two species. Iguanas have been protected under the Cayman Animals Law for many years. At the time the law was written, Blues were the only significant population of wild iguanas, and the law did not name the species. As a result, when Common Iguanas started to spread invasively, there was uncertainty regarding the legality of controlling them. A recent change to the law has removed that ambiguity, but has increased the risk of Blue Iguanas being mistakenly killed. It is therefore all the more important for the public to be familiar with the differences. The article explains the differences, supported by a colourful and informative poster. You can read the *Preserver* online at

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.ky/documents/Q311.pdf>

## Montserrat

### New National Museum Ground Breaking

Work has commenced on Montserrat's National Museum in Little Bay, following a ground breaking ceremony on 3 June 2011, organised by the Montserrat National Trust (MNT).

The Museum will be located in the Heritage Park and the Green Development Block (near the cricket field) of Little Bay Development, and will be one of six buildings framing the future Heritage Park Complex. Following completion, this will be the third building to be placed in the new capital.

The EC\$2.5m structure was designed and is being built by local architect firm, Alford Dyett Associates. Funding is being provided by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the European Union (EU), through the Montserrat Tourist Board (MTB), which will manage the funds.

Montserrat's old Museum was located in an old sugar mill on Richmond Hill in the south of the island. This site was abandoned because of the volcanic activity, but the artefacts and displays were removed from the sugar mill and are currently in storage. The Montserrat National Trust will be responsible for setting up the exhibitions once the museum is completed. The new facility will have storage and exhibition areas, a souvenir shop, a meeting room, a refectory area and an activity area, and will be equipped to accommodate persons with disabilities and special needs.

The building is expected to be completed by January 2012 and the team are hoping to have the building ready in time for the St Patrick's Day celebration next year.

## Turks and Caicos Islands

### Bird Trail Opening

After many years of preparation and set-backs due to the challenges that the Turks & Caicos Islands have faced in recent years, UKOTCF and its local Associate organisation, the Turks & Caicos National Museum, opened a walking trail and a driving trail,



*Ms Lillian Swann Misick, Chair of Consultative Forum, cutting the ribbon to officially open the Bird Trails. Photo courtesy Neil Saxton*

#### Update on Caicos Pine Recovery Programme



*Bryan Naqqi Manco and Minister Henry Bellingham view healthy pine seedlings in July 2011. Fortunately the pine seedlings were not damaged by Hurricane Irene  
Photo courtesy Foreign and Commonwealth Office*

highlighting the salt-pans (or salinas) of Grand Turk, which are internationally important for birds, and one of the best places in the world for seeing normally shy water-birds up-close. As well as the official opening, the week of events included a guided walk for high school students and their teachers, a guided coach trip on the driven trail, and a film night with a programme including a short film made in-house by UKOTCF on the birds of the Grand Turk salinas. Some clips from the film made by Ann Pienkowski and interviews with Mike & Ann Pienkowski, who designed the trail with local personnel, are available in the broadcast news item from TCI's Channel 4 TV.

<http://wivtc.com/portal/?p=15198>

In addition to the lead and major contributions by UKOTCF and TCNM, implementation of the trails was made possible by a grant from the Carnival/TCInvest/TCI Government Infrastructure Fund, and the making available of equipment and operators by Turks & Caicos Utilities.

Participants in the Junior Park Warden programme were amongst the first to enjoy the bird trails. Armed with their own Bird Walking Trail Guide and Bird Driving Trail Guide, the students went to some of premier birding spots to learn about the birds and also the fragile ecosystem of the Salinas, and how they affect the bird population.

Sponsored by the Pine Cay Project, Department of Coastal Resources (DECR) and the TC National Museum, the Junior Park Warden programme provides local youth with a hands-on environmental education every summer.

#### Update on Caicos Pine Recovery Programme

Bryan Naqqi Manco, project manager, reports:

From 12 May - 8 July 2011, Imperial College London MSc in Conservation Science students, Alicky Davey and Sara Green, conducted fieldwork in TCI, under Royal Botanic Garden (RBG) Kew guidance. Both students focused on North Caicos, Middle Caicos, and Pine Cay as study areas. Ms Davey carried out research about the spread of the invasive tree *Casuarina equisetifolia* along coasts and in disturbed areas throughout the three study islands, and also conducted social surveys regarding the use of Casuarina wood as a source of charcoal. Ms Green focused her study on the monitoring of the Caicos Pine Recovery Project's permanent monitoring plots on the three islands mentioned, and conducted transects in pine habitat to determine the impact of the scale insect on pine survival. Ms Green also carried out social surveys regarding the use of fire in agriculture and attitudes toward fire, pine, and related laws.

During mid to late May 2011, RBG Kew UK OT Programme members Martin Hamilton and Marcella Corcoran visited TCI with Jodrell Laboratory's Paul Green to assist the students' work, and also to conduct training for DECR staff on chemical extraction techniques for Caicos pine biochemical studies in relation to scale infestations.

Land has been secured for the expansion of the Caicos Pine Recovery Programme nursery on the Government Farm, North Caicos.

A first experimental pest treatment was carried out in February 2011 and the next one will be carried out in July-August 2011 as weather conditions allow.

The Junior Park Wardens Programme participants (see above) also planted an assortment of 15 regionally and nationally endemic plants grown in the DECR's Native Plant Biodiversity Conservation Nursery into the Turks and Caicos National Museum's new Botanical and Cultural Garden. This project is supported by JNCC's contribution towards the TCI Rescue and Collection of Endangered and Endemic Plants Project:

#### Hurricane Irene

Hurricane Irene went through the Turks and Caicos Islands on Tuesday 23 /Wednesday 24 August 2011. Fortunately, the hurricane had weakened somewhat and first reports from colleagues in TCI confirmed that, although local flooding had occurred in low-



## Anguilla

The Anguilla Renewable Energy Office (AREO) OTEP project - next phase



*AREO's education work included a poster competition.  
Photo courtesy AREO*

## Bermuda

Father of the Year Bluebird



*Bermuda Bluebird on top of nest box.  
Photo courtesy Bermuda Audubon Society*

lying areas, there had been relatively little other damage. The Caicos Pine Recovery Programme Nursery plants had survived, as had the Turks and Caicos National Museum on Grand Turk. This news was a great relief, as some parts of TCI are still recovering from the impacts of Hurricanes Hanna and Ike in 2008.

## Anguilla

### The Anguilla Renewable Energy Office (AREO) OTEP project - next phase

OTEP has awarded a new grant to facilitate the adoption of legislation to allow *Grid Tie* in Anguilla. (In most renewable energy installations, a connection to the grid is maintained; any excess electricity generated is fed back into the grid. This renewable energy system is said to be grid-tied.)

This work will allow individuals and businesses to develop their own renewable energy solutions while still being connected to the grid and benefiting from the Anguilla Electricity Company Ltd (ANGLEC)'s infrastructure.

The first phase of the project concentrated on public outreach work, helping to build a broad based community movement and encouraging Anguilla to move towards adopting renewable strategies. Activities included a newsletter, public education work on the Anguilla National Energy Policy, drafting The Anguilla Model (a 10 year plan to make Anguilla energy independent), attending regional conferences, working as a day-to-day government and industry liaison and encouraging participation in Earth Day activities and the Green Anguilla movement.

The OTEP funding has also enabled an improved website, which pulls together all the activities of AREO over the last two years and sets out the vision for the future.

For further information visit the ASEO website: [www.anguillareo.org](http://www.anguillareo.org)

## Bermuda

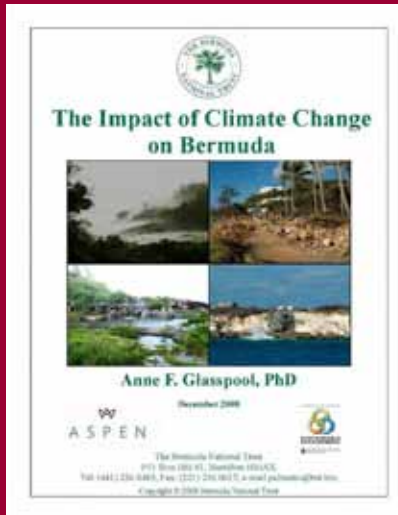
### Father of the Year Bluebird

Like many people on Bermuda, Andrew Dobson (President of Bermuda Audubon Society), has a bluebird box in his garden. Bermuda's bluebirds rely solely on artificial nest boxes to breed and therefore to remain as a species in Bermuda. Their earlier demise was the loss of cedar trees in the 1940s and 1950s, as a result of the scale insect infestation (the trees provided natural nest holes). The bluebirds' continued existence was further threatened by the aggressive house sparrows which were able to get into the nest boxes. In some years, the bluebirds nest in his garden and in others they go elsewhere. This year, the bluebirds nested in the garden, but there was great concern about a week after four eggs hatched and the mother went missing. On inspecting the nest, the mother was found dead next to the babies with head severed – a sure sign of an attack in the nest by a house sparrow. Amazingly, the male bluebird had been feeding the bluebird chicks throughout that day, even with a dead mate in the box. With the help of Andrew's daughters, Anna and Fiona, the box was quickly taken down and a new nest made from guinea pig's hay installed. The three surviving week-old chicks were put back in the box and it was re-positioned on the pole. The chances of the male raising the three birds alone were pretty slim. However, over the next two weeks, the male bluebird was in and out of the box with feeding visits, and was very aggressive towards anyone who approached the box. All three chicks fledged and left the box successfully – a real credit to the "father of the year". It does demonstrate the need to monitor a nest box regularly if you have one in your garden.

An online article can be seen at:

<http://www.royalgazette.com/article/20110624/ISLAND/706249932/-1/Island>

## Climate Change in Bermuda



## British Virgin Islands

### Beef Island Court of Appeal Decision

## Other news from the Bermuda Audubon Society

A new “Bluebirds” link has been added to the Home Page of the Bermuda Audubon web site. It provides all the information you need to know on maintaining and monitoring a bluebird box.

The latest newsletter is also available from the website [www.audubon.bm](http://www.audubon.bm). Amongst other interesting articles, the Summer 2011 newsletter also contains an interesting article about the Nonsuch Youth Camp, held from 18 – 25 June.

## Climate Change in Bermuda

Members of UKOTCF’s Wider Caribbean Working Group may well already be aware of this important report, but in the light of the growing concern about Climate Change and Development (see article about development concerns in Cayman, above), it is worth refreshing memories, and bringing this valuable report to the attention of others.

***The Impact of Climate Change on Bermuda***, written by Dr Anne Glasspool, is a report that examines the effect of climate change on Bermuda. It also suggests how Bermuda can develop strategies to protect it from the resulting threats to the country’s social, economic, physical and environmental wellbeing. The report, which was tabled in the House of Assembly on 5 February 2010, following a ministerial statement by Dr the Hon. Ewart F. Brown, JP, MP, Premier of Bermuda and Minister of Tourism and Transport, suggests that Bermuda can set an example for small islands by mitigating the processes of climate change. The Premier issued a take-note motion on the report for subsequent debate by Members of Parliament.

The 200-page report, produced by the Bermuda National Trust with the support of Aspen Insurance Holdings Limited, substantiates that climate change is as much a threat to Bermuda as to the rest of the world. In particular, the report considers the economic, social and physical vulnerability of small islands and how they relate to Bermuda. It considers also the significant effect of climate change on global food security and two of the island’s most important sectors of the economy, international business and tourism.

Highlights of the report include a study of sea level rise in Bermuda, which threatens the island’s infrastructure through increased flooding during high tides - up to 14 percent of total land area. Rising temperatures, heavier rainfall, more intense storm activity and longer periods of drought also threaten the island’s buildings, transport, waste and sewage, water supply, telecommunications, electricity and other essential services, the ecosystem and even individual human health and livelihoods.

The report can be downloaded from the Bermuda National Trust Website: [http://www.bnt.bm/Environmental\\_and\\_Conservation/climate-change-report.php](http://www.bnt.bm/Environmental_and_Conservation/climate-change-report.php)

## British Virgin Islands

### Beef Island Court of Appeal Decision - implications for Fisheries Protected Areas

A Court of Appeal ruling in the case involving the **Virgin Islands Environmental Council** (VIEC), the Attorney General and the Beef Island project developers, Quorum (BVI) Ltd, may have far reaching implications for parts of the Territory designated as ‘protected areas’ under Fisheries legislation.

Beef Island Court of Appeal Decision states legislation for protected areas under the Fisheries legislation (rather than the National Parks legislation) is not legally binding.

Around 80% of the mangroves of the British Virgin Islands have been destroyed, largely to make way for tourist development (BVIHCG 2007: British Virgin Islands Heritage



*Beef Island*  
Photo courtesy BVI Platinum News and  
Saildivevi.com

Great Tobago Frigate Birds -  
worrying mortality

Conservation Group - available online [www.bvihcg.com/mangroves.shtml](http://www.bvihcg.com/mangroves.shtml)).

There was great concern when a development application for Beef Island was approved. The plan was for the construction of 663 residences, a 180-acre golf course, and two marinas in one of the largest wetland and mangrove areas of the island – the last remaining sanctuary for a number of migratory birds, some of the most diverse reefs, and an area of major biological importance for numerous species of fish. Additionally, mangroves provide protection against increased storm activity due to climate change.

The development proposal had been successfully fought by the VIEC. Part of the argument supporting their case was that the golf course and marina were located next to, and partially within, the Hans Creek Fisheries protected area.

Section 51(1) of Fisheries Regulations 2003 states that “no person shall carry out any development activity, whether terrestrial or otherwise which may or is likely to adversely impact on a marine protected area declared as such by the Minister by Order in the Gazette”.

In Regulation 15(5), fourteen areas including Hans Creek were declared to be fisheries protected areas.

However, a recent Court of Appeal ruling found that Hans Creek is not legally a fisheries protected area.

VEIC expressed disappointment by the finding that Hans Creek is not legally a protected area. This, according to the group, has numerous negative implications.

“It effectively invalidates the entire fisheries protected area system in the BVI; it means that none of the 14 designated as fisheries protected areas in the Fisheries Regulations 1997 are protected areas under the law,” the VIEC pointed out.

The group pointed out that the ruling also “undermines confidence in legislation for environmental protection in the BVI, as it seems to suggest that the Government’s legislative drafting skills are so poor and ineffective that the laws are not worth the paper they are written on”.

“The Government’s arguments in the High Court that the law was ineffective also suggests the Government will not uphold a protected area designation if it suits its purposes not to do so.

“ VIEC does not accept the Court of Appeal’s finding that Hans Creek and the other designated areas are not protected by law. Even so, as a matter of urgency, the VIEC plans to call on the Government to correct this potential weakness in the Virgin Islands’ protected areas system.”

The VIEC Director, Dr Quincy Lettsome noted that this weakness is a dangerous threat to the beauty of the Virgin Islands, referred to as ***Nature’s Little Secrets***.

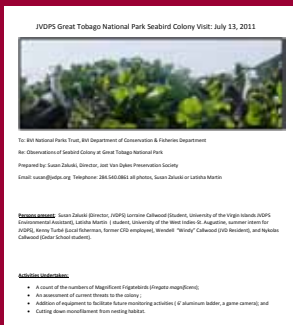
The group noted that the finding that the Hans Creek Protected Area would suffer a negative environmental impact from the development was never challenged at the Court of Appeal. According to the VIEC, it is accepted that the project in the approved design cannot possibly be built without this negative impact, which is purportedly against the law.

A fuller report about the court of appeal judgement can be read at [www.bviplatinum.com/news.php?page=Article&articleID=1313579942](http://www.bviplatinum.com/news.php?page=Article&articleID=1313579942)

### **Great Tobago Frigate Birds - worrying mortality**

*This report was written by Susan Zaluski, Director of the Jost Van Dykes Preservation Society (JVDPS), an Associate organisation of UKOTCF.*

On 13 July 2011, a group of us from the Jost Van Dykes Preservation Society, Jost Van Dyke, BVI visited the Magnificent Frigatebird/Brown Booby Colony at Great Tobago



**Frigate Bird entrapped with monofilament**  
 Photo courtesy JVDPS

## Cross Territory and General SCSCB

## Grouper as a natural biocontrol of invasive lionfish

### National Park.

While the overall population of the frigatebirds seemed relatively stable at about 500 birds (similar to previous years), it was pretty tragic to cut down the remains of 57 dead Magnificent Frigatebirds. While 5 of those specimens seemed to die of natural causes, the rest were tangled in monofilament fishing line. Some of the fishing line was 60-80 lb test (as an adult, I had to hang my full body weight on it and it still wouldn't budge – so undoubtedly impossible for a bird to break free from!).

Also disturbing is the impact of feral livestock on the island. In July 2010, a massive landslide (the result of unstable, overgrazed soil coupled with severe rains) became visible from Jost Van Dyke – 6 miles to the east. The slide runs through one side of the colony and has taken out several sea grape trees.

Susan Zaluski

For further information re the report **Observation of Seabird Colony at Great Tobago National Park, July 13 2011** contact

Susan Zaluski, Director, Jost Van Dykes Preservation Society  
 Email: susan@jvdps.org

## Cross-Territory and General

### SCSCB

The Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds meeting in the Bahamas in July was a great opportunity to catch up with news, old friends, and make new ones. An informal meeting of the UKOTCF Wider Caribbean Working Group enabled valuable face-to-face discussions with colleagues who would normally only be able to participate in such meetings by Skype. In the main conference, Mike Pienkowski gave a well-received presentation about the development and official opening of the TCI Grand Turk Bird Trails, a few days earlier. A host of interesting presentations and workshops made this a very valuable event.

Check out the SCSCB Facebook page for news.

[www.facebook.com/CaribbeanBirdsSCSCB?ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanBirdsSCSCB?ref=ts)

### Grouper as a natural biocontrol of invasive lionfish

The alien invasive lionfish are a huge threat to Caribbean marine ecosystems. Although removal by hunting is being encouraged, studies have demonstrated that this control mechanism will not be enough.

A recent paper by Peter J. Mumby, Alastair R. Harborne and Daniel R. Brumbaugh raises the interesting possibility of grouper as a predator control mechanism. Paper Citation: Mumby PJ, Harborne AR, Brumbaugh DR (2011) Grouper as a Natural Biocontrol of Invasive Lionfish. PLoS ONE 6(6): e21510. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0021510

The full article can be downloaded from

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0021510>

The abstract is copied below:

Lionfish (*Pterois volitans/miles*) have invaded the majority of the Caribbean region within five years. As voracious predators of native fishes with a broad habitat distribution, lionfish are poised to cause an unprecedented disruption to coral reef diversity and function. Controls of lionfish densities within its native range are poorly understood, but they have been recorded in the stomachs of large-bodied Caribbean groupers. Whether grouper predation of lionfish is sufficient to act as a biocontrol



## Ocean Acidification Video

## UKOTCF new Facebook Page

of the invasive species is unknown, but pest biocontrol by predatory fishes has been reported in other ecosystems. Groupers were surveyed along a chain of Bahamian reefs, including one of the region's most successful marine reserves, which supports the top one percentile of Caribbean grouper biomass. Lionfish biomass exhibited a 7-fold and nonlinear reduction in relation to the biomass of grouper. While Caribbean grouper appear to be a biocontrol of invasive lionfish, the overexploitation of their populations by [human] fishers, means that their [the groupers'] median biomass on Caribbean reefs is an order of magnitude less than in our study. Thus, chronic overfishing will probably prevent natural biocontrol of lionfishes in the Caribbean.

Two videos available on YouTube show groupers learning to eat lionfish:  
*Grouper "MiniMe" learning to eat lionfish, Little Cayman*  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BJ-pcL2ZVY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BJ-pcL2ZVY)

*Teaching Grouper to eat lionfish* [www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGNGAIXZnKY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGNGAIXZnKY)

## Ocean Acidification Video

Although the final impacts are still not clear, ocean acidification is relatively newly recognised, happening now and should be a concern for all of us as it has the potential to affect everyone.

Check out this excellent short film describing the increasingly important issue of ocean acidification and its causes and numerous effects on marine life. Produced by the Plymouth Marine Laboratory.

View the video at:

<http://marinebio.org/blog/?p=2470>

## UKOTCF new Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ukotcf/207211405984292?sk=wall>

Here you can find links to topical news items and information, eg

Blue Iguana rebounds from near-extinction

Grand Turk Bird Trails TV interview.