

WOA

Miami, Nov. 15, 2012

Marine Biological diversity

Break-out group

Antonio Diaz-de-Leon & Andy Rossenberg

Individuals & Institutions

Specialists identified from:

- **Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curacao, Greater Antilles, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, USA, Venezuela.**
- **Representing Governmental, University, NGOs, and IGOs institutions within these countries**

Intensive Discussion Focus

- Delegates suggested spatial organization of the assessment could reflect mangrove, sea grass, and reef zones, rather than as a combined coastal zone
- Discussion general – not taxon specific
- Discussion supported by Dr. Patricia Miloslavich, Dr. Melanie McField and Dr. Antonio Diaz-de-Leon presentations

Key Studies & Reports

Types:

- **Databases**
- **Historical time series**
- **Primary literature**
- **Books**
- **Technical reports**

Topics covered:

- **Sea grass, mangrove, reefs**
- **Imperiled species**
- **Invertebrates, fish, mammals, & birds**
- **Bathymetry & sediments**
- **Oceanography and deep sea structures**
- **Socio-economics**

Knowledge Gaps

Knowledge gaps with regard to marine biological diversity are extensive, including:

- **Early life history of most organisms**
- **Historical baselines against which to compare current indicators of ecosystem status**
- **Deep water environments.**
- **Regional coverage (Nicaragua)**
- **Grey and undisclosed Databases (7000 sp.)**
- **Tools for integrating regional data sources**
- **Tools to synthesize information, including global reporting and database management.**

Capacity Building

- **Local knowledge is tied to local capacity.**
- **Need to understand the dimension and fiscal requirements of capacity building and development.**
- **There is a critical need to retain trained employees and management leadership.**
- **Capacity building needs are highly variable across geographic regions.**
- **Education and awareness on biodiversity importance, biodiversity loss and action**
- **Need to harness the industrial capacity for deep exploration to supplement research efforts.**
- **Need to establish network of practitioners, experts, institutions and countries**

Deliverables

- **Biodiversity template distributed among participants**
- **Identification of group of biodiversity experts**
- **Identification of key organizations**
- **Delegates encouraged to provide additional information and details regarding the template**

- **Send to:**
- **Thanks to Dr. Patricia Miloslavich, Dr. Melanie McField and Rapporteurs William Harford and Nathan Vaughan**