



The Conch Horn

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The Conch Horn is a newsletter for circulation to the Conchservation partners and our sponsors to share events and milestones of the The Bahamas National Conchservation Campaign. You can also keep pace with the campaign at www.facebook.com/conchservation.

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Photos from Conchservation’s official launch from top to bottom: The Honorable Kenred Dorsett shares his desire for conch to remain a part of The Bahamas’ heritage. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. applauds the sponsors and partners of the campaign. The campaign’s official logo is unveiled—Mr. Zyandric Jones of Abaco was the designer and won 500 dollars for his efforts. Bottom photo: Casuarina McKinney-Lambert, Executive Director of BREEF officially launches Conchservation by blowing a conch shell horn.

Official Launch of Conservation, April 27th

The official launch of The Bahamas National Conchservation Campaign took place at Frankie Gone Bananas, Arawak Cay. Frankie Gone Bananas, and its parent company, Bamboo Shack are very keen to be a part of Conchservation. The area, commonly known as the Fish Fry is a conch lover’s paradise and was a more than fitting location to launch our campaign—which is all about making sure that we can all continue to enjoy this delicacy for generations.



Photos above— Left: Eddie Minnis. Right: Mia Isaacs of BMEA presents a cheque for \$25,000 to Conchservation for research.

Highlights from the day’s events included remarks from the Honorable Kenred Dorsett, Minister for Environment and Housing, Neil McKinney, President of BNT, Edison Deleveaux, Deputy Director of The Bahamas Department of Marine Resources, and a message of hope from Mr. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., President of the Water Keepers Alliance. Attendees at the launch had a chance to voice their views on conch in The Bahamas on a video blog which was then later posted to the Campaign’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/conchservation). A real treat was a performance by Mr. Eddie Minnis. Mr. Minnis sang his song ‘No More Conch’ to the delight of those present. He has also graciously allowed use of his song during the campaign.



Allan Stoner Shares Decades of Conch Research on 96.9 FM and at BNT

On June 11th, Dr. Allan Stoner, lead scientist for Conchservation partner Community Conch was in Nassau preparing for a research trip to the southern Bahamas to learn more about the status of queen conch in Bahamian waters. Despite his busy schedule, Dr. Stoner was more than happy to take some time to share what he has learned. Our thanks to Community Conch for loaning us Dr. Stoner for the day.



In the photo above are Allan Stoner of Community Conch, Kirkland Pratt and Ms. Chrissy Love of the call in radio show 'Reality Check' on Guardian Radio 96.9 fm, and the back of the head of BREEF's Executive Director, Casuarina McKinney-Lambert. This was the first of two stops on Dr. Stoner's 'outreach tour'. On Reality Check, the issues facing conch in The Bahamas, their general biology, and what can be done to make sure that there is always a queen conch fishery were all discussed. The Conchservation Campaign was also shared with the listening audience. Ms. Love was fond of Dr. Stoner's last name and said it a number of times during the show.

Later that evening, Dr. Stoner gave a talk on his conch research in The Bahamas at the Bahamas National Trust Headquarters on Village Road. Those that attended had a chance to see decades of research rolled into one evening. It was refreshing that the meeting was attended not only by the tried and true members who always support conservation work but also present were fishermen who brought their knowledge of the sea and experience to the conversations that followed Dr. Stoner's presentation. We would like to thank Mr. Adrian Laroda of the Bahamas Commercial Fishers Association for his presence at the talk as well.



Photo above: Dr. Stoner explains how to differentiate between mature and juvenile conch with the assistance of Scott Johnson of BNT.

Strategizing for the Conchservation Campaign

On June 10, a number of Conchservation partners met at the Department of Marine Resources to discuss the issues surrounding the queen conch fishery in The Bahamas, and how their respective strengths could be brought to bear to influence the changes that will preserve the conch fishery.

Present at the meeting were the Department of Marine Resources, BREEF, Community Conch, The Bahamas Marine Exporters Association, and Conchservation Coordinator Jared Dillet of The Bahamas National Trust.

Following a brainstorming session to identify issues that would present barriers to establishing a sustainable queen conch fishery in The Bahamas, the group then began to determine how these issues could be addressed. The next step was to identify activities that would begin to change or reverse these barriers. Finally, the abilities of each stakeholder to participate in these activities and at what level were assessed. These assessments were compiled in a chart which will be completed as the partners weigh in with their comments. It is anticipated that this will be completed by July 8, 2013.



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Conchservation Engages

Efforts have been and are being made to keep Conchservation in people's minds. As the campaign moves toward more focused discussion on what can be done to ensure a future for the queen conch fishery, it is important that people are made aware of the campaign and why it exists and it is also important that the initiative is never far from people's minds. The Campaign has been presented to groups and at public events:



Above: Rotary Club of East Nassau, May 24, 2013.



Above: 3rd Annual West End Snapper Tournament and Festival, West End, Grand Bahama, June 22, 2013. Pictured is Jeff Pinder, a resident of and business owner in West End. He was excited to hear of the Campaign and was glad to help us spread the word about Conchservation at the Festival.



At right: Mr. Cooper and his family enjoyed playing 'The Wheel of Conchservation' at the Festival of The Bahama Islands on Saturday, June 29, 2013.

Conchservation's most recent appearance was at the Festival of the Bahama Islands, hosted by The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Burns House. Visitors who came to the booth were given information about the campaign and had a chance to win a Conchservation green bag by playing 'The Wheel of Conchservation' trivia game. Others were happy to receive the information and donated to the campaign.

Apart from Clubs and public appearances, the Conchservation Campaign has taken to the airwaves, appearing on Guardian Talk Radio's 'Morning Blend' with Alesha Hart and Dwight Strachan on April 22, and on Gems Radio with Giles Wells and Ghandi Pinder on April 25. The most recent radio appearance was on 'Let's Talk Green', a call in show that discusses natural resource and environmental issues on ZNS radio on June 25.

Future plans for Conchservation include more public engagement, town meetings in major fishing communities, and the design of promotional items to remind folks everyday how important it is to preserve conch and our other natural treasures. Be on the lookout for the 'Conchservation Special' - coming soon.

It is hoped that you found this first issue of *The Conch Horn* informative. If you have any questions or comments, they can be sent to Conchservation Coordinator Jared Dillet via e-mail at jdillet@bnt.bs or by phone at 242-393-1317.

The Conchservation partners would like to thank our sponsors—The Moore Bahamas Foundation, Harbourside Marine, The Sandals Foundation, Burns House, Frankie Gone Bananas and the Bahamas Marine Exporters Association for their support in launching and maintaining the momentum of this campaign.

