

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reef Resilience Conference**  
**Tuesday October 18, 2011, 6.00-7.00pm**  
**Media Panel with Coral Reef Experts**

**CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM EXPERTS:**

**Chris Bergh - Director of Coastal and Marine Resilience, The Nature Conservancy**

Chris Bergh was raised in the lower Florida Keys and Key West. He attended Prescott College in Arizona, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Conservation, and then embarked on a series of internships and seasonal jobs with state and federal government agencies, National Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). In 1999, Mr. Bergh returned home to the Florida Keys to manage TNC's preserves and assist other natural resource managers with terrestrial conservation work. Soon he assumed land acquisition, marine conservation and overall Keys Program management duties before becoming the Florida Director of Coastal and Marine Resilience. Using science-based conservation practices – from site-specific prescribed burns to marine protected area network design – he is working to enable the Florida Keys and similar coastal systems to resist and adapt to the impacts of global warming, sea level rise and more localized threats to biological diversity.

**James A. Bohnsack, Ph.D. – Chief of Protected Resources and Biodiversity Division, NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center**

Dr. James (Jim) Bohnsack joined NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center in 1984 and is currently a Supervisory Research Fishery Biologist and Chief of the Protected Resources and Biodiversity Division in Miami. He earned a B.S degree from Tulane University, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Miami. His research focused on the application of marine reserves, fishery-independent methods for monitoring and assessing coral reef ecosystems; coral reef and artificial reef ecology, and ocean ethics. He and is an Adjunct Professor at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami. Dr. Bohnsack was the U.S. representative on a Technical Expert Group on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas for the International Convention on Biological Diversity. He has received two DOC Bronze Medal Awards for his work with the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and Marine Protected Areas; a national award from the Center for Marine Conservation for his research on marine reserves; and was inducted into Iron Arrow, the highest award given by the University of Miami.

**Billy Causey, Ph.D - Regional Director, Southeast Region, National Marine Sanctuary Program**

Billy Causey is the Southeast Regional Director for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. He has managed Sanctuaries in the Florida Keys since 1983, when he became the Manager of the Looe Key Sanctuary. He served as the Superintendent of the 2900 snm Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary from August 1991 to September 2, 2006, when he assumed his current position. Dr. Causey was the lead NOAA official in the development of the management plan for the Keys Sanctuary. He was responsible for establishing the first comprehensive marine zoning plan for the United States. Dr. Causey's academic interests are in coral reef ecology, coral reef fishes, sustainable management, regional connectivity, ecosystem-based management, marine zoning, climate change and marine policy. He has observed and recorded the impacts of climate change on the coral reef ecosystem since 1978. Dr. Causey was among the first coral reef managers to link coral bleaching with elevated sea surface temperatures and to correlate the secondary impacts of coral diseases to the stressors created by the conditions caused by increased water temperatures and other sources of environmental degradation.

### **Peter J Mumby, PhD - University of Queensland**

Peter Mumby is professor of coral reef ecology at the University of Queensland, Australia. His research interests include managing coral reef resilience and understanding the benefits and limitations of marine reserves for promoting healthy reefs. Most of Dr. Mumby's research has been undertaken in the Caribbean and he currently coordinates a large research collaboration, involving 60 scientists, that's looking at the health and management of reefs in the region ([www.force-project.eu](http://www.force-project.eu)). His research has attempted to answer questions like 'how important are mangroves nurseries for reef fish?', 'how resilient are reefs in the face of climate change?', 'can marine reserves really benefit coral health?'. Dr. Mumby is a Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation, an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow, and winner of the 2011 Rosenstiel Award for marine science.

### **Paige Rothenberger - U.S. Virgin Islands Coral Reef Initiative Coordinator**

Paige Rothenberger is currently the Coral Reef Initiative Coordinator for the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) in the Department of Planning and Natural Resources Division of Coastal Zone Management. In this capacity, Ms. Rothenberger leads the development and implementation of territorial initiatives to conserve coral reef ecosystems, represents the administration on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee, advises the administration on marine and coastal resource management issues, and represents the U.S. Caribbean region on the National Ocean Council's Governance Coordinating Committee. Ms. Rothenberger has been working in the field of natural resource management for over 16 years, 13 of those within the USVI. Throughout her career Ms. Rothenberger has worked to bridge the gap between science and management, advocating for and engaging in management-driven research and facilitating the transfer of research results into the management process. Ms. Rothenberger received a B.S. degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Arizona and a M.S. degree in Environmental Science and Policy from George Mason University, where she is pursuing her PhD. Her research interests include microbial dynamics of the coral holobiont and their role in coral disease and coral reef ecology and health.

### **Eileen Sobeck - Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks in the Department of Interior**

Eileen Sobeck is a graduate from Stanford Law. Early in her career, she worked as General Counsel for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In 1984, she began her career at the Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resource Division, as a Trial Attorney. She then moved through the ranks to become the Assistant Chief and then Chief of the Wildlife and Marine Resources Section. In 1999, she became the Assistant Attorney General, supervising Environmental Crimes and Wildlife and Marine Resources. She was awarded the prestigious Presidential Rank Award in 2003 and the Muskie-Chafee Award in 2010. Currently, she serves as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife in the Department of the Interior. She is a leader in the National Ocean Policy implementation, including Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning efforts, serving as a member of the National Ocean Council Steering Committee and as Co-Chair of the Ocean Resource Management Interagency Policy Committee. She has been a member of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force for many years, and now serves as the Task Force Co-Chair.

**Robert Van Woesik, PhD - Director of the Institute for Research on Global Climate Change, the Florida Institute of Technology**

Dr. Van Woesik's research interests are linked to the ecology of reef-building corals, including the effects of land-use change, global-climate change, and the application of this ecology to management of coral-reef systems. Most recently, he has been particularly interested in examining which processes capture population performance, and the degree to which these processes vary with habitat, region, and across time. Dr. Van Woesik is particularly interested in the resilience of reef systems, and their capacity to withstand a degree of disturbance while still maintaining key components, processes and functions. Resilience allows a system to resist change to an undesired state. As in the past, under certain circumstances adaptation is expected. But success will depend on a number of conditions, including the nature of the regional gene pool, the life-history characteristics of the organisms involved, the frequency and strength of the disturbances, the local and regional oceanography, and the nature of the local and regional management strategies. In that sense, local and regional management strategies have the potential to buffer the expected negative changes to coral populations. Dr. Van Woesik strives to understand coral-reef systems to provide information that will give corals' their best chance of survival through this modern period of extensive human pressure.

**David Wachenfeld, PhD - Chief Scientist, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**

David Wachenfeld is the Chief Scientist at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Working at the Authority since 1997, Dr. Wachenfeld was part of the team that developed and implemented the most recent Zoning Plan and led the first responses to the emerging issue of climate change. David led the development of the Great Barrier Reef's first ever state of the environment report in 1998; and, more recently, was a member of the team that put together the 'Outlook Report' in 2009. In 1993, he completed a PhD studying the behaviour and ecology of coral reef triggerfish in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. Although his career has concentrated on coral reef management, he has also worked in reef tourism and science.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS:

### **Catalina Arévalo**

Catalina Arévalo is a journalist and author who has worked in the environmental department of the Spanish news agency EFE since 2003. She focuses mainly on climate change, biodiversity, sustainable development and environmental politics. Before joining EFEverde, Catalina was communications assistant to the Spanish Minister of Environment, Cristina Narbona. She is co-author of the 'Guide to Climate Change for Journalists', amongst other books, and has won several awards including the Comunidad de Madrid Environmental Journalism Prize for her story "Could we give up nuclear energy?". Catalina has a Bachelor of Journalism from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and has also studied post graduate courses at the University of Antwerp (Belgium), specializing in environmental journalism. She was part of the NSK Fellowship Programme which took her to Japan as an exchange journalist.

### **Curtis Morgan**

Curtis Morgan has been a reporter for The Miami Herald for 24 years, the last 10 covering environmental issues. He was an anchor reporter for teams that won a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the federal government seizure of Elian Gonzalez and a lead reporter on teams named Pulitzer Prize finalists for investigations of the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster and the electrocution of a boy at a Miami bus shelter. A native of Miami, he has also lived and worked as a journalist in the Virgin Islands. He got his scuba certification at age 12 and has dived and fished the waters of South Florida, the Caribbean and the Bahamas for more than four decades.

### **Angela Posada-Swofford**

Angela Posada-Swofford has been writing for three decades about science and environment. Her stories have appeared in WIRED magazine, The Miami Herald, the Boston Globe, Astronomy Magazine and many others. For the past 10 years she has been the Senior Science US Correspondent for the largest Spanish language science magazine to the general public, MUY INTERESANTE, a 3 million reader publication edited in Madrid and circulating throughout Europe and Latin America. She is an MIT-trained journalist, having been awarded the Knight Fellowship in Science Journalism. She was the first Hispanic journalist to be invited by the National Science Foundation to visit the South Pole and other Antarctic research stations. She's produced and field recorded her own radio documentaries for NPR's Living on Earth, and has written a collection of novels for young adults, Los Aventureros de la Ciencia, whose fictional plots are entirely based on real-life scientists and scientific research.

### **Joseph B. Treaster**

Joseph B. Treaster is the editor of **OneWater.org**, the environmental magazine of the University of Miami on the Internet. He is a former reporter and foreign correspondent for *The New York Times* and the author of three books including, *Hurricane Force: In the Path of America's Most Deadly Storms*. Mr. Treaster, who has reported from more than 100 countries, has written for the Atlantic Monthly, Harper's and The RollingStone. He contributes to the HuffingtonPost.com and Allvoices.com and to daily newspapers. Mr. Treaster holds the endowed Knight Chair in Cross-Cultural Communication at the University of Miami's School of Communication and at its Knight Center for International Media. He teaches a course for graduate and upper class undergraduates: "Global Environmental Issues: Writing, Research and Critical Thinking" at the Coral Gables campus and in Stockholm and the Galapagos Islands.