

The Conch Horn

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

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My Science! My Conch! Launches



The month of October started off right with Conchervation partners Bahamas National Trust, BREEF, and Community Conch coming together to increase conch awareness with the My Science! My Conch! (MSMC) project. The project is the brainchild of BREEF and Community Conch and its purpose is to introduce people to the scientific method, conch biology, issues facing the queen conch industry in The Bahamas,

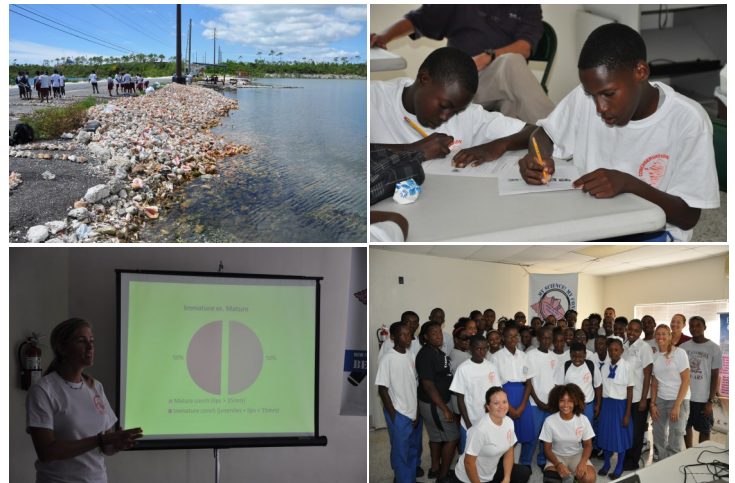
and of course, the Conchervation Campaign. MSMC also has the added bonus of involving everyday people in gathering real scientific data—making them aware of what goes into decision making processes and making them a part of that process. Some of the data gathered during MSMC will be included in reports that will be sent to our leaders. For this first run, the Grand Bahama team was comprised of Catherine Booker of Community Conch, Falon Cartwright and Rebecca Strachan of BREEF and Conchervation Coordinator, Jared Dillet of BNT.

Day 1: Months of planning culminated on October 3 when students and teachers from Eight Mile Rock and St. Georges High Schools met the MSMC team at BNT's Rand Nature Center in Freeport. After a classroom session that included training on how conch lip thickness and shell length data would be recorded, followed by lunch, the group was taken to Fishing Hole Road where data was collected from over 400 conch shells.



Above: Left—Catherine Booker of Community Conch shows students from Eight Mile Rock High how to use calipers to measure conch shells; & Right—Students from St. Georges High School measure conch shell lengths at Fishing Hole Road in Grand Bahama.

Following the field work at Fishing Hole Road, students and teachers returned to the Rand Nature Center to discuss what they had seen and view their results.



In the photos above, clockwise from top left: The conch midden (pile) at Fishing Hole Road, students complete a post fieldwork knowledge assessment upon returning to Rand Nature Center, Catherine Booker discusses the results of the day's measurements, and the group poses at the end of day 1 of My Science! My Conch! In the photo are students of Eight Mile Rock and St. Georges High Schools with Falon Cartwright of BREEF (front at left, kneeling), Rebecca Strachan, BREEF Intern (front at right, crouching), and Catherine Booker of Community Conch (far right, second row).

Day 2: October 4, the MSMC team geared up and left Freeport to head to West End. We were met in West End by Keith Cooper, Founder of West End Eco-Fishing Camp Association. Mr. Cooper facilitated meetings between the MSMC team and local fishermen who were happy to allow us to measure some of their day's catch. We were also glad to have Mr. Cooper's assistance with introducing us to people in the area who will prove invaluable as the Conchervation Campaign progresses.



At left: Falon, Rebecca, and Catherine collect lip thickness and shell length data from freshly harvested conchs with help from Alfred Grant on a boat ramp in West End, Grand Bahama.

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My Science! My Conch! Launches (cont'd.)



At left: Back row, left to right—Keith Cooper, Jared Dillet, Falon Cartwright, Charles Adderley, and a concerned West Enders. Front row, left to right—Rebecca Strachan, Alfred Grant, and Catherine Booker.

Day 3: McLean's Town, Home of the Annual Conch Cracking Festival would be the third location to participate in My Science! My Conch! on October 5. The team met at East End Junior High and were greeted by 16 participants that included students from East End and The College of The Bahamas, and fishermen as well. Fishermen are at the front line of preserving this resource so their presence was a very welcomed one.



In the pictures above, Catherine, Rebecca and Falon instruct MSMC participants in the use of calipers to collect lip thickness and shell length data.



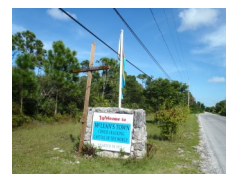
Above, clockwise starting at top left: MSMC participants gather conch data at the public dock in McLean's Town. Catherine shows the group the results of their data gathering and awards

the team that measured the most conch shells and with the greatest accuracy. Bottom left: The group in McLean's Town takes time for a photo with the MSMC team at the end of Day 3. Bottom right, from left to right: Jared, Rebecca, Catherine, and Falon at the entrance to McLean's Town before heading back to Freeport.

My Science! My Conch!'s launch in Grand Bahama was a great first run. Around 60 participants were directly engaged by the program. We are grateful to Love 97 North, and Mix 102 in Freeport for giving us air time the day before—allowing us to potentially reach thousands with Conchervation's message.

It should be noted that the people who participated in MSMC did so at not cost to themselves. T-shirts, lunch, transport when necessary, and learning materials were all included. It is planned to engage at least 15 communities in The Bahamas using the MSMC Project. If you wish to contribute to MSMC, or Conchervation, please contact us at conchervation@bnt.bs or call us at 1-242-393-1317.

Conchervation at Conch Cracking Festival



The week following the launch of My Science! My Conch!, Conchervation was again in East End, Grand Bahama. This time it was to engage people celebrating Bahamian culture at the 41st Annual McLean's Town Conch Cracking Festival.

The Festival began as a fund raising idea in 1972. A gentleman named Jeffrey David Morgan was searching for ways to raise money for a school in McLean's Town and for the surrounding community. The festival has since grown to an annual event that also serves as a homecoming for former residents of the settlement.

And so it was on Saturday, October 12, that the festival had a newcomer—Conchervation. The Conchervation table was manned by Lakeshia Anderson and Ellsworth Weir of BNT. Approximately 50 people took time from the merry making to

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be engaged directly at Conchervation's table. In addition to information on the current status of surveyed conch grounds and what we can do as individuals to ensure conch for future generations, there were also giveaways in the form of the Conchervation green bags.



At left: Ellsworth Weir (left) and Lakeshia Anderson of BNT take time for a photo while manning the Conchervation table at the 41st Annual Conch Cracking Festival in McLean's Town, East End, Grand Bahama.

Conchervation Tumblers Now Available



We're excited to say that the first of a number of items that will be used to raise funds for, and promote The Bahamas National Conchervation Campaign are now available for purchase. Conchervation tumblers can be purchased for \$30 at The Retreat on Village Road in Nassau and will be available at events where Conchervation is present, while supplies last. Why not come and pick up one, or a few this weekend during BNT's Jollification. As other Conchervation keep-sakes become available, we'll be sure to spread the word.



Proud Partners in Conchervation

Conchervation could not be possible without the energies, donations and other forms of assistance of the following partner and donor organizations:


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