

## **Blue Halo Barbuda hosts enforcement workshop for local agencies.**

Wednesday, 15 April 2015

### **Codrington, Barbuda, Antigua & Barbuda (Waitt Institute)**

CODRINGTON, BARBUDA -- A marine enforcement training workshop is taking place at the Barbuda Fisheries' complex this week. The workshop will help the community to effectively and safely enforce Barbuda's new coastal zoning and fisheries regulations that became law in August 2014.

"Regulations mean little without enforcement, so we're glad to be sponsoring this workshop. Proper enforcement will ensure the community reaps the benefits of the new regulations, in terms of healthier ecosystems and increased fish catches," said Waitt Institute executive director Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson.

Participants in the three-day workshop include staff from Barbuda Fisheries, Codrington Lagoon National Park, the Barbuda Police Department, and the Antigua and Barbuda Coast Guard. WildAid, a non-profit organization with expertise in marine enforcement, is leading the workshop. Attendees are learning how to plan patrols, conduct surveillance, collect evidence, and process their findings.

Doug Beazer, Barbuda Fisheries Officer reported, "Training is a success so far and it is definitely a plus for the staff and the island as a whole. We have been exposed to a lot of new ideas and techniques which would definitely help us on our way to getting the job done."

"It's exciting to watch the workshop participants develop plans to collaborate and really improve coastal management," said Waitt Institute's Science Manager Andy Estep, who helped organize the event. "Barbuda Fisheries has begun to issue permits for fishing within 3.45 miles of the coast, and the next steps are to begin a scientific monitoring program and to install buoys to mark the boundaries of the island's marine sanctuaries and anchoring zones."

The Waitt Institute is committed to providing technical and financial support for each of these measures. Further, the Institute is continuing to work closely with local stakeholders and the Barbuda Council to ensure implementation of the Blue Halo Initiative continues in a way that is consistent with the needs of community and is true to the new legal framework.

Barbuda's new comprehensive ocean management applies to waters within 3.45 miles (i.e., 1 league) of shore, the extent of the Barbuda Council's jurisdiction. Of this coastal

area, two-thirds remains open to fishing, and one-third is now protected in sanctuary zones, to replenish the two-thirds.

"This workshop definitely enhances the whole idea of the Blue Halo Initiative because it actually brings the participants up to speed about how we are going to enforce the fisheries regulations," said Barbuda Council chairman David Shaw. "I am very much excited about it because this is the way that we will conserve and preserve our environment for the betterment of a sustainable economy for both Antigua and Barbuda."

**Additional information and resources:**

Waitt Institute: <http://www.WaittInstitute.org>

WildAid: <http://www.wildaid.org/>

Twitter: [@waittinstitute](https://twitter.com/waittinstitute)

Instagram: [@waittinstitute](https://www.instagram.com/waittinstitute)

Facebook: [facebook.com/waittinstitute](https://www.facebook.com/waittinstitute)

YouTube: [youtube.com/waittinstitute](https://www.youtube.com/waittinstitute)

Supporting documents: <http://bit.ly/1DdpKsW>

**For more information or to set up interviews, contact:**

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**Waitt Institute:** The [Waitt Institute](http://www.WaittInstitute.org) endeavors to ensure ecologically, economically, and culturally sustainable use of ocean resources. The Institute partners with governments committed to developing and implementing comprehensive, science-based, community-driven solutions for sustainable ocean management. Our goal is to benefit coastal communities while restoring fish populations and habitats. Our approach is to engage stakeholders, provide the tools needed to design locally appropriate policies, facilitate the policymaking process, and build capacity for effective implementation and long-term success.