



Interceptor News

Two years since patrols started - and it's all go!

Tracking & setting targets



December 2018, a team from the **100 Island Challenge** project also made their 2nd visit to map our coral reefs using 3D imaging technology and develop conservation targets. They use imaging and classic survey techniques to archive the reefs digitally and watch how populations change over time. They noted “a lot of next generation” juvenile corals and are tracking the progress of our out-planted staghorn corals.

It's official – we have an office!



After 2 years working out of Hermosa Cove and Jamaica Inn (founding stakeholders), the Sanctuary now has an office “under the bridge” at White River fishers beach, thanks to a Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) grant. Plans are in progress to expand it to include storage for dive and boat equipment, facilities for our wardens, etc. Do come and see us!

INTRODUCING...



Romeo Stephenson, Sanctuary Manager. Romeo has worked in marine conservation since 2004 and has a passion for getting things done. His goals for WRFS are to strengthen the community, improve quality of life for fisher folk and play his part in educating locals on climate change and its effects.

Reanne McKenzie, Coral Project Manager. Reanne has a BSc in Marine Biology and is passionate about restoring Jamaica's reefs. One of her main goals is to educate the community on how coral reef health is connected to increasing fish stocks and why both are so important.

COMMUNITY & OCEAN LITERACY

A big thank you to the **C. B. Facey Foundation** which is funding this WRFS project as full partners to teach basic literacy and numeracy to fishers and locals, and promote environmental issues. Recently the class had a field trip to Luminous Lagoon to see another marine ecosystem. An amazing experience – a night to remember.



*Working together: the Alligator Head Foundation has offered to teach WRFS staff and volunteers a coral monitoring method called the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GRMN) to complement our methods. Several workshops are planned. **More on coral and the community on page 2.***





Left: THANK YOU to Laura Facey, Sarah Todd, Susannah David and Jeremy Millingen for funding the much-needed fabulous **paint-job and repairs for *The Interceptor***, pictured left at the mouth of the White River with 8 of the 12 wardens who patrol the White River Fish Sanctuary. *L-r back row: Raymond Taylor, Elvis Bailey, Bluntly Brown, Lipton Bailey, Everton Simpson, Sheldon Gardner. L-r front: Donald Anderson, Noel Francis.* If you'd like "to do your bit", contact us for funding options.



Left: Our wardens manned a stand at the **PANOS Voices for Climate Change** expo and concert in August to promote the role reefs play in protecting the coast. We have also been out and about visiting hoteliers and villa owners to raise awareness in the community of what the Sanctuary is achieving and why it's so important.

Below left: Our regular clean-ups of the area get good turnouts, but International Coastal Cleanup Day - **Big Up Wi Beach Ja** – on 21st September saw 90+ volunteers from the community pitch up for the Sanctuary. Result: 70lbs of trash, most of it plastic bottles. Thanks to all who took part.



Coral restoration updates





We have teamed up with **Couples San Souci** to instruct and certify more fishers to scuba dive. They will then go on to be trained in coral gardening.



Nursery #2: WRFS is expanding its coral nursery. We currently have one on the western end (approximately off Sandals Ochi) and are working on #2 to the east. In the photo left, this is one harvest from #1 earlier this year which was planted out in front of Hermosa Cove. The fishers are employed to make the nursery structures for #2. That's teamwork in action!

Right: WRFS hosted the first of many **coral gardening workshops** for divers, locals and our volunteers, who then got to go out and try their hand at it, supervised by our

expert coral gardeners.



And finally - White River Fish Sanctuary starred in how coral reefs in Jamaica can be healed. Associated Press is a US-based non-profit news agency. Check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wotj-eiORI4&feature=youtu.be>

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