



SPORTFISH FLIER

BAHAMAS SPORTFISHING & CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (BSCA)

Volume 1, Issue 4

Long Island Creeks Damaged by Tropical Storm

In November 2007, Long Island experienced major flooding from Tropical Storm Noel. According to local accounts, flood waters were as high as 10 feet in some areas. The only means of transportation between communities was by way of bonefishing boats that were



ideal because of their minimal draft. The amount of flood waters

proved too much for the

drainage system that was

inadequate. The situation was exacerbated by the fact that the culverts in many of the creeks and inland lakes were either clogged, damaged or totally useless. In some instances, man-made channels were created in order to divert flood waters into nearby wetland areas.

Long Island has historically suffered from 'thin' water lenses that force some communities to use water tanks and private wells to supply their consumption needs.

The only time Long Island received substantial collections of rain was during the more recent Tropical Storm Hanna, which passed east of The Bahamas in September

2008.

The BSCA has as its primary objective the restoration of major creeks, inland lakes and mangroves that impact the marine environment in general and the flyfishing industry, specifically.



The BSCA has pledged to assist in the restoration of creek systems throughout Long Island

that will provide comfort to many residents during the hurricane season as well as to ensure the sustainability of the flyfishing industry for guides on the island.

Sea Dumping Destroying Long Island Beaches



Newton Cay, located on the northern end of Long Island is enveloped by a creek and mangrove system on the west and miles of beach on

the remaining portion of the island. The island is a popular spot for model sloop racing and other community events.

In recent times, residents in the community were denied access to the island because the bridge leading to the cay became impassable. Consequently, the beach has seen a collection of seaweed and

mounds of garbage.

The current bridge needs to be replaced with a culvert bridge that would allow for tidal inflows and outflows as well as access to the beach.



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Special points of interest:

- *Limestone is being mined by the tons on Grand Bahama in The Bahamas*
- *Limestone derivatives are used for industrial applications, health & dietary applications & ecological applications*
- *The Bahamas Government does not encourage sale of sand to locations such as Florida*
- *Limestone is the White Gold' of The Bahamas*

Long Island Guides See Major Threats to Sustainability of Industry

Several flyfishing guides expressed concerns about activity on the island that adversely impact their livelihood. Some of these concerns expressed include the following:

- Resort developer's proposal to expand the marina at Stella Maris Resort, which would adversely impact the bonefishing flats on the northwestern end of the island
- Private yachts and "motherships" that compete unfairly with flyfishing guides
- Second home owners who engage in

similar activity

- Resort owners who discourage guests from patronising local service providers

One guide indicated that he and a group of concerned guides were forced to defend themselves against a number of private yacht owners on the high seas.

Residents complain that private yacht owners, bury their refuse in the sand along beaches on Long Island as they cruise through The Bahamas.

Several residents complain that one



Local Guide Wellington Pratt on flats in North Long Island

second home owner built a retaining wall that extends beyond his property into the beach area, which caused substantial beach erosion and resulted in beachgoers being unable to walk the full length of the beach.

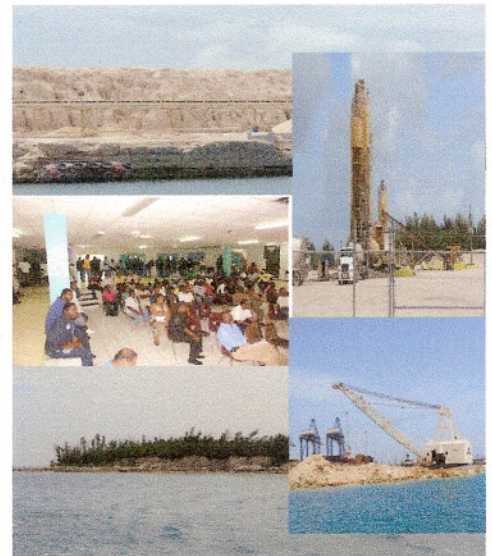
Bahama Rock Clash With Grand Bahama Concerned Citizens

According to a press release issued by The Bahamas Information Services, in August 2006, The Bahamas Government placed a "Cease and Desist Order" on Martin Marietta Materials' Freeport operations (Bahama Rock) in order to conduct investigations into multiple complaints by residents of the Eight Mile Rock community.

The investigation was to look into the scope of works in relation to the affected communities, process and procedures used in blasting as well as documentation of any reports of damage by area residents.

On Thursday, 17th July 2008 a town meeting was organized by Bahama Rock to inform residents of their intention to expand their excavation of limestone for the next 2-10 years.

A significant number of residents believe that the Bahama Rock operations have adversely affected the biological, physical and human environments as witnessed in fresh water table contamination, damaged homes due to continuous blasting, red mangrove and flats destruction, unnecessary flooding from hurricanes and constant dust clouds in the area.



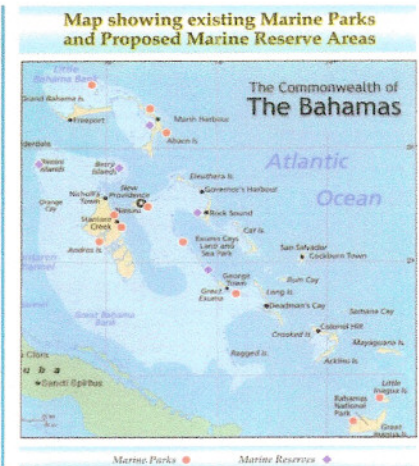
Long Island Fishermen Oppose Proposed National Park

Some Long Island commercial fishermen oppose a proposal by The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) to create a marine national park between Long Island and Great Exuma.

Local fishermen are convinced that the creation of such a marine park will increase the cost of fishing for them and inflate the price of seafood to the consumer market.

They feel such an action will act as a deterrent for families to engage in commercial fishing. With the cost of fuel increasing at the pumps in Long Island, commercial fishermen see a bleak future ahead and call upon all concerned to reconsider this proposed action.

The BNT has advised that it proposes to increase the number of marine parks from 25 to 80.



BSCA Shows Support for G. B. Residents Opposing Bahama Rock

BSCA Representatives Prescott I. Smith, President and Kendal Williamson, Director attended a meeting organized by Martin Marietta Material's affiliate, Bahama Rock on Thursday, 17th July 2008 in support of Grand Bahama residents efforts to protect their communities from potential environmental degradation brought on by the companies operations on the island.

Prescott expressed the view that the project proposed by Bahama Rock on the north shore, could have negative implications for the community of Eight Mile Rock as well as the marine life. Prescott explained that his concern for residents was that should the marine resources collapse around Grand Ba-



hama it could affect the entire Bahamas.

Grand Bahama has the second largest nursery system in The Bahamas and the north side is where all mangroves are located that replenish the Little Bahama Bank. Grand Bahama is one of only four islands, which has a vast pine forest.

Prescott pointed out that the south side of the island already has eight places cut through the island resulting in the destruction of millions of gallons of fresh water lens on Grand Bahama. He added that putting salt water in the fresh water lens would destroy the pine forests.

Prescott reminded residents of other mining investments such as pine forest mining in the 50s, 60s and early 70s, which left abandoned communities such as Owens Town, which is strewn with old and rusted machinery that lay waste in the virgin forest as well as roads that block major creeks leaving them fragmented and devoid of marine life.

BSCA Supports SAHMA Summer Camp Programme

BSCA President, Prescott I. Smith participated in a Summer Camp Workshop organized in July 2008 by the South Andros Handicraft Manufacturers' Association (SAHMA).

SAHMA was formed in October 2002. It is a non-profit organization, which conducts training in the community in various art & craft as well as cultural items and buys raw materials to be made available to its members.

The Summer Camp is one of the Association's programmes for children that

seeks to achieve several objectives including the following:

Make the youth aware of the existence and application of certain resources

Encourage children to learn more about their immediate surroundings

Re-educate children on the connection between their culture and environments.

Prescott taught the children fly-casting techniques as well as some rope tying skills. He also showed a power-point

presentation on the collective natural resources of The Bahamas. This was followed by demonstrations on Androsia and specifically on the resources in South Andros.

Photo Gallery on SAHMA Summer Camp 08

