

7.4 APPENDIX D: SPECIAL SESSION PRESENTATION AND POSTER ABSTRACTS

The Seaflower Scientific Expeditions as a strategy for the monitoring and appropriate management of fishing resources

Las Expediciones Científicas Seaflower como una estrategia para el monitoreo y apropiado manejo de los recursos pesqueros

Les expéditions Scientifiques Seaflower comme une stratégie de surveillance et appropriée gestion de les ressources de pêche

Juliana Sintura¹, Alex Ferrero¹, Rafael Hurtado¹, Juan M. Soltau², Hermann León³, Alexandra Chadid⁴, Nacor Bolaños⁵, Anthony Rojas⁶

¹*Comisión Colombiana del Océano, Avenida Ciudad de Cali No. 51-66 Oficina 306, Edificio WBC, Bogotá D.C., Colombia*

²*Jefatura de Intereses Marítimos y Asuntos Internacionales, Armada Nacional, Carrera 10 # 26 - 27 Edificio Bachue Piso 4, Bogotá D.C., Colombia*

³*Dirección General Marítima Centro de Investigaciones Oceanográficas e Hidrográficas del Caribe CIOH - Escuela Naval Almirante Padilla, Isla Manzanillo, Barrio el Bosque Cartagena de Indias, Bolivar 11021, Colombia*

⁴*Armada Nacional, Ministerio de Defensa Nacional, Carrera 54 N° 26 – 25 CAN Bogotá D.C., Colombia*

⁵*Corporación para el Desarrollo Sostenible de San Andrés, Providencia y Santa Catalina – CORALINA, Vía San Luis, Bight, Km 26, San Andrés, Colombia*

⁶*Gobernación San Andrés, Providencia y Santa Catalina, Avenida Francisco Newball No. 6-30, Edificio Coral Palace, San Andrés, Colombia*

Abstract

The Seaflower Scientific Expedition is the most ambitious program of the Colombian Government to increase research and improve the concept of ecosystem integrity in the largest marine Biosphere Reserve in the Colombian Caribbean, Seaflower. These expeditions, planned annually until 2023, are a product of multiple stakeholders' collaborative work to generate systematic investigation in the 180000 km² of the San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina Department Archipelago. Using the best technology available in the country and involving scientists from different marine science branches, the Seaflower Scientific Expedition has been carried out since 2014, in which more than 20 scientists are working on projects related to fish ecology, diversity and management. Additionally, other fishing resources such as the queen conch (*Lobatus gigas*) and the Caribbean spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*), characterized for being among the most important resources in the Archipelago, have been monitored in the Island Cays of Roncador, Quitasueño, Serrana, Serranilla, Providencia and San Andrés. All these efforts are focused on contributing to the management and sustainable development that promotes the UNESCO "Man and Biosphere" program, which recognized Seaflower as a Biosphere Reserve in 2000. The Seaflower Expeditions are the best example of science cooperation, because it brings together different kind of institutions and organizations with one purpose: understand the Colombian sea and its insular systems with a holistic view, for its appropriate management to successfully meet the World Sustainable Development Goals.