

~ 2015 Annual General Meeting ~ Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST)

Mauna Caribe Hotel Conference Room

<http://www.tropicalinnspr.com/>

Maunabo, Commonwealth of Puerto

"AGM" 5-6 March / "CSI" 7-12 March 2015

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Dates:

The Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST) will convene its annual meeting on 5-6 March 2015 in Maunabo, Puerto Rico. The annual meeting will be followed by a special Sea Turtle Forensics Training Workshop at the same hotel on 7-12 March 2015.

International participants should fly into San Juan on Wednesday, March 4, where they will be met and transported to the Mauna Caribe Hotel. There will be a Welcome Reception that evening, the Annual Meeting will take place March 5-6, participants not staying on for the Sea Turtle Forensics Training Workshop will depart March 7, and Sea Turtle Forensics Training Workshop participants will remain on site and depart March 13.

Meeting Host:

The meeting will be co-hosted by **Carlos E. Diez González**, Research Biologist, Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) and WIDECAST Country Coordinator, and **Luis A. Crespo Ramos**, President, Amigos de las Tortugas Marinas de Maunabo (ATMAR).

Objective:

The aim of the meeting is to share information on national and regional-level sea turtle research, management, and outreach programs; to learn from peer experiences; to facilitate networking and partnerships; and to strengthen science-based conservation programming. The agenda will include national reports, regional issue reviews, working groups, and technical presentations with related discussion. WIDECAST country coordinators, biologists, policy-

makers, and educators from throughout the Caribbean region will attend. The meeting will also include a Special Session on Sea Turtle Forensics hosted by Dave Gulko (Senior Instructor for the ICRI Committee on Coral Reef Enforcement and Investigation).

Location:

The meeting will be held at the **Mauna Caribe Hotel** (<http://www.tropicalinnspr.com/parador-/maunacaribe/amenities>) in Maunabo, about 1.5 hours' drive from the capital city of San Juan.

Visas:

Valid and current documentation to enter the USA is required for travel to Puerto Rico.

Airport Transport:

Participants will be welcomed upon arrival by personnel recruited for this purpose. Please look for someone holding a "WIDECAST" sign. Transportation from the airport to the hotel (and from the hotel to the airport) will be provided by DNER and the Maunabo Municipal Government. There will be no cost for this service. **Contact Carlos Diez or Luis Crespo (cc Karen Eckert) with your flight details, including airline and travel dates/times.**

Meeting Expenses:

Transportation to/from the airport in Puerto Rico: **None** (see Airport Transport).

Registration fee: **None.**

Hotel: DNER and ATMAR have negotiated extremely favorable hotel rates for our meeting! The **single occupancy** rate is US\$ 148.49 per night and the **double occupancy** rate is **US\$ 98.76** per person per night including all meals and taxes. Rooms must be paid at Check-In. Please do not call and make your own hotel reservation, all reservations will be made by our hosts (see Contact Information) so that we can place you with a compatible roommate. We're assuming that most people will want to take advantage of the double occupancy rate. If you plan to arrive early or stay late, you will be responsible for the extra hotel nights (discounted rate will apply). Note: A US\$ 110 fine will be charged to anyone smoking in a hotel room.

Meals: **None, all meals are included in the hotel rates.** Meals will be served on-site with a variety of choices, including vegetarian. If you plan to arrive early or stay late, you will be responsible for the extra meals. If you do not stay in the conference hotel, you will be responsible for your meals (Breakfast \$7, Lunch \$18, Dinner \$18). Alcoholic drinks are not included in the daily room rate.

Conference Room: The capacity is 85 persons using tables. The **room includes:** speaker podium, microphone, sound system, screen, tables & chairs, side tables for books and displays,

coffee & juice all day, and a coffee break with cookies at 3:00 pm. Note: The Conference Room is free of charge if 45 or more rooms are reserved (if not, the cost is US\$ 225/day).

Electrical and Internet:

Electrical: **Voltage: 110-120V.** Primary Socket Type: Type B "North American NEMA 5-15 standard". If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Visit http://www.adaptelec.com/index.php?main_page=document_general_info&products_id=281 for details.

Internet: Free Wi-Fi Internet in the **hotel lobby and conference room**, but not in the individual hotel rooms.

Contact Information:

If you have any questions, please let us know!

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