

- Important Links**
- Bahamas Web Links
 - Bahamas News Sources
 - About Nassau
 - About Freeport
 - About Abaco
 - About Eleuthera

- Caribbean News**
- BBC Caribbean in pictures
 - BBC Caribbean's last day on air
 - BBC News on BBC Caribbean
 - BBC Caribbean News in Brief
 - Get on with CCJ, says outgoing President
 - Japans tragedy
 - All change in Europe
 - Diabetes hope
 - Cholera 'worse than expected'

- Science & Tech News**
- Biggest shipwreck finds in history
 - Transparent snails & 'fairy' wasps: Top 10 new species revealed
 - Classified satellite launched into space

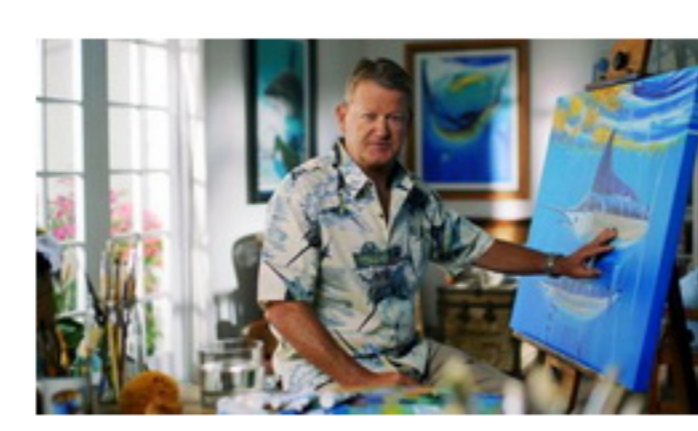
NEWS HEADLINES

Share this page on Facebook

Home • News • Family Island • Guy Harvey: Bimini an 'environmental gem' that must be protected

Guy Harvey: Bimini an 'environmental gem' that must be protected

Monday, 19 May 2014 06:49



BIMINI, The Bahamas -- World renowned marine artist and conservationist Dr. Guy Harvey has declared Bimini an "environmental gem" and urged Bahamians to do everything they can to protect it.

His statement came as concerned citizens fretted over the future of Bimini's marine ecosystem as the 450-foot long cutter suction dredger, the Niccolo Machiavelli, began excavating the sea floor to accommodate a cruise ship delivering passengers to a resort and casino. The dredging, say opponents, will wipe out some of the most spectacular coral reefs in the undersea world.

"Tracking research done by the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation shows that The Bahamas plays an important role in the lifecycle of Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean shark populations," said Harvey. "Specifically, the Bimini mangrove ecosystem provides vital habitat for these juvenile sharks, as well as many other valuable fish species. As overfishing continues to reduce many fish populations locally and globally, this habitat in Bimini becomes even more crucial to the conservation of these species. The islands of Bimini are an environmental gem and every step should be taken to conserve these resources."

Harvey has been interested in marine conservation his whole life and continues to speak on the subject at conferences and universities. He donates part of the proceeds from his extremely popular artwork to marine conservation efforts.

In 1999, he founded the Guy Harvey Research Institute at Nova's Oceanographic Center in cooperation with Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The institute, which is funded in part by contributions from his charitable Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, conducts research on the ecology, genetics, behavior, physiology, and evolution of fish. Areas of focus include shark and stingray ecology and conservation, and artificial reef design and monitoring.

His work in the field of game fish conservation led to Harvey's inclusion in the International Game Fish Association Hall of Fame.

Harvey's appeal comes just days after Guinness world record holder and president of the Bahamas Diving Association Neal Watson warned that dredging would be a "catastrophic" event for Bimini's delicate environment.

"Bimini has attracted fishermen, boaters and divers since the days of Hemingway," said Watson. "The uniqueness, natural beauty, pristine clear waters, abundant marine life and incredible reefs are threatened."

Malaysian-based Genting, which owns Resorts World Bimini (RWB), has said it needs to dredge the channel and build the pier to deliver up to 500,000 guests a year to the casino and hotel on the island that is now home to about 1,500 residents.

Concerned citizens who formed the Bimini Blue Coalition said they are worried about everything from destruction of their way of life to management of human waste, from lack of direct economic benefit to destruction of the reefs. Six of the world's best, experts have said, lie in the path of the planned channel.

Despite mounting a legal challenge against the project, coalition members are now very concerned their efforts will be in vain as the dredging began on Thursday after lawyers for RWB produced what they purported to be permits from the Bahamas government -- a claim the coalition has disputed.

The coalition is worried that the dredging will stir up so much silt and cause so much turbidity it will kill off Bimini's rich fishing grounds that were immortalized in Ernest Hemingway's Islands in the Stream.

Another of the great writer's Bimini-inspired stories, The Old Man & the Sea, was the subject of Harvey's first artistic exhibition 1985. The positive response led to his decision to paint full time and produce custom work for the wide range of Guy Harvey-branded merchandise so prized by sport-fishermen, divers and marine environment enthusiasts.

Photo: RARE JEWEL -- Internationally acclaimed wildlife marine artist and conservationist Dr. Guy Harvey has weighed in on the controversial cruise ship terminal project on Bimini, which is now underway despite a judicial challenge. Harvey stressed that the island is an "environmental gem" and must be protected.

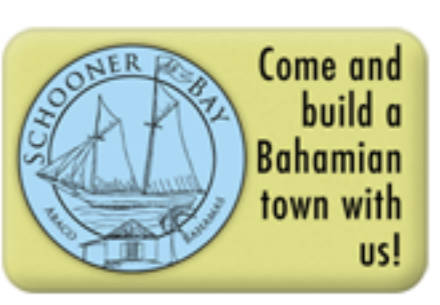
Newer news items:

- US ocean engineer adds voice to growing concerns, labels Bimini dredging 'not environmentally compatible operation in pristine waters'
- Biminities approve court ruling, look forward to opportunities as development moves forward
- Tarpum Bay Primary youngsters visit the capital
- South Andros Public Library renamed after 'Father of The Nation'
- Florida Sportsman magazine online thread: 'It's a sad day in Bimini'

Older news items:

- NEMA conducts phase II of water rescue training in Andros
- Next phase of construction moves forward at Resorts World Bimini
- Guy Harvey Outpost Beach Bash Bonfire and Tournament comes to Bimini Sands Resort & Marina June 26 - June 29
- Bahamas Diving Association president labels planned Bimini cruise ship pier dredging 'pending catastrophic event'
- Bimini locals remain wary over resort's lack of transparency

<< Previous page Next page >>



Like it? Share it! Click an icon below to share this page with your friends



WATERWAY GUIDE
AMERICA'S MOST TRUSTED CRUISING GUIDES

WATERWAY GUIDE 6 EDITIONS

- BAHAMAS
- SOUTHERN
- ATLANTIC ICW
- CHESAPEAKE BAY
- NORTHERN
- GREAT LAKES

ORDER YOURS TODAY AT
WWW.WATERWAYGUIDE.COM
OR CALL 800-233-3359



Muddasick!

- Muddasick! Grand Bahama, where is the pride?
- Muddasick! Guards protecting parking slots in Port Lucaya
- An untapped resource
- Warning - Know who, what and how much when you give this Holiday!
- Come pick up da garbage please
- VELL MUDDOES Chrissy Love axed
- Snail Mail ain't NO LIE!
- What happened to my Java?



Tropical Update



- The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th.