WE ARE GLAD TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR WORK ON COASTAL EXPLOITATION FROM OUR MOST RECENT RUFFORD GRANT WILL BE PRESENTED AT <u>THE OCEANS PAST INITIATIVE (OPI).</u>

The event will happen on June 22-25, 2022, at the University of Washington in Seattle, USA. The OPI is a global research network for marine historical research. Their goal is to enhance knowledge and understanding of how the diversity, distribution and abundance of marine life in the world's oceans has changed over the long term to better indicate future changes and possibilities.





## INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE TO STUDY COASTAL EXPLOITATION ON TOURISTIC ISLANDS IN THE MEXICAN CARIBBEAN.

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Our initiative focuses on the history of fishing from Pre-Columbian times to the present to determine how past fishing activities have contributed to subsequent changes and declines in coastal resources of islands in the Mexican Caribbean (IMC) (Holbox, Isla Mujeres, and Cozumel). Our interdisciplinary methods integrate ecological, historical, and archaeological data on coastal exploitation, together with fishers' traditional knowledge collected through surveys with a spatial component. We present results from IMC, which describe increasing fishing effort through the mid 20th century, overfishing higher level fish (e.g., sharks trophic and sawfishes), and growing illegal fishing. Overall, fishers recall abundant marine biodiversity existed nearshore of IMC. Archaeological information for the Holbox region demonstrates diverse shark remains. Studying IMC coastal exploitation with a historical ecology perspective will provide a unique opportunity to examine the long-term availability, biodiversity, and exploitation of coastal resources in the e.g., top predators. Caribbean. The fishing effort and increasing tourism development in IMC and other islands of Latin America make regional data on coastal exploitation timely for developing management guidelines focused on the welfare of coastal communities and the conservation of their natural capital.



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