

Action Alert: Bimini Lemon Shark Nursery Area Needs Your Help

Please see:

<http://www.pewoceanscience.org/press/press-article.php?ID=24>

and

<http://www.sharktrust.org/sharkconservation.html>

TAKE ACTION through Global Response

Bimini Besieged

Famous Lemon Shark Nursery May Soon Be Golf Course

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A Statement by

Ellen K. Pikitch, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Pew Institute for Ocean Science

University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science

Summary:

A well-known shark nursery in Bimini's North Sound may become a golf course for a large resort, currently under construction, if the Bahamian government does not intervene.

In 2000, the Bahamian government announced their intention to declare Bimini's North Sound, and four other sites, marine reserves, to ensure their preservation for future generations. Unfortunately, before these reserves could have any effect, a new government was elected, and it seems that the resolve to protect these sites left with the old government.

Now, Bimini's North Sound is under increasing threat of development.

Construction has begun on the first phase of a mega-resort, including condominiums, a casino, and golf course. If allowed to proceed unchecked, the complex will consume the mangroves of the North Sound and east Bimini, together with all of the animals and plants that live there.

Many of us in the marine conservation community are calling upon everyone who cares about the environment to contact the following Bahamian officials about the importance of establishing a marine reserve in Bimini's North Sound and protecting the mangroves in north and east Bimini:

Personalize your response by sending an original letter or email to the appropriate Bahamian government officials listed below.

Or

Simply copy and paste the letter I have written below and send it off to the appropriate Bahamian government officials with your name, title and country substituted for mine:

The Rt. Hon. Perry Gladstone Christie - Prime Minister
The Office of the Prime Minister
Cecil Wallace - Whitfield Centre
Cable Beach
P.O. Box N 3217
Nassau, N.P. Bahamas
pmchristie@bahamas.gov.bs
tel: 242-327-5826-9
fax: 242-327-5806

The Hon. Obediah H. Wilchcombe - Minister of Tourism / Parliament Member
West End & Bimini
Ministry of Tourism
Bay Street
P.O. Box N-3701
Nassau, N.P. Bahamas
tel: 242-322-7500
fax: 242-328-0945

Mr. Michael Braynen - Director of Fisheries
Department of Fisheries
East Bay Street
P.O. Box N 3208
Nassau, N.P. Bahamas
michaelbraynen@bahamas.gov.bs
tel: 242-393-1777
fax: 242-393-0238

Example Letter:

It has come to my attention that there are plans to continue developing Bimini's North Sound into a mega-resort (condos, casino, golf course) that, if allowed to proceed unchecked, will consume the mangroves of the North Sound and East Bimini, together with all of the animals and plants that live there.

The North Sound mangroves and lagoon serves as a nursery and foraging area for lemon sharks as well as many other economically important fish species, such as tarpon and bonefish.

I strongly urge you to establish a marine reserve in Bimini's North and East Sound to protect this ecologically and economically important area from further destructive development.

Thank you for your attention,

Neil Hammerschlag, Miami, USA