

Andros Conservancy and Trust



ANCAT NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2011 OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

Drilling for oil in The Bahamas: Is it worth the risks?

“We can move beyond oil”

Earth Policy Institute

In reality drilling is the slowest, dirtiest and most expensive way to solve our energy crisis

Lois Capps

“I’d put my money on wind and solar energy. What a source of power!! I hope we don’t wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that.”

Thomas Edison 1931

An oil find in Bahamian waters could mean tremendous wealth, but it could also mean tremendous tragedy. Drilling for oil carries with it many risks and with the increasing popularity of alternative sources of energy, people are beginning to question the risks of oil production more and more.

Offshore drilling means extracting oil from beneath the ocean floor. The sonic waves used by researchers to locate oil fields can **disrupt marine life**, especially those animals that rely on sound waves for communication and navigation, such as the whales.

The very real and immediate danger of **oil spills** is what most people think about when they discuss the dangers of oil production. **Oil spills devastate the local environment in widespread, long lasting ways.**

Food chains are disrupted, and the local wildlife and foliage can be changed forever, in fact the **effects of these spills last**



across generations.

The day to day operation of offshore rigs damages marine life. The combination of the fluid used to lubricate the drill bit as it drills through rock, added to the

bits of rock, mud and naturally radioactive materials which can be found beneath the surface of the ocean creates a drilling mud that is released into the ocean and spreads up to a mile from the oil rig. According to EPA this mud contains toxic chemicals that can damage marine life in the area for up to 40 years.

Life aboard these oil rigs sounds gruesome with constant deafening noise coming from the roar of the diesel generators added to the hammering and pounding of the pumps. The workers wear ear plugs constantly, also hard helmets, eye protection and steel boots.

The effects of oil drilling far outweigh the benefits for a country which depends on

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“Lionfish in the Caribbean are a serious threat to the decline of biodiversity and abundance of Caribbean reef fish.” Living Ocean Foundation

Global Reef Expedition continues Bahamas Marine study

The Living Ocean Foundation’s Global Reef Expedition is continuing its study in The Bahamas during September and October 2011 when they will be anchoring off from Andros island and then going on to Abaco. During the month of August the magnificent vessel ‘The Golden Shadow’ was in the Inaguas in the southern Bahamas where they made a study of Hogsty reef. Here the divers were counting and identifying fish, corals and invertebrates, measuring coral coverage, searching for corals affected by disease and mapping underwater habitats of the area using high tech electronics. In Inagua the divers found healthy corals, representative fish populations and few indicators of overfishing or damage from boat anchors. The Inaguas have a very small population (less than 2000 persons) therefore the man made impacts and pressures that are

common on many reefs in more populated areas are not seen here. Two significant wrecks are to be seen on this reef, however there may be scores more on and around Hogsty reef. The immediate physical damage to slow growing

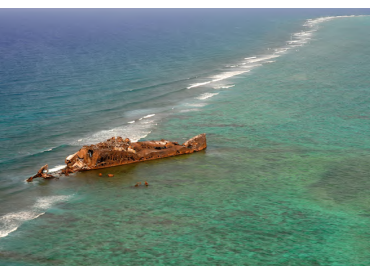
corals from a ship’s impact can be devastating but there are also long term repercussions that scientists are just beginning to discover. Any coral that survives the direct impact of the shipwreck will have to contend with cyanobacteria, coral diseases and algae that colonize the damaged reef. Many of these harmful organisms thrive on iron and as the ships slowly rust they release iron onto the surrounding reef. This iron supports the growth of mats of algae and cyanobacteria which can dominate a reef. The long term impact of one careless lapse of judgment on board a ship may impact the reefs for decades.

In 1998 the extreme sea surface temperatures over stressed corals and they released zooxanthellae, when this happened the remaining coral heads appeared while. A coral colony can survive for a limited time without zooxanthellae as long as the temperature returns to normal. The Foundation is measuring how much new coral is growing and which species is the strongest. They have noted a

dark spots disease which appears as dark, purple, black or brown circular or ring shaped spots that are scattered across the surface of the affected coral.

The divers have seen lionfish on every dive in Inagua. These fish are voracious predators and consume fish up to two thirds their size. Their favourite spots are the fish cleaning stations where larger fishes come to have the smaller fishes clean their skin, here lionfish quickly gobble up the wrasses and gobies. These lion fish are affecting our reef in negative ways by eating all the juveniles and preventing the larger fishes from being kept healthy at the cleaning stations.

Large growths of Elkhorn coral have been noted in the Inaguas, this highly endangered species creates vertical habitat for reef fishes and invertebrates. For more information go to:



Wreck on Hogsty reef in Inagua



Elkhorn Coral on Andros Reef

CELL PHONES: Use properly to safeguard your health

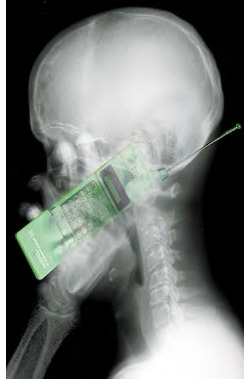


Cell phones have become a necessity for many persons but our cell phones are microwave transmitters and should bear a cancer warning!

Cell phones expose us to electromagnetic radiation called radiofrequency (RF) energy. Scientists suspect that **this radiation might increase the risk of brain cell damage leading to tumors.**

Here are simple ways you and your family can limit exposure to radiation:

- Use a headset or speakerphone.
- Keep your phone out of your pocket: cell phone radiation is linked to decreased bone density in the pelvis and it is thought to lower fertility in men
- Limit children's use as they have a thinner skull and their brains are still developing, this makes them more vulnerable to any harmful effects of RF radiation.
- Don't chat with a poor signal, the harder your phone has to work to get reception, the more radiation it emits.
- Use a landline whenever possible they are



• Stop talking while driving, this causes your cell phone signal to jump between wireless towers and since RF is highest when a connection with a tower is first established, talking while driving does increase exposure.

Cell phone manufacturers recommend that we hold the phone 1 inch away from the head to reduce the effects of microwaves on the brain.

Cell phones are made with heavy metals and we are encouraged to recycle them, some have small amounts of silver, gold, iridium, cadmium, lead, nickel, mercury, zinc, arsenic, lithium, copper.

Cell phones contain toxic materials which pollute the environment, if dumped the poisons will enter the water table and threaten human health. When recycled responsibly the metals can be used again and this will decrease the need for mining the raw materials.



"Yes, I'm on my cell phone, but I'm not driving, so it's safe."

"40% of brain cells taken from cell phone users show DNA damage"

Indian Journal of Human Genetics

"Sensitivity to electromagnetic radiation is the emerging health problem of the 21st century. It is imperative health practitioners, governments, schools and parents learn more about it. The human health stakes are significant"

William Rea M.D.

Cell phones are HOT, adequate protective regulations are nonexistent. WE ARE BEING FRIED. Should we be trusting our brain tissues and lives to the telecom industry??

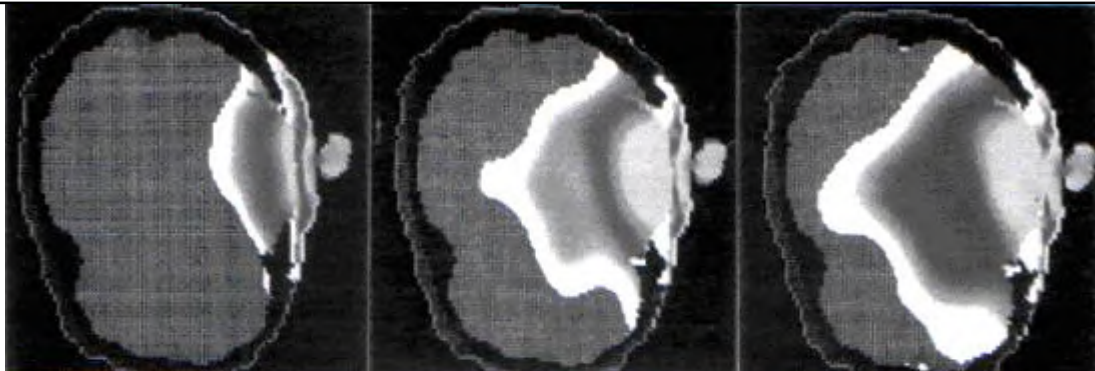
Use a landline, they are safe



Is your phone in this list? These cell phones emit the most radiation and are the most dangerous to our health:

Motorola V195s	Motorola Zine ZN5	Motorola Rival
Kyocera Jax S1300	Motorola VU204	Nokia E71x
RIM Blackberry Curve 8330		Pantech Matrix
LG Rumor 2	RIM Blackberry Bold	HTC SMT5800
Sony Ericsson W350a	TMobile Dash 3G	Samsung Instinct
Samsung Spex SCH R210	Kyocera X-tc	Motorola i576

Microwave to the head is extremely hazardous to children, in fact the younger the child the more radiation is absorbed by the brain. Cell phones can alter the electrical activity of a child's brain for hours, causing mood changes and possible behavior and learning disabilities. Scientists fear that cell phone radiation could damage human embryos and pregnant women are advised to limit their cell phone usage.



Adult head

10-year-old child

5-year-old child

These pictures show cell phone radiation penetrating the users head. Note the amount entering the child's head.

This picture shows three heads while using cell phones: the adult head on the left shows radiation as the white patch entering the brain. The centre head shows that more radiation enters the head of a 10 year old child, the third head is that of a 5 year old child, the head is flooded with radiation. Make sure your child does not use a cell phone, as brain tumors could eventually form.

Kirtland Warbler

The Kirtland warbler visits The Bahamas for eight months during the winter. Here in The Bahamas this rare and shy songbird finds a place to rest and fatten up for the 1,500 mile flight north in the Spring. This endangered bird breeds during the summer months in the Michigan and Ontario areas and currently nowhere else on earth.

The male Kirtland Warbler arrives in its northern breeding grounds in May a few days before the female. The males



Book giveaway

Reading is one of the most important things that humans learn and yet so many people still have trouble with this life enhancing skill.

The 21 century demands us to be good readers if we want to read our text messages, work on the computer, make flight reservations, learn about the world or simply relax and enjoy a good book while passing a few pleasurable hours.

Ancat has been graced with donated children's books from Autec School and Mrs. Marion De Souza and we have been giving them away all summer. We still have a few left, if you are interested

ANCAT / PADI Dive for Debris

On September 24th 2011 divers from the Andros dive clubs joined together to make a huge effort to dive for debris in support of Project Aware's international month of activities to highlight the dangers of marine pollution. Led by Ancat's Peter Douglas, 14 volunteer divers from Ancat, Small Hope Bay, Autec, Forfar and Greenforce removed over 500 bottles and lots of assorted trash from the waters of Fresh Creek, Andros. The site chosen was about 15 feet deep and laden with tyres and glass bottles. The current was strong and we had to tie ourselves down to stay in one position. There is still a lot to restore in the waters of Fresh Creek harbour but we know that piece by piece, we are making a huge difference to this

establish and defend their territories and court the females when they arrive. The females build the nests of leaves and grasses lined with mosses and deer hair and the male brings her food. Usually they lay 4 /5 eggs late in May, followed by an incubation period of 13-16 days. The baby birds leave the nest within 9 days and by five weeks of age they have learnt to feed themselves.

Description:

- Bluish gray face and back
- Yellow throat, chest and belly
- Black stripes down sides
- White crescents above and below eyes
- Constantly pumps its tail
- Two white wing bars



Come by the Ancat office to pick up some for your family.

If you have books which you would like to donate to our cause please drop them off by the Ancat office. Especially welcome would be second hand children's books and romance novels

HUNTING REGULATIONS

The 2011 dates for the hunting season are available at the Ancat office.

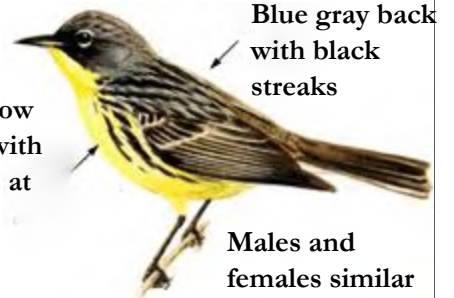
Please note that no more than 50 birds may be taken per day per hunter.

It is illegal to have more than 200 birds in one's possession at any one time. If you hunt for four days and get the bag limit each day, you must consume or give away (NOT SELL) some of your birds before you can hunt again.

The following three birds are fully protected: DO NOT SHOT THEM

1. Ruddy Duck
2. Whistling (tree) Duck
3. White checked Pintail

Remember **IF YOU SHOOT DON'T POLLUTE : PICK UP SHELLS**



Yellow under parts with black streaks at the sides

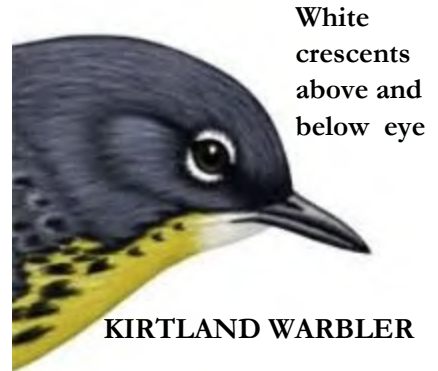
Blue gray back with black streaks

Males and females similar

- Winter colours are dull

Kirland warblers eat many different insect species including caterpillars, butterflies, moths, flies, grasshoppers.

The Kirtland Warbler is found in Eleuthera and Exuma, however we are anxious to establish it's winter



White crescents above and below eye

KIRTLAND WARBLER

"NO MATTER HOW BUSY YOU MAY THINK YOU ARE YOU MUST FIND TIME FOR READING OR SURRENDER YOURSELF TO SELF CHOSEN IGNORANCE"
CONFUCIUS

Bahamas protects sharks

The Bahamas has become the fourth country in the world to prohibit commercial shark fishing. It is now illegal to kill sharks in approximately 243,244 sq miles of the country's waters as well as sell, import and export shark products. The government has increased shark-fishing fines from \$3,000 to \$5,000. The director of global shark conservation for the Pew Environment Group Matt Rand said he hopes the move will inspire others in the region and that this is "a magnificent step for global shark conservation" Over 5,000 Bahamians signed a petition to support this ban. Shark tourism generates \$78 million a year, and has contributed \$800 million to the Bahamian economy over the last 20 years. Thank goodness our law makers saw the

Andros Conservancy and Trust

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Ancat is working to protect, preserve, enhance and conserve the terrestrial and marine environment through education, management for future generations.

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.ANCAT.NET

Ancat member numbers have grown to 601. Don't delay, become a member today!

Remember to carry your bucket on all fishing trips to pick up the garbage you may see.

Garbage pollutes the environment and threatens our way of life.

Find a bin to put it in.



ANCAT Summer School 2011: A huge success



Outdoor ADVENTURE was the name of the game for the Ancat students this summer. With a focus on the Andros National Parks it was easy to fit a two night camping trip into the schedule. The group hiked into the Park, noting the land habitats and bird life as we walked. Setting up camp was fun inside the

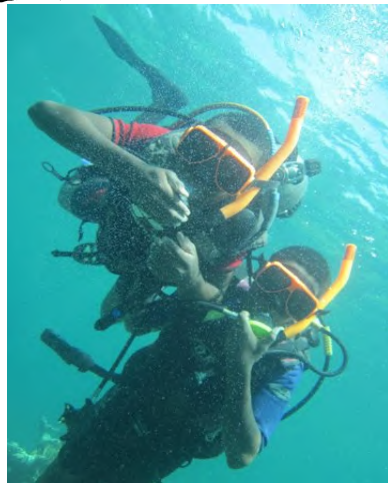
designated campsite area and life under the stars was no hardship to endure. The group travelled to Captain Bill's Blue Hole and everyone took a long cooling dip in the fresh water before heading back to the campsite and cooking our dinners. After building and lighting our campfire we enjoyed some blood chilling stories under the full moon.

Boat rides, trips to the coral reef, snorkeling, swimming and scuba instruction were all part of our daily fare when the focus was on the Marine Parks with a highlight being coral reef snorkeling and a picnic on Pigeon Cay with Forfar Field Station.

A trip to the West side National Park was a superb treat for all and while exploring the group saw Andros Rock Iguanas and dolphins along with the incredible mingling blues of



Ancat gave 6 boys the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding, appreciation and love for the ocean as John Bond at Small Hope Bay Lodge trained them to don a tank and dive below the waves. Ancat believes in preparing our island youths for the local job market and creating within our youngsters a love for the natural environment of Andros. Learning about the creatures that inhabit the marine and land parks of Andros caused no difficulty and the summer students can now dazzle us with their knowledge of the fishes and birds of Andros. We are grateful for all who helped make this work a success.



During Summer School we encourage the children to take their health into their own hands and learn about how to eat healthy food. We use plates and cutlery and do our washing up each day. We explain about how polystyrene food containers are poisoning our land and sea, We teach the children about community spirit and removed trash from the Calabash Bay beach corner while emphasizing that it is our duty and responsibility to help others understand the message that a clean and healthy environment is a benefit to all of us. The great outdoors did all the rest, fresh air and exercise bring great rewards to both



Ancat plans to offer summer school again during the summer of 2012, if you would like to support us in any way or know of a Fresh Creek child who would benefit from this experience, please contact the office.

Thanks go out to the following for their generous support of the Andros Conservancy and Trust Summer School 2011

- Lyford Cay Foundation
- Cable Bahamas Cares Foundation
- Bahamas Telecommunications
- Eco Ed Foundation
- Bob and Valerie Kelly Sandy Borrett
- Small Hope Bay Lodge
- Michelle and Stuart Cove
- Kamalame Cay Forfar Field Station
- St. John's RC Church
- Bahamas National Trust
- Kerzner Marine Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Conrad Fernander John Bond
- Harmony Holland Humes
- Steve Smith
- Working together and making a difference on Andros.

DO SOMETHING DRASTIC.....GIVE UP PLASTIC

Use a reusable BAG when you buy items at the store

If you give up on 6 bags a week, that is 24 bags a month, 288 bags a year and this adds up to 22,176 over a lifetime.