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13) Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela

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Topic:

Topic author: rjellison

Subject: 13) Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela

Posted on: 12 Jan 2011 05:10:30

Message:

Nikolay asked that consideration of ISSLR attention to Lake Maracaibo be added to our agenda. I ask Nikolay to reply with more details of current issues at the lake. A general description of the lake and its many problems can be found at both http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maracaibo_Lake and <http://www.worldlakes.org/lakedetails.asp?lakeid=9069>". Actions the society has taken in the past include a resolution by the membership, a letter, a report. In this case, we would first have to decide whether it falls within the purview of ISSLR. While usually considered a lake, it is connected to the sea and thalassic (brackish) in nature.

Replies:

Reply author: aoren

Replied on: 12 Jan 2011 05:32:42

Message:

Maybe we can ask Nick and also Enrique and Erio to find out who the active scientists are who deal with this lake and then invite them to present the case at the Mar Chiquita meeting?

Reply author: btimms

Replied on: 13 Jan 2011 12:40:55

Message:

I support Aharon's suggestion. Given Maracaibo is a thalassic lake, I would be resistant for our society to be involved. But then it is not a truly marine site, so our Marine Scientist cousins may ignore it, and we wouldn't want it 'falling between the cracks.'

Reply author: NikolayAladin

Replied on: 19 Jan 2011 01:00:17

Message:

Dear all,
of course Maracaibo is a part of thalassic universe, but marine scientists ignore it because it is brackish water. In various popular books Maracaibo always has a reference as the larges Southern America lake. Titicaca is the 2nd in the list. It is up to you to consider this lake important to us or not. I got info that since Hugo Chavez reforms many visiting scientists came back home to USA and Canada. My idea is to bring international attention to this suffering lake.
Sincerely yours,
Nick Aladin

Reply author: btimms

Replied on: 21 Jan 2011 23:56:24

Message:

I have been thinking about this lake and its problems. Despite its dire need I think our society is NOT the appropriate place for official support. My argument is based entirely on its thalassic nature. ISSLR deals with athalassic sites and already there are enough problems with the loose use of the word 'brackish' that I do not want to blur any further the distinction between truly inland saline waters and marine habitats. It will take some persuasion by a verbal presentation at ISSLR 11 to change my mind.

Reply author: btimms

Replied on: 21 Jan 2011 23:57:47

Message:

Opps sorry for misspelling of thalassic.

Reply author: clitchfield

Replied on: 22 Jan 2011 15:12:41

Message:

Just getting caught up on my emails. I tend to support Brian's view that there are enough problems with other lakes. The fact that it is thalassic should not be the consideration, but whether it is "salty" as brackish is a widely misused word. The Potomack River is considered brackish by many so I think we need to be careful in our selection of which battles to fight.

Reply author: mcoleman

Replied on: 22 Jan 2011 18:45:07

Message:

Based on a small amount of reading on the matter it seems unlikely that Maracaibo would fall within the definition of a salt lake. In this way I agree with Brian. Amendments are diverse, channels, massive oil spills, subsidence, seawater input, flood control and nutrients so it certainly needs all of the help that it can get. So my opinion is that although the ISSLR should not divert any material resources to Lake/Bay/Estuary Maracaibo; if one or several of our members wish to highlight its plight through a talk or poster that would be acceptable by me. The impacts are the same as those on large coastal salt lakes so it will not be a diversion and would add to our interest. A resolution supporting environmental efforts would take little of our time and resources but would be most valuable moral and political support for those working to improve the plight of the Lake.

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