

## REEF ENCOUNTER

The News Journal of the International Society for Reef Studies  
Reef Departures



Loïc had wide experience in the field, was hugely inventive, and encouraged local people to set up laboratories in the most remote places (including, in French Polynesia, the laboratories on Tikehau Atoll which ran from 1983 to 1995, and Ahe Atoll, where he ran a programme on "Professionalization and sustainability of pearl farming" from 2007 to 2010, financed by the European Development Fund). He also led pearl culture, aquaculture and environmental programmes in Cuba, the Cook Islands, the Mekong Delta in Vietnam, and in the Indian Ocean. Combining his enthusiasm for both exploration and scientific inquiry, he helped to organize the Clipperton Island expedition mounted by Jean Louis Etienne in 2005. Under the PRE-COI program (1998-2000), he helped to set up a coral reef health monitoring network. Loïc boosted the development of many international research cooperation programmes, including the Franco-Japanese cooperation initiative (2001-2008) with the University of Shizuoka and in 2007 established a partnership between Boston University, the University of Oldenburg and the Sultan Qaboos University for the study of benthic cyanobacteria mats.

He was a good communicator, diffusing his knowledge through internet sites (notably IRD's bilingual site which describes 20 years work in French Polynesia), conferences (e.g at Océanopolis, Brest and in Marseille), videos, and interviews for newspapers and radio stations. Loïc communicated his scientific passion with joyful enthusiasm, and numerous students and young researchers considered him as a role model. His sense of humor, his ability to find solutions to problems, and his excitement about life, made field missions a joy. His vision and analytical mind made him a valuable collaborator in developing programs and research initiatives.



Loïc in the Argentine Patagonia, on his favorite horse

Loïc loved the great outdoors and remote countries, and was an excellent diver, remarkable horseman, and passionate hand glider (he participated in several championships in France).

Loïc's friends and admirers all feel that the planet was not big enough for him.

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## **Glenn Richard Almany (1967–2015)**

It is with great sadness that we write this tribute to a very special colleague. Glenn Almany, well known and greatly appreciated in the coral reef research world, passed away on March 24th 2015. Glenn had recently been hired by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), through a highly competitive recruitment process, to work at the Centre de Recherches Insulaires et Observatoire de l'Environnement (CRIOBE) in Perpignan (France) and Moorea (French Polynesia).



Glenn's life was one of discovery, albeit with a strange start. Having enrolled in the US Navy at the age of 17 with the aim of seeing the world, he ended up traveling around it several times in a nuclear submarine and thus seeing very little of it. Nevertheless, these six years had a major impact on him, and changed his expectation of life, giving him a better idea of what was and what was not important

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to him. While in the navy, Glenn spent several weeks in Guam and, as his boat underwent repairs, he experienced coral reefs for the first time. This changed everything for him, with coral reefs becoming the driving force for the rest of his life.

After leaving the US Navy, Glenn completed a BSc at San Francisco State University in 1966, and a PhD at Oregon State University in 2002. His postgraduate research was on coral reef fish ecology, with much of his fieldwork undertaken in the Caribbean. He received a Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship in 2003 and moved to Australia to work with Geoffrey Jones and other colleagues from James Cook University.

Glenn's career has been very rich and varied. He was a particularly good "connector" and enjoyed putting together people with different expertise to create projects and building on the interactions between the individuals to create something greater. He will be remembered as a marine scientist who was becoming increasingly recognised for his groundbreaking work on the dispersal patterns of coral reef fish larvae.

Glenn also enjoyed spending time with local communities, and worked intensively with some of the

Pacific islanders to tackle issues around fisheries management. He became very involved in these communities, helping to improve their lives and enabling him to understand the role that individuals have in managing their environment. We all remember him telling us how much he enjoyed being embedded in these local communities, living with them, and learning about their lives. He would get very excited telling stories of what had happened to him, for example, when he got caught up in a war between clans on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea, over use of fishing grounds.

Gone far too soon, these pictures show Glenn indulging some of his favorite activities: playing with local children and playing with reptiles (he often said that reptiles would be his main interest if it were not for fish). A brilliant scientist with a deep green core, Glenn was deeply concerned about making a meaningful difference to the world.

We will remember fondly all the work we carried out together in Kimbe Bay, the ideas we discussed all night long, while drinking gin, arguing of course, because science is the result of friends arguing and sharing ideas; we will miss your ideas, and your optimism, even when you were told "*oh my friend, this will never work...*"

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