

**Organization: Reef Aquaculture Conservancy**  
**Presenter: Dr. Guillermo A. Corona Herrera**

**Blue Ocean Credits Program: A Nature-Positive Economy approach in the  
Mesoamerican Reef System and the Coral Triangle Ecoregions  
UN Ocean Action #57212**

The Reef Aquaculture Conservancy (RAC), through the Blue Ocean Credits Program (BOCP), aims to identify critical ocean knowledge, build capacity, and ensure that ocean knowledge is effectively utilized for sustainable development.

**Objective 1: Identify Critical Ocean Knowledge**

- **Advancing Blue Carbon Ecosystems:** BOCP studies the carbon sequestration potential of mangroves, seagrass meadows, and seaweed beds, highlighting their role in mitigating climate change.
- **Biodiversity Monitoring and Restoration:** Through projects like Coral Reefs Underwater Interpretative Trails (CRUWITS), we collect and analyze data on coral health, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.
- **Sustainable Aquaculture:** Ecological, biotechnological, and economic benefits identification of low-trophic aquaculture, sustainable food sources (seaweed, sea cucumber, and bivalve farming), enhancing biodiversity while addressing food security and potential to reduce nutrient pollution and restore habitats.

**Objective 2: Build Capacity and Generate Knowledge**

- **Workshops and Training:** RAC organizes global seminars, workshops, and training sessions to share best practices in ocean conservation.
- **Collaborative Research:** Partnering with universities, research institutions, and NGOs, RAC facilitates interdisciplinary projects that expand knowledge on marine ecosystems.
- **Community Involvement:** RAC integrates local stakeholders into its conservation efforts, training them to manage and monitor restored ecosystems.
- **Youth Engagement:** RAC inspires young innovators to develop solutions for pressing ocean challenges, fostering a new generation of ocean champions.

**Objective 3: Increase the Use of Ocean Knowledge**

- Blue Carbon and Biodiversity Credits: BOCP operationalizes ocean knowledge by creating innovative financial frameworks for carbon and biodiversity credits derived from restored and conserved ecosystems.
- Technology Deployment: RAC integrates technologies like AI, remote sensing, and 3D printing into applications for ecosystem restoration and monitoring.
- Eco-Tourism and Community Projects: Programs like the CRUWITS utilize restored reefs to promote eco-tourism, creating economic opportunities for marine conservation.
- Knowledge Dissemination: RAC uses digital platforms, including webinars, publications, and social media campaigns, to share insights and case studies.

**A Healthy Planet Relies on a Healthy Ocean!**

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